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The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 40 #39 • March 4, 2026 • www.echo.net.au

Holi rainbows!



About 100 women and girls powdered their noses, and much more at Sunday's Holi Festival, the festival of colour at Brunswick Heads. Put on by Together She Thrives, organic coloured flour turned the white-clad revellers into walking rainbows. Photo 'Holi Smoke' Dawson

Norths reject Bangalow Bowlo buy-back offer

Aslan Shand

Norths Collective (formerly North Sydney Leagues Club) has rejected the Bangalow Advisory Committee's (BAC) offer to buy back the Bangalow Bowlo at the 2022 'bail out' price of \$680,000.

A spokesperson for the Save Bangalow Bowlo Steering Committee (SBBSC), a group representing

the interests of the wider community, said the offer was framed in response to sentiments expressed in the Community Stakeholder Survey conducted in January.

'There is a widely held view in the community that any repurchase price should align with that original stabilisation amount, rather than extend beyond it,' said Sally

► Continued on page 2

Police reject LECC recommendations after Ballina DV death investigation

Hans Lovejoy

The time taken to respond to a Ballina domestic violence (DV) incident has been defended by the Counsel to the Commissioner of NSW Police.

Police oversight body, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC), is investigating police conduct around the death of Lindy Lucena, who died on 3 January,

2023, after being assaulted by her partner, Robert Huber.

Huber was sentenced to 12 years in prison on 7 July, 2025.

The inquiry is focusing on 'whether the conduct of the police officers involved in the response to the assault and subsequent death of Ms Lucena amounted to serious misconduct or serious maladministration.'

Police allegedly took nearly an hour to respond to the 000 call, just moments away from the station.

While the public hearings – under Operation Almas – were held in late 2025, the commissioner's response was published on 23 February, 2026 (<https://tinyurl.com/yuy9cyd8>).

The police commissioner's response, by Counsel Tim Smartt, ► Continued on page 6

Byron Writers Festival: symbol of our vibrant, unique culture ► p4

Suffolk Park comes together on street safety ► p11

Mandy's Soapbox: We are all we have ► p28

Magic Murwillumbah ► p22

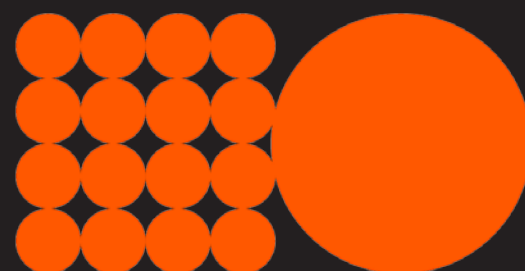
Northern Rivers women in business ► p23

The Arts ► p26

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Car incinerated in Mullum carpark

A car was destroyed by fire at the 57 Station Street carpark on Thursday, 26 February.

A spokesperson for Mullumbimby's 388 brigade, within NSW Fire and Rescue, told *The Echo* the fire was attended at 11.54pm on Thursday night, and the car was abandoned.

'It took an hour to get the site secure and the fire extinguished', they said.

The carpark has been frequented by homeless people sleeping in their cars over the last few years.



The burnt-out vehicle remained for several days taking up three car parking spaces instead of one. Photo Jeff Dawson

The person who had been living in this vehicle was not in the car at the time of the incident and was unharmed.

Negotiating Bangalow Bowlo's future

► Continued from page 1 Schofield of Save Bangalow Bowlo.

\$2 million price tag

Norths has advised that a buy-back by BAC remains possible at a figure of \$2 million.

'With the buy-back price set at \$2 million, the BAC has now resumed negotiations with Norths on the pathway to community ownership option, the community's second preferred option,' said a BAC spokesperson.

Under this process, the legal title to the Bowlo property would transfer back to a Bangalow-based registered club entity, while Norths would retain a no-repayment 25-year mortgage over the property. The terms and structure of this option are currently being clarified between Norths and BAC.

Once approved, a deamalgamation process would need to be undertaken to transfer the property, licences and other requirements back to a registered Bangalow Club entity.

Negotiations continue

'The Save Bangalow Bowlo Steering Committee is committed to keeping the Bangalow community informed about the status of negotiations, the process to "get the club back" and the proposed dates of forthcoming Norths board meetings,' said a spokesperson.

For more information email: savebangalobowlo@gmail.com or see their social media.

Cancer 'Transport to Treatment' for Byron and Tweed residents

A new 'Transport to Treatment' service for Byron and Tweed Shire residents has been set up by Cancer Council NSW.

Since opening in 2024 the Tweed Valley Hospital has increased the range of cancer treatments offered with on-site radiation therapy now added to the hospital's suite of oncology services, meaning more cancer patients need to get to and from appointments at the new hospital.

'Transport to Treatment has volunteer drivers who are at the heart of the service. Without their kindness and dedication, Cancer Council NSW would not be able to help those impacted by cancer access treatment,' said a Cancer Council spokesperson.

'This service aims to meet the needs of eligible patients living in regional and rural areas in the Tweed and Byron Shires,' said Cancer Council NSW Byron Bay Community Lead Caitlyn Feldmann.

New cancer services

'Access to transport can be difficult in these communities, therefore compounding the impact of cancer. We thank our volunteer drivers who will be supporting this service, without them, none of this would be possible.'

Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD) Director Cancer Services and Innovation, Stephen Manley, said there are about 150 patients a day that access Tweed Valley Hospital for treatment and consultations with the oncology team.

'We are grateful for the additional support offered to them by Cancer Council NSW through this fantastic new service,' he said.

'A diagnosis of cancer can have a significant impact on a person and their family from a health perspective but also from a financial perspective. The focus on timely, high-quality treatment while maintaining a job, family life, or running a business can all be very challenging.'

'Having access to a

free transport service that helps to reduce the costs and impacts of attending regular hospital visits can help patients and families focus on their treatment and minimise disruption to other aspects of their lives.'

Patients in need of this free transport service are asked to call the Cancer Council information and support line on 13 11 20 where an expert team of health professionals will be on hand to navigate what support is available. Phone the Byron office at 02 6639 1300 or ask your doctor to refer you to Cancer Council services via the healthcare professional site.

Can you volunteer?

The Cancer Council is looking for more volunteer drivers to help support those in the Tweed and Byron areas. If you want to apply or find out more, please contact the Cancer Council Byron office at 02 6639 1300.

'For cancer information and support call Cancer Council's 13 11 20 information and support line'

Hi. I own a largish acreage home on the outskirts of Nimbin, plus a vibrant TradeTools store in nearby Lismore which we opened in 2024 where I sometimes work. I started TradeTools in the mid 80's after my 'hippy years' wandering around Europe, India, the Middle East & the USA. Being a definite child of the 60's (I saw Hendrix play live way back in 1969!) I've always run TradeTools more like a working cooperative by gifting over valuable shares to my army of long term staff members. So, when we say that many of the good folk that work in our stores are also fellow owners of our business, we actually mean it! That is hopefully why our service and industry experience levels always seem so much higher than you'll find amongst our few (so called!) competitors.

It's now a well known fact that almost 50% of everything we stock & sell you just can't buy anywhere else, plus we proudly manufacture many of our very own Renegade Industrial air compressors & pressure cleaners up at our Gold Coast head office, a sprawling industrial complex where we unload upwards of 1000 full containers of specialised tools & equipment every year.

TradeTools now has stores ranging from Lismore right up to Cairns in far North Queensland averaging one new store every year or two. There is simply no other company that we know of quite like TradeTools anywhere else on our planet, & some of the specials shown here easily underscore that bold claim. Also, please do check on our website for our famous weekly Super Savings Specials!



Greg Ford, original founder of TradeTools, with his wife Lily

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Fun for everyone at Shara Community Gardens

Eve Jeffery

That the Shara Community Gardens (SCG) is for all members of the community, even the small ones, was highlighted over the weekend when the garden's committee installed a new toybox in the rotunda.

'The community is really grateful for grants from the Ingrained Foundation and the Byron Shire Council Community Initiatives Program that have gone towards projects like the toy box,' said SCG Secretary, Alison Bird. 'With the grants we have been able to do a whole range of upgrades to the gardens over the past six months, and that includes an upgrade to the toy box, which the local children will really appreciate - we have so many kids in here every day enjoying the toys.'

Creating beautiful community spaces

Ms Bird said the combined grants were worth \$15,000



Shara Community Gardens Secretary Alison Bird, volunteer Kira, digging inspector Lexi and President Paula Brown, think the new toybox passes muster. Photo Tree Faerie

and have allowed them to 'put in five new raised garden beds, including two for our neighbours at the Ocean Shores Preschool. We've also put in over 100 plants, including a rainforest garden and a bush tucker garden, as well as adding to our veggies and herbs.

'The grants mean we can

actually get on with the job of making a beautiful green space for the South Golden Beach and North Ocean Shores community.'

The new toybox was built for the committee by the Pottsville Men's Shed after they saw a similar one at Pottsville Beach.

'I thought they may have

made it,' said SCG President Paula Brown. 'It turns out they hadn't, but, they were willing to make one for us. We are very grateful that they helped to make this come together.'

If you'd like more information about the Shara Community Gardens, visit: sharagardens.com.

Time to talk *Sexy Menopause*

Byron Bay Library is hosting local writer Lisa Fitzpatrick discussing her forthcoming book, *Sexy Menopause* on Thursday 19 March.

Lisa Fitzpatrick is a Byron Shire based physiotherapist, women's pelvic and sexual wellness educator, author, and speaker. Over the past 30 years, she has developed

a respected practice in women's health, weaving together evidence-based physiotherapy with holistic approaches drawn from yoga, mindfulness, and embodied wisdom traditions.

Bookings are essential as places are limited, visit www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au or call 6685 8540.

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Locals give to local environmental initiatives

This Thursday Seed Northern Rivers will award its first community-funded environmental grants at a free public gathering, From the Ground Up, at the Mullum Gardens EcoHub (aka the Mullumbimby Community Gardens).

This is the first round of grants from the Seed Giving Circle grants program, a community-led funding model in which locals pool contributions and collectively vote on which grassroots climate and environmental initiatives receive support. Members contribute from as little as \$10 a week, creating a shared fund that backs regenerative projects across the Northern Rivers.

Three grants have been awarded this round to:



Grant recipients Leif Canuto and Zana Wright from Local Address; Mark Cora from Save Wallum and Returning; and Techa Beaumont and Simon Jankelson from the Seed Giving Circle. Photo Jeff 'Empty Seed' Dawson

The Bundjalung Bush Food Alliance, a Bundjalung-led initiative to create a native bush food nursery in Mullumbimby; Local Address which looks at advancing

regenerative regional building through low-carbon, locally-sourced material; and Save Wallum that is protecting the rare and culturally significant Wallum ecosystem

in Brunswick Heads.

Seed Northern Rivers Director Techa Beaumont says the initiative reflects the Northern Rivers' strong culture of collective action.

'This region continues to face environmental pressures, but it's also a place where people step up for each other and for the land. The Seed Giving Circle allows the community to pool resources and directly back local solutions. It's community-led, fiercely local and grounded in care,' said Techa.

The evening will also officially launch the Lilypad Stage - a new platform for music, storytelling, education and community gatherings at the gardens.

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Authorised by Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

Byron Writers Festival: symbol of our vibrant, unique culture

In its 40th year, *The Echo* speaks with pivotal businesses and organisations that have helped shape the Northern Rivers over the past four decades. Over that time, *The Echo* has worked side by side, and witnessed these organisations build a hub for our vibrant, unique culture, tourism, the arts, business services, and production across the Byron Shire and beyond.

Aslan Shand

Who knows how many terrific ideas have wafted and dissolved after long literary lunches? This one didn't – a shared idea took root, and after a lot of hard work the Northern Rivers Writers Centre, based in Lismore, was born and its first Byron Writers Festival took place in 1997.

After 30 years this festival is the longest-running, annual, regional writers' festival in Australia.

'The first year we did it, we had no idea what we were doing,' Chris Hanley, OAM and founding chair of the Byron Writers Festival told *The Echo*.

'For example, when we did the programming, we just invited the writers we liked.'

'We sat down and said "who do we want?";' said founding member of the festival, Lynda Dean OAM with a laugh.

'We wanted Helen Garner, Rob Drew, Rodney Hall, Dorothy Porter – all our favourite writers, and we invited them, and they all said yes.

'Even more importantly, some big literary names, including David Malouf, agreed to put their names on the committee of the Byron Writers Festival. Now, I don't think they ever had a meeting or made a decision. But that committee, that gave us the authority to invite the best writers in Australia at the time – and again they all said, yes.'

Getting the local businesses behind the festival was key and August was chosen so that it would bring people to the town at a time of year when things were quiet – in those days many businesses often closed down for several months over winter.

'There were a lot of people who had moved to the region who really craved a little bit of culture, so we thought "let's bring the culture here". So we organised the first festival. It was held together with strings and sticky tape,' said Chris.

Hunger for culture

'It came out of a need for cultural events in the region. We recognised, after the first time we brought a writer here to do a



Mungo MacCallum and Kerry O'Brien launched Mungo's *The Good The Bad and The Unlikely* at the Byron Writers Festival in 2012. Photo Jeff Dawson

literary dinner, that people wanted and needed this. There was a hunger to have cultural events happening here,' said Lynda.

By the second year they had to hand around a hat to get the money together to run the festival. Lynda and Chris, and other local business owners, put their hands deep in their pockets to support the festival.

There were a lot of people who had moved to the region who really craved a little bit of culture, so we thought 'let's bring the culture here'.

– Chris Hanley, OAM

needed the money to survive and then they'd volunteer to help run the festival anyway. When you go out and start something like the Byron Writers Festival that hasn't existed before, if other people join up to your crazy idea and don't blink then you know that maybe it's not so crazy after all – maybe this thing's got legs?

'*The Echo* didn't need it explained to them, they were right on board. *The Echo* helped us blow up our tyres, they were partners. We were all doing the same thing. There would be no writers' festival without *The Echo*, and the ABC, who supported us from the beginning. *The Echo* photographer Jeff Dawson has been to every event since we began.

'It was the teasers in *The Echo* about who's coming that always ►

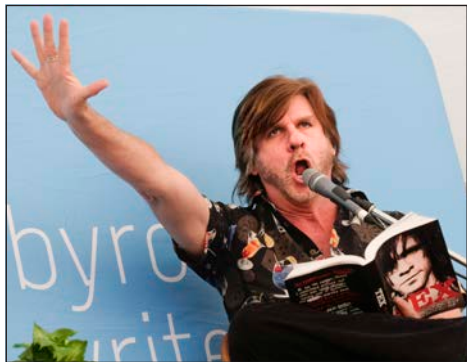
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Echo photographer Jeff 'Culture Vulture' Dawson dug out a sample of the literary heavyweights brought to the Shire by Byron Writers Festival.

Clockwise from top left: Tex Perkins, Marcia Langton, Costa Georgiadis in 2022, Lena Yarinkura in 2014, Author Susan Carland, Tom Keneally in 2016, Miriam Margolyes in 2008, David Suzuki in 2005, and bottom left, Byron Writers Festival chair Chris Hanley in conversation with Bryan Brown.



► brought in, and still brings in, the local audience,' said Lynda. 'Yes, we get a lot of people come into the area for the festival, but our bread and butter is the local audience. That relationship became an even closer tie when *The Echo* began doing our program. 'You can trace the Byron Writers Festival back to the roots of the Aquarius Festival. Because that brought so many people here with different ways of thinking. The main underlying thrust of that thinking is, if I want something to happen, if I want my world to have culture in it, it's up to me to get off my backside and make it happen.

And that's been our philosophy.' Like many things in the Northern Rivers and Byron Bay, right from the beginning the founders decided to do it differently from traditional writers' festivals. Rather than traditional readings, the Byron Writers Festival is known for its panel discussions, creativity, and arts as well as its children's programs. 'We all had kids in the early years and no one to mind them so we needed the kids' tent at the writers' festival from the outset. We committed as a board to do the children's programs from the word go,' said Chris. One of those children who has

been going to the festival from the beginning, Courtney Miller, is now the first female chair of the Byron Writers Festival board and said it was seeing and listening to author Richard Woolcott at the festival that inspired her to study international relations.

'The festival exposes you to different ideas or different paths of life in a way that is conceivable for young kids and young people,' she told *The Echo*.

Writers at centre

'I think that the origin point of the festival as a writers' centre is really important,' said Byron

Writers Festival Artistic Director, Jessica Alice.

'It has remained core to this festival, and probably is part of what creates the point of difference against other festivals. We still have that strong membership at our heart with a focus on literary craft that happens throughout the year through workshops, children's programs, and fostering creativity and supporting the artists in the region, as well as putting on the big show. Like *The Echo*, the Byron Writers Festival has a unique voice and is really connected to its community – and that is a really strong point of reference.'

This year they are bringing the festival to the streets of Byron Bay for the first time utilising the town's iconic locations from the Byron Surf Club and Beach Hotel to the Byron Community Centre and the spaces in between.

'It was always a goal for the original organisers to bring the festival to town and this is a wonderful opportunity to bring the festival into the heart of the community,' said Jessica.

■ Byron Writers Festival runs 14–16 August, 2026. Early bird tickets for this year's festival will go on sale in April.

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NSW Police choice of legal counsel questioned

► Continued from page 1 referred to Greens MLC Sue Higginson's accusations that police delayed their response, saying instead that her version of events was misleading.

Smartt said that, 'there is no public interest in the community being misled about the conduct of police, nor is it right that members of the NSW Police Force who did their best under trying circumstances face the additional hardship of being publicly maligned for their conduct'.

Smartt was then critical of the LECC, saying, 'in drafting its report, the commission should be more careful in phrasing certain matters than would ordinarily be appropriate, in order to avoid giving the impression that it has a role in investigating the question of whether the NSW Police Force, had it acted differently, would, or could have saved the life of Ms Lucena'.

Proposed LECC recommendations put forward have also been rejected by Smartt. They include the 'shared offside' dispatch-assist model, and 'resourcing at the Newcastle Radio Operations Centre'. The recommendation for specific

training for officers in critical incidents was also rejected. 'The cost of implementing the recommendations outweighs any benefit,' he said.

Smartt's legal cases

Greens MLC Sue Higginson said in a statement Smartt 'has acted for' neo-Nazi Jacob Hersant, 'who was jailed for performing a Nazi salute, as well as for American influencer, Candace Owens, in High Court proceedings where she was barred from entering Australia for Holocaust denial'.

While Owens has not explicitly stated that the Holocaust did not happen, she was refused entry to Australia not only because she downplays the Holocaust, but because her broader pattern of speech was judged to fail Australia's 'character test' under the *Migration Act*.

Higginson said, 'I'm frankly appalled that the NSW Police have rejected the LECC's planned critical recommendations to protect victims of DV after the fatal bashing of Ballina local Lindy Lucena at the hands of her violent partner'.

'The NSW Police submission criticises the LECC for investigating at all, and claims

Lindy died 35 minutes before police arrived, failing to mention that police took 55 minutes to arrive at the scene.

'I was surprised by the cold reckless indifference to the subject matter of the police submissions and the obstruction of the LECC's recommendations,' said Higginson.

'Their barrister, Timothy Smartt, is the man who unsuccessfully defended a man in Victoria jailed for performing a Nazi salute, and who likened Nazi salutes to hailing a taxi. Mr Smartt chose to defend Candace Owens, and he defended Pauline Hanson in court after her racist attack on Senator Mehreen Faruqi.

'Even the most offensive criminals are entitled to legal representations, but I question why and how the NSW Police chose to engage such a barrister.

'I hope Commissioner Mal Lanyon and Police Minister Yasmin Catley will intervene and ensure the NSW Police accept the LECC's recommendations to keep victims of DV safe and to improve how police respond,' Higginson added.

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

Byron Youth Council ready for action



The new Youth Council with Mayor Sarah Ndiaye and staff member Malcolm Foard. Photo supplied

Louis Moynihan-Burne

Last Wednesday, in Byron Council chambers, the newly appointed Byron Youth Council had their first official meeting.

The 15 young people aged 12 to 17 have been picked to represent the Shire's youth and work on issues that affect the wider community, learning great skills in leadership and cooperation.

Some issues include the cost-of-living crisis, the fact that it will almost be impossible for young people to buy a house, the lack of public transport in the Shire, and

managing e-bikes.

The youth council is also a great experience for aspiring councillors. In December 2009, a young girl called Elia Hauge joined a previous Byron Youth Council. Now, 17 years later Elia is a fully-fledged councillor for the Greens.

'Young people have a vision for the future, and approach our community's challenges with creativity and a perspective that adults just can't capture on their own,' Councillor Hauge told me this week.

'I loved participating in Byron Shire's first youth council. It was so rewarding

to gather with other young people from across the shire to put our minds to the issues affecting us and our peers,' says Elia.

By June, the new youth council will have researched and discussed what the most important issues are for youth in the Shire. Then they'll present an action plan to Council and meet other state and federal parliament members.

The youth are back stronger than ever before and are ready to make a change.

■ Louis is a member of the Byron Youth Council.

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Eco-tourism future for Byron Shire

Eve Jeffery

At the recent Byron Shire Council (BSC) meeting, all councillors supported Cr Delta Kay's motion to begin the process of getting eco-tourism and destination certification for Byron Shire through Ecotourism Australia.

The motion requested a report outlining the requirements, costs, and opportunities for Byron Shire to pursue eco-tourism or destination certification with consideration of the benefits, challenges, and alignment with Council's strategic objectives.

During the debate Cr Kay said that Byron Shire is one of the most heavily visited areas in Australia.

'We welcome over two million visitors per year while supporting a small resident population of 38,000 – visitors impact our community, housing, environment and infrastructure,' she said.

'The Byron Shire is internationally recognised for its beautiful environment, and ecological values. From our beaches to our rainforests, these natural and cultural

assets are a primary driver of visitation and are central to the Byron Shire's identity and economy. Their long-time protection is essential to the sustainability of the visitor economy and, most importantly, the wellbeing of our local community.'

Cr Kay said that 'eco-tourism and destination certification provides a framework to improve environmental management and sustainable outcomes, to use best practice across the tourism sector, and strengthen our Shire's reputation as a global leader in sustainable tourism.'

Sustainable tourism

'Eco destination certification provides a framework for businesses to be recognised as leaders in sustainable, nature-based tourism by minimising environmental impact and maximising benefits.'

Cr Kay highlighted that Council already has a destination management and visitor-economy action plan.

'We have strategies to shift our organisation towards sustainable destination management by prioritising zero emissions, waste

reduction, and biodiversity protection,' she told the meeting.

'We have our new partnership with the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce to create more opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and organisations to work with Council for buying on Country [a program where more opportunities are created for Aboriginal businesses and organisations to work with Council].

'The Byron Shire has many plans, strategies, and incredible community-led initiatives, but our weakness is a lack of a clear brand and destination identity. Thank you to all the staff who work really hard to make our Shire great. This eco-tourism and destination certification can bring all our strategies together so we are in the driver's seat to tell the Byron story, tell about our special place, our community, and values.'

Cr Kay told *The Echo* that she believes the certification will encourage visitors to see the Byron Shire as a nature-based place.

'I hope this certification will guide visitors to appropriate behaviour.'

Art and climate action come together



Vicki Brooke, supporter; Kilie Caldwell, Artist Curator; Jane Fuller, Arts Northern Rivers; Jodie Littlewood from the InGrained Foundation; Grata Fund's Isabelle Reinecke; and Jasmin Daly of InGrained Foundation. Photo Jeff Dawson

Aslan Shand

Why is art so important to shaping our ideas, culture and the world around us? Why do dictators and fascist regimes go for the artists first when they are trying to control a society? Because art and artists give us all the chance to reimagine the world, to defy those in power with irony, critical reflection and radical ideas.

The InGrained Foundation

has launched a new grant program, Climate Action Through Art, that offers grants from \$5,000 to \$20,000 to support bold, thoughtful and imaginative projects that respond to the climate crisis and engage the Northern Rivers community.

'Art provides a vehicle to inspire hearts, challenge minds, bring people together and catalyse action,' said Jasmin Daly, InGrained Foundation's Executive Director.

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

For more information about the grant guidelines, the application process or to book into an info session with Arts NR, go to www.ingrainedfoundation.com.au/climate-action-arts-grants-program.



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New board, renewed vision for Destination Byron

Jeanie Wylie

Byron Shire is one of the most visited destinations in Australia – yet remains without funded destination management.

For a region of this profile and popularity, that absence is significant. Unlike most regions which have a ‘local tourism organisation’ with government funding in the hundreds of thousands (at a bare minimum), Destination Byron is a volunteer-run organisation which receives no ongoing funding from Byron Shire Council (BSC) or any other government or private bodies. Instead, it operates through the dedication of volunteers and modest sponsorship support for its annual Tourism Symposium.

As pressure has mounted on the Byron Shire’s economy, culture and environment; Destination Byron has increased its drive to strengthen the coordination of the region’s visitor economy to ensure that it is mutually beneficial for visitors and local residents while protecting the region’s unique character, natural assets and quality of life.

Tourism often attracts

criticism and while it is important to acknowledge the pressures that popularity can bring, when managed well, tourism can be a powerful force for good. Many of us can reflect on our own lives and recognise that travel experiences sit amongst our most meaningful memories.

Stewardship

Destination Byron believes that the Byron Shire has the potential to offer that kind of transformative experience to the people who visit. By painting a picture for visitors before they arrive and guiding them while they are here – through clear messaging, storytelling, and strategic positioning – we can attract travellers who value what Byron stands for.

Our strengths are already evident: health and wellness, sustainability, nature connection, vibrant creativity, Indigenous pride, and entrepreneurship. Strategic destination management is not about driving growth at any cost; it is about planning, coordination and stewardship.

The newly appointed Destination Byron board brings together a diverse and experienced group of leaders from

across the visitor economy. The new board comprises Jeanie Wylie, co-founder of Frida’s Field restaurant; Petrina Maxwell, owner of Agent 86 Experiences; Sarah Anderson, founder and MD of GTI Tourism; Rick Slater, publisher of byronbay.com; Margot Natoli, founder of Margot Natoli Event & Project Management; Suzi Bradley, publisher of Byron Inside Out; Matt Leedham founder of Karryon media; Nicole Spencer, founder of Lionsgate Events and Heartwood Farm; and ‘Dingo’ Hampel, founder of Localing Australia.

In 2025, Destination Byron lobbied BSC with renewed vigour to fund the creation of a formal Destination Management Organisation (DMO). A research project was undertaken which demonstrated that Byron Council spends significantly less than all of our neighbouring North Coast local government areas on destination management and Byron is suffering negative consequences as a result.

BSC did develop a Visitor Economy Action Plan (released in December and available on BSC’s website); Council made it clear that they are not in a position to fund a DMO. They also

clarified that levies, such as a bed tax or visitor charge, are not currently permitted under NSW law.

Future planning

Destination Byron will now focus on advocating for support from all visitor economy stakeholders to establish a fully funded, formal DMO as well as striving to foster stronger collaboration across the sector.

The 2026 Symposium will take place in June with another high-quality program. Destination Byron will continue lobbying BSC to increase its investment in destination management and will participate in the Council’s Economic Activation Group.

This is ambitious work – particularly for a volunteer organisation – but the energy within the new board is strong. Destination Byron invites local businesses, community members, and stakeholders to engage, contribute ideas, and be part of shaping a future where tourism has a positive impact on the Shire and its visitors.

■ Jeanie Wylie is a member of the Destination Byron board.

Looking for a little company?

This Sunday, 7 March is the Norther Rivers Animal Services (NRAS) adoption day at the Rescue Shelter at 61 Piper Drive, Ballina from 10am until 1pm where you can find a furry friend and give them a forever home.



Valentino is looking for a forever home. Photo supplied

All grooming services will be available, including the hydrabath and nail clipping plus \$10 microchipping, as well as the regular BBQ and drinks stand.

The animals in NRAS’ care are still available for adoption outside of the monthly adoption day so people looking to adopt a furry friend should still keep an eye on the NRAS

website: www.nras.org.au.

If you are interested in a particular animal complete an adoption questionnaire.

For more information, call the shelter weekdays between 10am and 4pm on 6681 1860 or email: shelter@nras.org.au.

Byron beach-goers help arrest man: alleged child abuse photos

A man is to face court next week accused of deliberately taking photographs of children at Byron Bay’s Clarkes Beach late last month.

Police say members of the public detained the 24-year-old on the morning of Sunday, 22 February at the beach before officers arrived on-scene around 11.50am.

They took him to Byron Bay Police Station where they examined a mobile phone they say revealed a

large amount of child abuse material, leading to charges against him.

Police have listed two counts of intentionally recording an intimate image without consent and possessing child abuse material.

He was initially refused bail before the Bail Division Court on Monday, 23 February granted him conditional bail to appear before Byron Bay Local Court on Monday, 9 March.

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Suffolk Park comes together on street safety

A re-energised community group in Suffolk Park is calling for improved road safety, as Byron Shire Council (BSC) seeks public input on how to spend an estimated \$80 million in developer infrastructure contributions in the next 15 to 20 years.

'The future of Suffo isn't decided by chance, it's shaped by those who choose to participate,' said the new president of the Suffolk Park Progress Association (SPPA), Kelly Minahan. 'Now is the time to share your voice.'

With a focus on community consultation, the group has recently launched a new digital portal: www.suffolk-park.org.au, to gather local feedback and identify future infrastructure priorities.

Road safety

The latest feedback includes calls for more footpaths, safe bike-paths, new pedestrian crossings, and reduced speed limits, as well as fixing the notorious intersection of Clifford Street and Broken Head Road.

Importantly, fixing the controversial intersection is part of Council's official 'Developers Contributions Plan', something the association believes is critical to addressing long-standing traffic safety concerns.

Council is seeking public input on that plan, with

submissions closing on 10 March.

The SPPA – which is planning a transition to become the Suffolk Park Community Association – has welcomed what Minahan describes as 'wonderful progress' in recent times for the growing coastal suburb, praising Council for several key projects delivering benefits for residents.

He cited repairs to the Tallow Creek bridge, just in time for Christmas, recent enhancements to Linda Vidler Park, and the community management of tennis courts, noting the importance of continued investment in recreation spaces as Suffolk Park's population grows.

Get involved

Minahan is also calling for a comprehensive Suffolk Park Masterplan. 'Council's willingness to listen and act is being noticed in the community.'

According to a planning workshop last month, Byron Shire's population could grow by 12,000 people, with over 5,000 new dwellings in the coming 15 years.

Community members are invited to join the discussions that shape Suffo's future at association meetings on Monday, 9 March at 1pm at the Suffolk Park Community Hall, and at 6pm at the Park Hotel.

Toilets to move back behind Byron Bay Surf Club

Aslan Shand

Concerns raised by the Byron Bay Surf Club (BBSLSC) objections to two aspects of the Byron Foreshore Landscape Concept Plan saw Byron Shire councillors, with the exception of Mayor Sarah Ndiyae, agree to support a '10m buffer zone adjacent to the Surf Club for potential future expansion and path relocation' at Council's 19 February meeting.

However, concerns raised

about relocating the toilets and changerooms at the rear of the Byron Bay Surf Club did not gain traction.

Not ideal location

The BBSLSC had raised significant concerns around managing the access of emergency vehicles to the site and beach, that occur on a weekly basis, as pedestrians accessing the new amenities block, including children, would be walking directly through the

emergency access route.

'It's not our best case scenario, but we're going to work with Council to come up with a situation that will hopefully future-proof the club for next 20 or 30 years,' BBSLSC Captain, Michael Gudgeon, told *The Echo*.

The 10m buffer zone will potentially allow an expansion of the club to offset the space they will lose as a result of the amenities block being relocated at the rear of the BBSLSC, however

this is dependent on permission from Crown Lands.

'Having the 10m buffer zone will enable us to direct people away from that operations area,' said Michael.

'It'll be an area where we have to manage emergency situations particularly around the entrance to the toilets, etc. It's a compromise, so we're going to work with Council to future-proof the club because we can see the club expanding.'

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140kg loggerhead turtle released at The Pass

Mia Mobbs

On a recent tranquil morning at The Pass, many families from Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School gathered on the beach to celebrate a special ninth birthday. The ocean was calm and the children were having an incredible time surfing, swimming and playing in the picturesque water.

Out past the break, a snorkeler spotted a loggerhead sea turtle in distress, unable to submerge. It's like it knew where to show itself to receive the help it needed.

As news of the turtle spread across the beach, the children and parents marvelled at the incredible size of this majestic, prehistoric-looking creature.

The snorkeler looked after the turtle in the shallows for over an hour before Carolyn from Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue (<https://seabirdrescue.org.au/>) arrived.

The children had an opportunity to observe this animal at close proximity for this time. Many of our parents worked together to carry the sick turtle from the water into a sling and then to the waiting vehicle. It was so heavy



Carolyn from Seabird and Turtle Rescue with the male loggerhead turtle. His carapace (shell) was 98cm, his head was 25cm across, and he weighed a whopping 140kg. Photo supplied

that it took six strong people to carry the turtle to the car.

It was such a remarkable experience for all that were there to witness this rescue. This experience was a hot topic at Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School the following Monday, with a number of families reaching out to the rescue centre for an update.

Due to the size of the

turtle, a reported 140kg, it needed to be transported to Sea World to receive treatment. The good news is that the turtle was successfully treated at Sea World and has now been released back into the waters at The Pass.

■ Mia Mobbs is the Primary School Coordinator at Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School.

Vale Harry Jenkins



On Monday, past and present firefighters from all FRNSW stations in Byron Shire were honoured to farewell retired firefighter and much-loved Mullumbimby local Deputy Captain Harry Jenkins. Harry served the people for 42 years until retirement in the early 1990s. Photo Jeff Dawson

Suicide prevention awards for Human Nature

Northern Rivers grassroots organisation Human Nature Adventure Therapy brought home two awards for NSW at the Suicide Prevention Australia's LiFE Awards – the sector's most prestigious recognition.

This included the Priority Populations award, which honours innovative service delivery by an organisation that demonstrates cultural responsiveness, breaks down barriers, promotes inclusion, and delivers improved outcomes for those at risk.

For young people aged 15 to 24, suicide is the single leading cause of death and suicide rates across the Far North Coast are consistently above the Australian average.



Minster for Mental Health Rose Jackson presenting the awards to Kane Abbott on behalf of Human Nature Therapy. Photo supplied

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth aged 10 to 19 die by suicide at a rate 4.5 times higher than non-Indigenous young people and among LGBTQ+ young people aged 14 to 17, three in four have experienced suicidal thoughts in their

lifetime, and nearly one in three have attempted suicide as reported by the ABS.

Trust in nature

The awards recognised the effectiveness of the work started by psychologist Andy Hamilton in 2015 that takes young people outdoors into nature and the community where trust and safety is created. 'Healing takes time,' says CEO Jen Parke. 'Change requires trust. And both begin in connection.'

In 2025, 93 per cent of young clients of the organisation made measurable positive change in at least one area of life.




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*Shown here are Fire, Flood and Storm Warnings. Other warning symbols include Heat, Tsunami, Cyclone, and Other.

Filmmaker David Bradbury raising funds for next Cuba film

Local filmmaker David Bradbury is leaving in two weeks for Cuba with his two children, Nakeita, 23, and Omar, 16, to shoot social media posts and a feature-length doco they will be sending back to the Byron community via *The Echo* online as Trump's next plans unfold to take over the island.

As a fundraiser to help David and his kids pay for the trip, Bradbury is having a screening of a film he made on Cuba 20 years ago, *Fond Memories of Cuba*.

The film is laced with lots of great music and dance... and has loads of Cuba's proud fighting spirit. Which they surely need now with a total oil blockade by Trump, bringing the island to a grinding halt.

'There is little or no electricity for hospitals, schools, public transport, water and sewage treatment works. There is rubbish piling up in the streets which proud, starving Cubans are forced to rummage through for food scraps because food is too expensive

for average Cubans or not available,' Bradbury says.

Fond Memories was made in 1999, on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the revolution when life was still hard for average Cubans but much better than now under Trump.

'I'm going back to Cuba in solidarity with the brave Cuban people who I've met and known over the last 40 years. I don't think harm will come our way but you never know what Trump and his henchmen will get up to next - look at what he did

in Venezuela, and now Iran. He's a pig of a man!

'No, that's degrading for pigs. They at least know when to back off. Trump doesn't,' he told *The Echo*.

Whatever occurs while Bradbury is there, he's sure to return with a great film in the can. Your donation, or coming to the fundraiser at the Old Drill Hall at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 11 March can help pull that off. Donate: Frontline Film Foundation, BSB 722 744, Account: 100014882.

It's time to talk about end-of-life planning

Locals are being encouraged to take part in an open and informative discussion about end-of-life planning at an upcoming community event at the Byron Bay Community Centre.

The 'Let's Have a Conversation About End of Life Planning: Knowledge is Power,' event is the fifth in the Let's Talk series organised by Sabine Muschter in collaboration with Byron Community Centre, and HeyDay Supports.

Sabine, who brings more than 25 years of experience

in intensive care nursing, said the session is inspired by firsthand experience in hospital and private settings.

'I've seen families facing additional stress and confusion because important conversations hadn't happened and documents weren't in place,' she said. 'Planning ahead offers clarity, dignity, and peace of mind - not only for ourselves, but for those we love.'

The evening will feature several experienced speakers covering the legal, practical and emotional aspects of

preparing for times being temporarily ill, or end-of-life care. Key speakers include Zenith Virago, founder of the Natural Death Care Centre Charity, Sue McGuigan, an occupational therapist and Aged Care Assessment Clinical Lead for NSW Health, and Peter Devine, CEO of HeyDay Supports

Following the presentations, attendees can speak directly with presenters and local care providers, to gather more information and ask questions.

'This is not just a

conversation for older people. A sudden accident - whether involving an e-bike styled as a motorbike or anything else - can leave anyone temporarily unable to make their own decisions,' Muschter said. 'It's a discussion for people of all ages'

Join the conversation on Tuesday, 17 March, from 6pm to 7.30pm at Byron Community Centre, 69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. Tickets \$15 / \$10 from BCC box office or <https://events.humanitix.com/let-s-talk-end-of-life-planning>.

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Echo

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

Yvonne Whear missing more than a week

Police are asking the public for help finding 73-year-old Tweed Shire woman Yvonne Whear, reported as missing for more than a week. Investigating officers from the Tweed/Byron District say she was most recently seen about 3.22pm on Thursday 19 February, driving north along Murwillumbah's Queensland Road towards the small town of Dungay, near the interstate border.

Ballina bike rider hospitalised with head injuries

A woman in her thirties was airlifted to hospital with head injuries after a bicycle accident at Ballina on Saturday, emergency services said. Westpac Rescue Helicopter staff said crew responded to reports of the incident around 6:15pm, Saturday 28 February.

Ballina residential development recognised at World Design Awards 2026

Development company CADRE has been recognised on the global stage, with its Ballina residential project, Solhaven, being awarded silver at the World Design Awards 2026. CADRE are behind the Station Street development in Bangalow and are proposing a large Mullumbimby bedsit complex.

Lismore flood anniversary picnic postponed

Organisers say an event to remember the 2022 floods – four years on – has been postponed, and will be held Sunday 15 March at the same time of 4-7pm, at Nesbitt Park, South Lismore. Organisers on Friday advised the decision was owing 'to the soggy weather'.

Boil water alert for Nimbin

Lismore City Council put out an alert for Nimbin residents to boil their water last week. They said in a statement, 'Problems with water treatment means that drinking water in the village of Nimbin is unsafe'.

www.echo.net.au

Robotic surgery unveiled in Lismore

St Vincent's Private Hospital in Lismore says it has introduced ground-breaking robotic surgery technology.

In a media statement, a spokesperson for the hospital said it was the first regional private hospital in NSW, and only the second hospital in Australia, to introduce the Medbot TOUMAI® Surgical Robotic System.

'The arrival of this advanced robotic technology represents a major leap forward in surgical care for the Northern Rivers, allowing highly complex procedures to be performed using minimally invasive, keyhole techniques rather than traditional open surgery'.

'This is a transformative moment for healthcare in our region,' says hospital CEO, Peter Fahey. 'The introduction of robotic-assisted surgery means safer procedures, faster recovery times, and improved outcomes for our patients – right here in Lismore.'

'The TOUMAI® system will be used across multiple specialties, including urology, gynaecology, thoracic surgery, and general surgery, where the greatest growth



The Medbot TOUMAI® Surgical Robotic System. Photo supplied

in robotic procedures is expected'.

The media release continues, 'Robotic-assisted surgery enhances a surgeon's precision, control, and visual clarity through the use of high-definition, three-dimensional imaging and advanced robotic instruments that replicate natural hand movements while filtering tremor'.

Benefits

'For patients, this typically results in smaller incisions; reduced pain and blood loss; lower risk of complications; shorter hospital stays; and faster return to daily activities.'

'The TOUMAI® system is distinguished by its

force-sensing technology, allowing surgeons to feel tissue resistance during procedures – a first for laparoscopic robotic systems.

'It also supports 5G-enabled telesurgery, enabling expert surgeons to perform selected procedures remotely with high precision when clinically appropriate.'

'St Vincent's Private Hospital Lismore has a proven track record in surgical innovation. The hospital successfully introduced the ROSA® Knee System in 2022, followed by the CORI® Surgical System, both of which use robotics-assisted technology to deliver highly accurate orthopaedic joint replacement procedures'.

Federal Nationals MP takes aim at 2022 flood recovery

Member for Page, MP Kevin Hogan (Nationals) has criticised the NSW government's flood recovery efforts, saying, 'I can't help but think if this disaster had been in Sydney, things would be happening much quicker'.

This week marks four years since the disaster in 2022, which saw devastating floods and landslips throughout the Northern Rivers and SE Qld.

Hogan said in a statement, 'There are three areas where the state and federal Labor governments are failing us'.

'(1) The Resilient Lands Program was established to unlock land and build new homes. Not one home has been built and it is still years away before the first family will move into one.'

'The Reconstruction Authority (RA) was established to speed up this process. If this is considered a quick process, then something is clearly wrong.'

'(2) The buyback scheme has also failed. It was not fully funded. It's moved half a street and left the other half there. Over 1,000 homes identified to be bought back won't be.'

'How does that make the community any safer?'

'(3) Flood mitigation is



Member for Page, MP Kevin Hogan (Nationals). Photo supplied

the only strategy that will deliver long-term safety and certainty for our region. Yet to date there has been no meaningful engineering work done to reduce the level of the next flood.

'Recovery has been driven overwhelmingly by local families, farmers and businesses who have poured their savings into rebuilding homes, reopening shops, restoring farms and getting people back to work.'

'We await the CSIRO Flood Mitigation Report in June. Governments must commit to funding and delivering recommendations to take two metres off the next flood.'

'The federal and state Labor governments need to do better, in ensuring this region has a safer and prosperous future', he said.

Tweed/Byron Police weekly update

Tweed/Byron Police say that over the week of 19-25 February, 37 people were arrested and charged at Tweed Heads and Byron Bay Police stations, with a variety of offences.

'In total, 52 people had legal action taken against them', they say.

'12 people were charged with 28 domestic violence-related offences,' they say, and '21 people were charged with traffic-related offences, some for multiple offences'.

As for significant arrests, local police say, 'A 29-year-old male from Uki was arrested and charged with nine offences after breaking into multiple dwellings in Mount Burrell, and interacting with the residents. At one address, he allegedly took firearms from a gun safe and discharged one of them. Both firearms have since been recovered by police. At the same address, he took a tractor and crashed it on the property. The male was arrested and will next appear at the Tweed Heads Local Court on 9 March'.

'A 53-year-old male was arrested and charged with two counts of carrying out a sexual act without consent, after separate incidents on the same day at a beach in Broken Head. He was bail refused by police and given conditional bail by the Parramatta Bail Court to next appear at the Byron Bay Local Court on 2 March.'

'A 43-year-old male was arrested and charged with two outstanding warrants, six domestic violence and assault police offences in Murwillumbah. He failed to appear at the Murwillumbah Local Court and warrants were issued for his apprehension. Shortly after he appeared at the courthouse and breached the conditions of an apprehended violence order by allegedly making threats. He was located by police nearby and resisted arrest before he was subsequently restrained after a violent struggle with police.'

'He remains bail refused to next appear at the Tweed Heads Local Court on 30 June', police say.

DOG ADOPTION DAY

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Come join us on the 14th of March with our friends from Willow Tree Sanctuary for our Dog Adoption Day from 11am-2pm.

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Lismore Council spruiks achievements since floods

On the four-year anniversary of the devastating 2022 floods, Lismore City Council says it has 'rebuilt community buildings to withstand future weather events, while at the same time, changed how the state and federal governments will respond to other natural disasters across the state'.

Mayor Steve Krieg said in a media release that 133 projects had been completed, 'including the full restoration of the Lismore Memorial Baths, City Library and Regional Gallery, with another 142 in active delivery'.

'I know four years is a long time, and we still have about another four years to go, but cast your mind back to the days immediately after 28 February 2022 and the sight of the destruction as waters receded, you realise the enormous effort that has been put into our recovery by Council, the state and federal governments, local business and residents,' he said.

'What has slowed our recovery was that we were



Left to right: Lismore City Council's Director of Corporate Sustainability Kulwant Singh-Pangly, Director of Flood Restoration Portfolio, Charlotte Foy, Director Water Waste and Open Spaces, Matt Potter, Councillor Gianpiero Battista, Mayor Steve Krieg, Deputy Mayor Jeri Hall and Bennet Constructions Project Manager, Mick Furchtman. Photo supplied

the first in NSW to be hit by a disaster of such magnitude. Unlike in Qld, there was no template, no road map – we had to figure it out as we went.

'And while the bureaucrats were slow to respond, Lismore City Council staff used their local knowledge, expertise and professionalism to help change how

governments handle ours and other disasters into the future.

'While Lismore's restoration has been a collaborative effort across all levels of government, Council has led the charge, establishing a dedicated, award-winning team which has set industry-leading standards in program management and is

delivering the largest capital program of any local council across the state.

'We are a flood-prone town. That reality requires us to operate differently. We have strengthened our procurement, governance and oversight systems, so disaster response becomes institutional capability, not a temporary reaction,' Mayor Krieg said.

'What we choose to build here, and the mechanisms and standards we apply, will shape how the state, and potentially the nation, manages flood-exposed infrastructure for decades.

\$1b flood portfolio

'Since 2023, Lismore City Council has governed a \$1 billion, state and federally funded flood restoration portfolio – the largest capital program of any local council in NSW – spanning 338 projects across water, roads and bridges, buildings, waste and resilience infrastructure,' Mayor Krieg said.

High profile couple admits to unauthorised Tweed development

Derek Merdith (former CEO of QCN Networks, a Qld government-owned corporation), and his wife, Georgia Lane (Head of Fundraising National Trust of Queensland), have entered into an enforceable undertaking around unauthorised development with Tweed Shire Council.

According to NSW Environment and Heritage, an enforceable undertaking is a voluntary, legally-binding agreement between a person or company and a regulator (such as a local council or state agency) to fix an alleged breach of legislation. It acts as an alternative to court prosecution, focusing on fixing the damage and ensuring future compliance.

\$36,000 payment

Tweed Shire Council staff confirmed the couple admitted guilt of the charges and made a payment in lieu of a fine.

A Tweed Council spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'The owners have, in consultation with their legal advisors, admitted to contravening a number of sections of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)* and offered to enter the enforceable undertaking. Under the enforceable undertaking, the owners have agreed to pay \$21,000 in legal costs to Council and a financial contribution in lieu of a fine of \$15,000.

'The \$15,000 will be

wholly contributed to Council's public education program about illegal and unauthorised buildings'.

An anonymous source told *The Echo*, 'After their home was illegally built in 2015, it was then illegally rented out as a short-term stay on Airbnb for over eight years until March 2023'.

The Tweed Council spokesperson said, 'There were two problems with the development – it was built without any form of DA or construction certificate, so the Council had no opportunity to consider whether it met the regulations outlined in the *EP&A Act* and the National Construction Code, and then it was rented out as a short-term rental, even though it wasn't approved, which is against the law'.

The Echo source continued, 'The seriousness of the enforceable undertaking against both Derek Merdith and Georgia Lane serves as warning to others'.

The Tweed Council spokesperson added, 'Building a house – or carrying out other significant works – without the proper approvals is not a shortcut'.

'It is unlawful, risky, and can have serious financial and legal consequences. Recent compliance action in our region highlights why it is essential to obtain development approval and the required construction certificates before starting any building work'.

NSW govt beefs up police rapid response

The NSW Labor government says it is creating a 'rapid response' unit of approximately 250 dedicated police officers, 28 civilian staff and a 'fleet of specifically modified rapid-response vehicles'.

The permanent new unit is described by NSW Labor as one that can 'quickly respond to threats, patrol high-risk areas, protect places of worship and major events, and provide a visible presence to keep communities safe'.

The announcement comes in the wake of police oversight body, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC), investigating alleged misconduct by NSW police at recent Sydney protests,

following Israeli president Isaac Herzog's visit.

The LECC is inviting the public to contact them with evidence from the Sydney Town Hall protest on 9 February 2026 via www.lecc.nsw.gov.au

\$5b police budget

The cost to taxpayers of this new unit were not mentioned in the media release, however, the NSW Police Force's total expense budget is around \$5.2–5.3 billion dollars per year, according to the most recent published state budget figures.

Greens MLC Sue Higinson described it as a 'dedicated, heavily-armed police unit to target peaceful

protest'. She says, 'Premier Chris Minns is making a habit of deploying state violence against political opponents and the community at large – this is dangerous to our democracy'.

Rapid fire weapons

'Creating dedicated police forces who will be rapidly deployed in the community with high calibre and rapid fire weapons will not prevent people from engaging in protest, all it will do is put everyone at far greater risk of violence, harm, and death'.

Will this prevent further terror attacks? Academic website, *The Conversation*, says the research is mixed around expanding police

powers in the form of a rapid response unit to prevent further terror attacks.

Author and academic Andrew Poe, writes, 'Recent policing violence in US cities – such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) action in New York, Minneapolis and Los Angeles – testifies to these dangers'.

'These recent conflicts highlight the ways in which expanded police powers can be the source of pandemonium, rather than peace'.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #39 • March 4, 2026

Stop landbanking our homes

The NSW government keeps harping on about the length development applications (DAs) take to be processed by councils, and recently it announced it is removing the DA approval process from councils' hands – even though councils consistently approve approximately 97 per cent of DAs. But the state government has missed a fundamental point in the housing crisis conversation – that developers are not building approved housing.

Landbanking refers to a developer either holding land without making any specific plans for its development, or a developer receiving approval for a development but then waiting for its value to increase before finally releasing lots for sale or starting to build.

The building of the M1 has increased the accessibility of Byron Shire with many people who own businesses and/or work in the area now living in neighbouring local government areas (LGAs) the result being that Byron Shire is directly impacted by other LGA land releases.

With a housing crisis severely impacting the Northern Rivers and over 20,000 approved residential lots waiting for developers to release, Tweed Shire Council (TSC) are now calling for action by the NSW state government to end landbanking.

'Despite thousands of approved lots sitting ready across the shire, many remain unbuilt – held by developers for whom land appreciates faster than the cost of holding it. Council is actively lobbying the NSW government for a mechanism to change that equation,' TSC said in a recent press release.

Tweed Shire Council's General Manager Troy Green has pointed out that Kings Forest, that was approved for 4,500 homes 20 years ago, and only just released its first 148 lots in August 2025.

Mr Green highlights that Council took action to facilitate this project 20 years ago by building the

infrastructure needed to progress the development.

'Council borrowed and forward-funded the essential water and sewer works, completing them in 2012, so that when the time came, the groundwork was already done,' Mr Green said. 'Now our focus is making sure that pipeline keeps moving, because our community can't afford for it to stall.'

Tweed Shire Council says its proposal is straightforward: approved but undeveloped lots would be rated as though they were already built after a reasonable time period, making landbanking financially unattractive and motivating development.

'We can plan all we like. If we don't have a mechanism to make sure those houses get developed, what's the point?' Tweed Mayor Chris Cherry said.

'When Council rezones land for housing, it does so because there is a need. If that development then sits mothballed, it makes it extremely difficult for utility providers to plan, fund, and build the infrastructure to support it. We need the state government to give us that lever.'

Their position is supported by research by Prosper Australia that found that across master-planned communities, developers held an average of 76 per cent of their landbank vacant after 9.5 years, while lot prices grew at more than double the rate of wage growth.

'The Tweed is not alone in facing this challenge – but Tweed Shire Council is among the first in the state to formally advocate for a use-it-or-lose-it solution,' said the press release.

Does NSW Premier Chris Minns and the Minister for Housing Rose Jackson have the grit and determination to drive real change forward for the people of NSW despite the pressure from money, privileged developers, and their lobbyists?

Over to you NSW state government, show us if you have the mettle to enact real change.

Aslan Shand, editor

War with Iran, and between humans and machines?

Desperate to distract attention from the Epstein files, and retain his faltering grip on domestic power, US 'Peace President' Donald Trump has attacked another sovereign country, and murdered its leader, along with numerous others, and Australia's prime minister is apparently fine with that.

'We support the United States acting to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security,' said Anthony Albanese, hours after the first bombs struck Tehran.

When asked if the attack was legal, or would achieve anything apart from further eroding the international rules-based order, Mr Albanese avoided the question, saying, 'Well, those judgements and statements are for the United States and for those involved directly in the attack...'

'Australia stands with the brave people of Iran in their struggle against what is an oppressive regime.'

The war has since spread to Lebanon, Kuwait, and Qatar. Among the dead are over 100 primary school girls in Iran.

The US-Israeli attack came in the midst of diplomatic negotiations which were abruptly abandoned by the US, and follows an earlier attack which Trump claimed 'obliterated' the country's nuclear program.

An American-led attack on Iran has long been a cherished dream of the disgraced leader of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, whose military is working closely together with the US. Netanyahu claims the aim of this operation is to enable 'the brave people of Iran to free themselves from the chains of tyranny... we will strike thousands of targets of the terrorist regime.'

In spite of the lack of any legal figleaf for this new war (either from the United Nations or the US Congress), no clear objective or exit strategy, or compelling evidence that Iran presents a nuclear threat,



'Anthropic AI imposed two firm restrictions on the US government: its technology could not be used for mass domestic surveillance, or to power fully autonomous weapons systems'

– David Lowe

we are apparently all-in on another conflict in the Middle East.

As an unabashed ally of the US and Israel, including the provision of signals intelligence via Pine Gap and North West Cape, this country is now at a growing risk of terrorist attack, along with the repercussions of any wider war. Australia will also pay the price at the petrol pump, and via heightened tensions between those of Persian, Arab, Kurdish, and Jewish descent.

While there's no doubt that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was the leader of an extremely brutal government, which has murdered thousands of its own citizens, America's history of violent, enforced regime change in other countries has tended to make things much worse, not better, for ordinary people.

Will it be any different with 'stable genius' Donald Trump at the helm?

Remember Skynet?

Trump's latest war comes hot on the heels of another far-reaching decision made via his clownish Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, to remove Anthropic AI from all federal agencies, in favour of rival companies who are less squeamish about their technologies being used to kill humans.

Until recently, Anthropic held a \$200 million Pentagon contract, with its creation Claude being the first artificial intelligence (AI) model deployed on the US military's classified networks. It's thought to have been used to design the recent military operation in Venezuela, resulting in the capture of President Nicolas Maduro.

AI is already widely used by the military to help identify targets,

analyse drone surveillance and provide real-time battlefield coordination, but Anthropic imposed two firm restrictions on the US government: its technology could not be used for mass domestic surveillance, or to power fully autonomous weapons systems (where AI, not humans, makes final targeting decisions).

After Anthropic refused to back down on these ethical guard rails, Hegseth acted to designate Anthropic a 'supply chain risk', a classification normally reserved for companies tied to foreign adversaries.

With Anthropic being locked out of government contracts, the beneficiaries are likely to be rival AI companies led by Sam Altman and science fiction fan Elon Musk, who is busy at the moment converting many of his Tesla car factories to produce robots. Peter Thiel and Palantir are also involved. Dystopia, anyone?

You don't need much imagination to consider what might happen when unhinged political leadership allows hostile AI to be combined with the latest robotics and drone technology.

Have a look at what robots are capable of already. This is from China, two weeks ago: <https://tinyurl.com/48t3hkef>.

If things go pear-shaped, Arnold Schwarzenegger won't be coming to save us from any of this.

■ Originally from Canberra, David Lowe is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and photographer with particular interests in the environment and politics. He's known for his campaigning work with Cloudcatcher Media.

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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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One word

One for Mandy Nolan: changing one small word would have changed the history of the world.

‘Congratulations, Frau Hitler, it’s a GIRL.’

David Witney
Bangalow

Density or quality?

The construction of government social housing has been drastically reduced by 50 per cent in recent years.

The state government has amended the Housing SEPP over time, outsourcing to developers the role of building social and/or low-cost housing instead of the government continuing its responsibility for this. The changes include the relatively new co-living options, hence the 50-unit proposal in a heritage area of Mullumbimby.

Unfortunately, this isn’t the first highly dense multiple dwelling that’s been proposed or built in Byron Shire in recent years. Look at the boarding house/units in Sunrise Beach, built under the previous Affordable Rental Housing SEPP 2009, with a very similar design to the Stuart Street proposal.

Since 2015, this Sunrise development has grown to 22 units/rooms. A similar complex was approved for Bayside Bruns, but hasn’t been built yet.

In Sunrise, Council approved a change of use



from ‘boarding house’ to ‘in-fill affordable dwellings’, which meant that an onsite manager’s residence was no longer required.

All the units were to be used for permanent affordable rental housing.

Note there is no requirement for affordable housing in the co-living SEPP. Sunrise rooms, of a similar size (and fixtures) to The Nest proposal, were rented at \$450-\$500 pw in 2020. Recent online estimates are up to \$960 pw. Is this affordable?

People like Jimmy Blackhall (*Echo*, 4/2/26) should look at past consequences of similar developments before lavishing praise on The Nest as a solution to the housing crisis. Its DA states that these tiny rectangular rooms (18-22m² approx.) are designed for ‘short- to medium-term accommodation’. Perfect for the travellers and transients that through this Shire. The SEPP refers to ‘off-campus student accommodation’ as an example of co-living.

The SEPP co-living regulations state that ‘each private room will be used by no more than two occupants’. Similarly, the Sunrise units were designed for a maximum of two people. However, whole families have lived in them, along

with barking dogs.

I refer Nest supporters to the letter by a previous tenant at Sunrise, Tracey Stride (*Echo*, 26/2/20).

Tracy supported this type of development until she lived there and discovered it to contain noisy party homes for three to four backpackers crammed into tiny spaces. She called it a ‘future slum’.

Yes, it’s wise to look at the big picture and listen to the voices of experience. 50 units on three levels will set a new precedent for a higher density of living in the Shire.

We want sustainable housing in Byron Shire that gives people dignity and a quality of life where they’ll want to live for the long term. Not cramped rooms that deny peace and privacy, with a high turnover.

Kathryn McConnochie
Byron Bay

Wither the Australian dream

Unless you are a privileged household of high income, or have access to intergenerational wealth, the Great Australian Dream of owning a home is dead.

For those such as Jimmy Blackhall (*Echo* 4/2/26), you are up against the consequences of:

- Deregulation of the banks. By skewing their

balance sheets to home mortgages, particularly since the 1990s, the big four money lenders have morphed into the most profitable in the world.

- Land banking by developers who are gaming the market by either holding vacant residential land or not proceeding on approved DAs. Included in this are the supply chain problems and lack of skilled tradespeople both of which are making it extremely expensive to build, if at all.

- Wage drift whereby wages fall behind inflation.

- Net immigration which, among other things, keeps wages down and increases the pressure on housing.

There is no political will to address the aforementioned fundamentals in full knowledge that the ‘housing crisis’ is both national and global.

Contrast the above with the period 1945 to the early 1970s. This was a time of the greatest social equity in Australia’s history with over 71 per cent home ownership. So, why then and not now? Wage increases kept up with inflation, the banking system was regulated and there was a massive federal and state government investment in public housing.

There is no political will to address today’s increasing social inequities.

Rental costs have skyrocketed but no one wants to address how the Valuer General increased residential land values in Byron Shire 90 per cent effective 1/7/22. Increases in land tax, Council rates and insurance have been horrific. They are, in part, the reason for rental stress.

Byron Shire’s mortgagees are similarly in mortgage stress. As more people move to the area, knowing that it is one of the most expensive in the state, property prices and rents will continue

► Continued on page 18

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► Continued from page 17 to increase. Furthermore, dwelling stock is reduced by the thousands of holiday rentals adding further pressure on any notion of 'affordability'.

Demands on infrastructure, gridlocked traffic and the push for higher density living will mean we will be homogenised into the style and form of development further up the coast, destroying what has been hard fought for over decades to preserve.

Approving a pending slum in the form of The Nest is not the solution. We have never been a culture of communal living. We are a culture that demands privacy and space, not confining two people to live, long term in an area of approx. 4mx5m in each of the proposed 50 units.

The bigger question: is this the vision elsewhere for the Shire's housing crisis?

Patricia Warren
Brunswick Heads

Red hot go

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd – guys, stop! Get help, you gave it a red hot go as true believers should, but no-one will invest in a dreamers' dream, sorry. Sending love and hugs xx

Andrew Hunter
Bangalow

Roundup dangers

So many letters have been written recently on this very toxic chemical.

I thank Sally Law and Jo Faith for their informative letters on this terrible chemical that Byron Shire is still using. As stated by the very informative article in last week's *Echo* by Jo Immig, Bayer is appealing to the US Supreme Court after being sued for \$25m by a man who is suffering from non-Hodgkins lymphoma, the very same thing my husband died from in 2012. Maybe I should do the same, maybe this is the only way they will stop spraying.

Ginny Black
Suffolk Park

E-bikes v electric motorbikes

Yes, Neil [Dr Neil Meulman, letters, 25/2/26] you raise a good argument about the current dangers of these new electric vehicles.

I have ridden electric-assisted bicycles since about 2010. The important distinction is that an electric bike [e-bike] is not an electric motorbike. Electric motorbikes are illegal. It looks like a motorbike and not like a



A truck caught fire on the M1 motorway at Knockrow, near Newrybar, last Thursday, resulting in big delays for those heading north. Photo supplied

bicycle. When an electric motorbike rider overtakes me on a bike path when my speedo reads 25 km/h, I can estimate they are doing at least 10 km/h faster.

Legal or illegal doesn't really matter – because there is little policing. It will help when NSW police get power-of-seizure legislation, as in Queensland. The trouble is the lack of police enforcing the laws.

And what about the parents who are buying these illegal bikes for their kids? I regularly fantasise about forming a vigilante mob to stop the illegal riders.

So Neil, come to Byron and join me!

Raphael Cass
Byron Bay

Byron rail trail

At long last, a majority of Byron Shire councillors have acted. We've all been lagging behind our neighbouring councils' successes in gaining funding to bring their rail trail sections to completion, or progressing towards completion. The 13 years of 'Waiting for Godot'

are finally over. There would be high confidence that nearly 100 per cent of us had dreams of a rail service being reinstated, for the first couple of years since its closure 22 years ago, but then reality nibbled away as the facts rolled into our awareness over the ensuing two decades.

So the ardent faithful TOOTers managed only to forestall the inevitable, and are still trying and waiting!

That's one for the psychology books.

So now, after congratulating the majority of our present-day councillors, with special leadership and thanks to Cr Asren Pugh, we can at least know that our state and federal governments will view us as at least in the ballpark, for consideration regarding rail trail funding applications. Let us hope they act in urgency, as there have been so many years lost for our poor neglected corridor.

Here's, finally, to better days ahead.

Tim Shanasy
Byron Bay

Hospital meeting

I attended the meeting regarding the development of the old Mullum hospital site.

I was once again reminded of why I live here due to the intelligent and articulate interactions between the attendees and the panel that included Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, Councillor Elia Hauge, Caroline Bass (who gave us a great history of the site), and two representatives from House You.

Dale Emerson was an excellent MC.

It just shows that you can have a conversation that is civil and respectful even if you don't always agree.

I urge all Mullumbimbyites to go onto the Council website and read up about the stage that the development is at and express their thoughts on where it should go.

It is exciting to know that this development will include doing something about the nightmare intersection of Left Bank Rd and Coolamon Scenic Drive.

Also all units should go to 'real locals'.

I urge everyone to be very patient when this work is being done.

It will be a very fraught situation.

I also came away with admiration for the councillors. Being on the local Council I believe has less of the perks and a lot more access for everyone to whinge and finger-point.

Karen Wagner
Myocum

► More letters online:
www.echo.net.au/letters

How I am outrunning old age

There is a saying 'people who wear tracksuit pants have given up on life.' Well, I wear tracksuit pants.

A sage said, 'most people die long before they're dead'. I couldn't unhear this, and in many ways this axiom has defined my older life.

I came to believe my feelings of resigned acceptance are just part of my ageing process.

For many of us, life doesn't end suddenly – it just fades away. Over the past decade, I have gradually been losing my virility, tumescence, muscle strength, sense of taste and smell, visual acuity and hearing. I began 'smudging' life, because I could not read what was in front of me. But, lo and behold, \$7 glasses brought the world back into sharp focus!

When I was in my 60s, I was on a filming expedition, and with my video camera I jumped off the back of a truck about a metre to the ground. As I dropped I sensed my knees weren't able to take it, and sure enough I collapsed, tucked the camera into my chest and rolled on the ground like an old man. Since then, through my 70s, I have gradually been losing the strength in my knees. They say men in relationships live at least five years longer, because men tend not to look after themselves. And it took years of my partner pushing me to go and get hearing aids because my growing deafness was driving her nuts. As I have been losing my hearing I have been developing tinnitus, which is like high-pitched cicadas screaming in my head. So I went to a local audiologist and got Grade 3 hearing aids tuned and fitted. Well,

and with my video camera I jumped off the back of a truck about a metre to the ground.

As I dropped I sensed my knees weren't able to take it, and sure enough I collapsed, tucked the camera into my chest and rolled on the ground like an old man. Since then, through my 70s, I have gradually been losing the strength in my knees.

They say men in relationships live at least five years longer, because men tend not to look after themselves.

And it took years of my partner pushing me to go and get hearing aids because my growing deafness was driving her nuts.

As I have been losing my hearing I have been developing tinnitus, which is like high-pitched cicadas screaming in my head.

So I went to a local audiologist and got Grade 3 hearing aids tuned and fitted. Well,

in an instant all the sounds I haven't heard for years came 'back into focus'. And miraculously the tinnitus, which had become the background noise of my life, stopped.

It was like I was flying through cloud and suddenly reaching clear air!

And here's where it gets unbelievable.

With my glasses on and fitted out with my new hearing aids, I took a walk up into the rainforest, and the strength had come back into my knees!

I felt like a 20-year-old scrambling over boulders and jumping creeks.

How could bringing my hearing and sight senses back into sharpness instantly give me back my strength?

Maybe we really are one interconnected living system? Duh!

Michael Balson
Wilsons Creek

Minor premiers decided in local cricket – Bears on top again



Ballina Bears celebrate back-to-back minor premierships. Photo supplied

Ross Kendall

The Ballina Bears and Byron Bay cricket clubs have secured minor premierships in the Far North Coast second grade competition with one round left to play, before two weekends of finals from Saturday, 14 March.

For the second year in a row Ballina Bears claimed the minor premiership in the southern area of the region after winning 14 of their 19 games so far, with just one loss.

Their record leaves them on top of the table on 115 points well ahead of second placed Marist Brothers who have 12 wins and five losses.

Lismore Workers and Evans Head round out the top four with one round of the regular season to play.

Tintenbar-East Ballina (TEB) can't make it into the top four with just the one game remaining. However,

with Lismore taking on Evans Head and Marist Brothers playing Ballina Bears, second place, and a home final, is still up for contention.

Byron Bay second grade cricketers have dominated the northern region with 15 wins from their 19 games accruing 112 points.

Behind them the Murwillumbah Panthers and Terranora Lakes are both on 94 points, while Bangalow (88) and Mullumbimby-Brunswick (85) are both vying for the last finals position this weekend.

Bangalow takes on Byron Bay while Mullumbimby-Brunswick faces Tweed-Banora.

Murwillumbah faces Terranora Lakes in a clash for outright second place, and a home semi-final.

LJ Hooker

In the first grade LJ Hooker league TEB sit in first

place with 12 wins and four losses and total points of 92, ahead of Tweed Banora Colts who are just a win behind on 86 points.

Goonellabah Workers are in third spot (83 points) followed by Cudgen on 77. With a win worth seven points Terranora Lakes are adrift of finals cricket in fifth place with 68 points.

Without some upsets this weekend, with all the top teams playing less successful teams, the top four is likely to be unchanged.

Third grade

The Byron Bay Cricket Club also has the third grade minor premiership sown up after an undefeated season so far. They lead the competition with 107 points. Alstonville (87), and two Bangalow sides White (77) and Blue (68) round out the final top four.

TEB sits in fifth position on 51 points.

Registrations open for Australian Pro Adaptive Surf Championships



Byron Bay adaptive surfing pioneer, Mark 'Mono' Stewart. Photo supplied

The Byron Bay based Australian Pro Adaptive Surf Championships are fast approaching, with registrations open.

The championships will be taking place on 22-29 March with the Para Surfing titles running alongside on 22 to 24 March, bringing athletes, families, and supporters from across Australia and around the world to Byron.

There are over nine competitive divisions, and the championships will

showcase skill, courage and high-performance surfing from some of the sport's most inspiring athletes.

This year's event will also include Dr Mo Johnson, adaptive surfing's top classifier. The doctor will be running a classification course in Australia, that will culminate with face-to-face training at the championships.

Give it a go

If you are new to the sport they are running extra 'come and try days' that are open

to any new athletes.

Another way this year's event will help to increase participation is by running a 'non-classified' prone division, for people who are new to the sport or who don't quite fit any of the other established divisions.

'It is all about helping as many new athletes into the sport as possible,' event organiser Mark 'Mono' Stewart said.

Find out more and get registered at: www.adaptive-surfproaustralia.com.

Lots of fun at Mullum-Brunswick home games

Matthew Gray

The Mullum-Brunswick Cricket Club (MBCC) played two home games this week.

Second grade was up against Murwillumbah Cricket Club, whilst fourth grade versed Cudgen Cricket Club. Thirds had a by.

Mullum-Brunswick Cricket

Club fourth grade totalled 143, with Matty Gray being the top scorer on 40.

Strong start

They had a strong start on the field and MBCC had Cudgen down nine for 45 at drinks. Unfortunately they were unable to get out the final two batsmen from Cudgen

resulting in a close loss.

The Brunswick-Mullum second-grade team was in a similar position to fourth grade halfway through the game but Murwillumbah's excellent batting force came in and absolutely dominated the field, finishing the game with a win two hours before the game was meant to end!

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

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

BYRON BAY



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
@rocabayronbay
www.rocabayronbay.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.



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.

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.

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.

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

eatdrink

ISSUE #10 OUT EASTER 2026

Book your spot now!

BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY MARCH 6

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

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

echo.net.au/eat-drink



The Good Life

Sunshine Low GI Sugar



Enjoy the sweeter things in life with Sunshine Low GI Sugar!

Let's face it, sugar gets a bad rap these days and we all know that it should be enjoyed in moderation. But, times are changing thanks to Sunshine Low GI Sugar.

Low GI sugar is a natural sweetener that is more slowly digested, absorbed and metabolised – resulting in a lower and slower rise in blood glucose that keeps you feeling fuller for longer.

Sunshine Low GI Sugar is made using the Nucane™ process. Developed in Australia, this process ensures the naturally occurring and beneficial antioxidants are retained during the milling process that turns sugarcane into sugar crystals. It contains just one ingredient, 100% natural cane sugar, and

has no additives or preservatives. Being rich in naturally occurring minerals, such as calcium, magnesium and potassium, makes it suitable for all diets including gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian.

Enjoy the natural, sweet goodness of Sunshine Low GI Sugar in any food or beverage recipe in which sugar is used.

www.sunshinesugar.com.au/low-gi/

Baraka's dessert hummus revolution

Baraka is redefining sweet treats with its innovative dessert hummus range – a unique concept believed to be the first of its kind in Australia. Using chickpeas as a wholesome base, these desserts transform a traditional savoury staple into a smooth, naturally sweet spread that's both nourishing and versatile. The range features three flavours: chocolate, vanilla bean and mocha, each offering a healthier alternative to conventional sugary spreads and toppings.

The chocolate dessert hummus delivers a rich cacao flavour and is primarily sweetened with dates, keeping refined sugar to a minimum. With a 4.5-star health rating, it offers a more balanced option than mainstream chocolate spreads. It pairs beautifully with strawberries, can be spread on toast, swirled through homemade bread, gently heated and drizzled over desserts, or even enjoyed as a dip for popcorn.

The vanilla bean variety offers a light, creamy sweetness that works especially well with bananas and fresh fruit. It's ideal spread over pancakes and crepes, layered into cakes as a substitute for icing, or served as a dip with crackers or banana chips.

For those who prefer a less sweet option, the mocha flavour blends chocolate with a subtle coffee bitterness, creating a more sophisticated taste profile. It's delicious served alongside ice cream and sliced fruit, spooned into a bowl as a dessert, or simply spread on toast for an indulgent yet plant-based treat.

While the dessert range is turning heads, Baraka's foundations lie in its traditional Middle Eastern offerings. The everyday range includes organic

and flavoured hummus, smoky baba ghanoush, creamy labneh cheese and a convenient falafel mix. These are complemented by salsa, pesto, rocket, almond and feta, and tahini – perfect for grazing platters, wraps, salads and family meals. Together, the full range showcases Baraka's commitment to flavour, quality ingredients and modern twists on timeless favourites.

■ Find Baraka Foods every Friday at Mullum Farmers Market from 7am to 11am.



Baraka's chocolate dessert hummus has the flavour of cacao and dates, pairs beautifully with strawberries, and has a 4.5-star health rating. The vanilla bean and mocha flavours are also great alternatives.

Mark the change of season at Frida's Field at their autumn equinox dinner

On Saturday, 21 March, Frida's Field will host a one-night-only autumn equinox celebration, inviting guests to pause and mark the seasonal shift in a truly memorable way.

The autumn equinox occurs when the sun sits directly above the equator, bringing near equal hours of day and night and signalling the true arrival of autumn in the southern hemisphere. To honour this natural turning point, Frida's Field is curating an intimate progressive dining experience for just 50 ultra-foodie guests. This one-night-only

progressive dining experience is unlike anything Frida's Field has ever done before. Guests will move around the farm, enjoying different courses with paired beverages at different stations; exploring spaces normally closed to the public. Arrive as the sun begins to dip, bathing the fields in golden hour light, and be welcomed with a canapé and cocktail inspired by our seasonal farm harvest. Next, gather around the outdoor BBQ for a substantial seafood canapé cooked over the fire and paired with a glass of bubbles. Move on to the

orchard for another canapé with a bubbles top-up ready for your lantern-lit guided stroll across the farm as twilight descends. A sit-down two-course individually plated meal inside the barn follows, featuring premium wagyu beef and carefully selected paired beverages. To finish, gather at the firepit for an interactive dessert experience, complemented by hot chocolate and storytelling.

■ For more details and tickets visit www.fridasfield.com.

Fine words
butter
no parsnips





MAGIC MURWILLUMBAH

Murwillumbah, is a town that radiates character, creativity, and an inviting sense of community. Its shopping scene blends the charm of independent retailers with the vibrancy of contemporary design, offering visitors and locals a refreshing alternative. Wandering its streets reveals an eclectic mix of boutiques, markets, and artisan spaces that reflect the region's artistic soul.

Entertainment here feels effortless and authentic. From live performances and cultural events to casual gatherings along the river, Murwillumbah provides experiences that encourage connection and celebrate the town's

heritage. There's a relaxed rhythm to the place, yet it never feels quiet - just comfortably alive.

Dining is equally memorable, with eateries showcasing fresh regional produce and inventive menus. Whether it's a slow weekend brunch or an evening meal with views of the surrounding ranges, the town offers a variety of flavours to suit every mood.

Murwillumbah remains a lively, welcoming destination that rewards curiosity and invites return visits.



Belle M BOUTIQUE

Beautiful colours, cool fabrics and styles to suit most occasions.
Highest quality leather European made shoes.
Socials @BELLE M BOUTIQUE
114 Main Street, Murwillumbah. 2484
02 6672 1224

THE WIIYAAN

The Wiiyaan are an unbroken line of origin, the ancestors of the Tweed Bundjalung. Discover the story of The Three Brothers at Tweed Regional Museum and step into an immersive journey that celebrates the origins of the Bundjalung Nation. The Three Brothers is a creation story passed down through generations. Over the last several years the local Tweed Aboriginal community has created digital and material illustrations to ensure the perpetuation of the traditional stories of the Wiiyaan and other Lore. This exhibition brings to life these cultural storyline artworks through immersive projection and sculpture.

Knowledge and story from Kyle Slabb.

Curated by Bijang Slabb.

On exhibition at Tweed Regional Museum until 18 July 2026

SWAP A BOTTLE

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

By choosing local suppliers for your gas needs, you're not only investing in your community, but also ensuring faster service, reliable delivery, and a team that genuinely cares.

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

Let's all try to keep it local and keep it simple.

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



SWAP a Bottle

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
swapabottlegas.com

EMPIRE REVIVAL

An exciting new retail collective has just arrived in Murwillumbah. Empire Revival is your one-stop-shop for art, jewellery, furniture, antiques and much more! Interior designers, artisans and collectors, both local and from further afield, have been brought together in a carefully curated space offering quality and variety and promoting sustainable shopping. This is the perfect spot to find unique gifts for every taste and budget.

Housed in the newly refurbished Grand Hall of The Regent, Empire Revival forms part of the vibrant M-Arts Precinct. With a neighbouring patisserie, cheese shop, cafe and bar, you can spend all day exploring this dynamic corner of Murwillumbah!

The Regent Grand Hall & Foyer,
3-5 Brisbane Street, M-Arts Precinct
0455 444 432
@empirerevival.murbah
www.empirerevival.com.au

BELLE M BOUTIQUE

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

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

Purchase three pieces each over \$50 and receive 30% off the fourth with a Belle M loyalty promotion card.

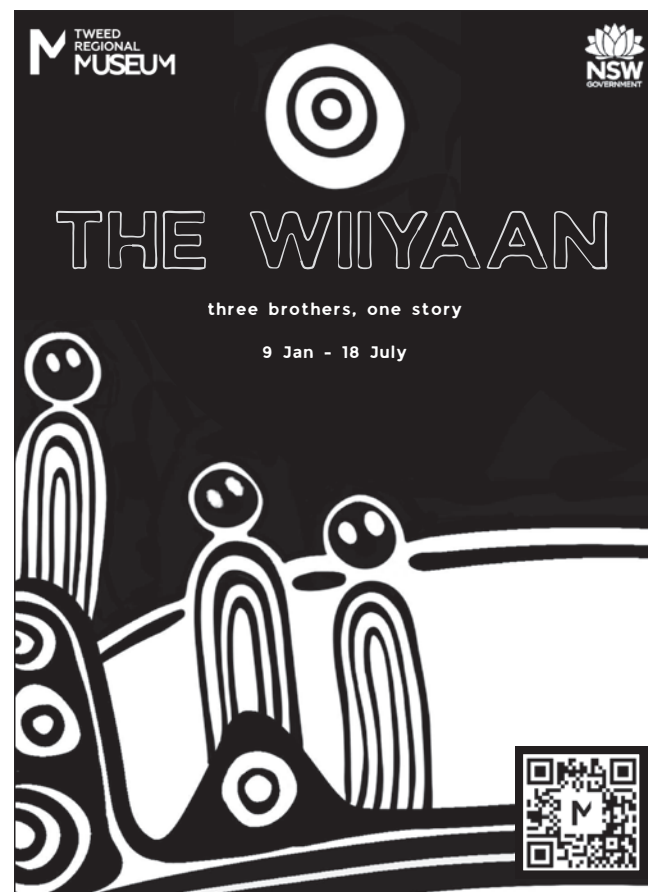
Gift vouchers and eight-week lay-by are also available.

114 Murwillumbah Street
Call 02 6672 1224 or 0428 135 092
missey.bell359@gmail.com
@belle_m_boutique



EMPIRE REVIVAL
MURWILLUMBAH

30 boutique businesses under one roof
Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm
3-5 Brisbane St, M-Arts Precinct. Murwillumbah



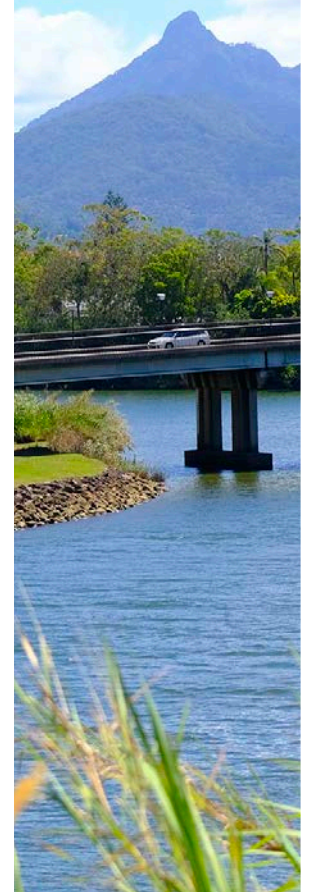
TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM

THE WIIYAAN

three brothers, one story

9 Jan - 18 July

NSW GOVERNMENT



Northern Rivers Women in Business

Celebrating International Women's Day 2026

Celebrating our achievements by Aslan Shand



In 1908 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights. In 1917 Russian women began a strike for 'Bread and Peace' in response to the death of over two million Russian soldiers in World War 1. Even though they were opposed by political leaders, the women continued to strike until four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional government granted women the right to vote (www.internationalwomensday.com).

This year International Women's Day (IWD) is focusing on how, when we support one another, we all thrive and we create radical change.

Today women in many societies are able to vote, to work, to own property, to hold public roles, they are even able to wear trousers if they so desire. And coming up over the next few weeks there are a wide range of activities happening across the Northern Rivers that have been organised to bring women together, to support them, and to continue to make the world a better and fairer place.

The Fletcher Street Cottage (www.byroncentre.com.au) is highlighting the growing number of women who are seeking assistance through their Women's Emergency Relief Fund that provides immediate assistance to women in crisis. The Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre (<https://www.mdnc.org.au>) continues to run the domestic violence support services and both programs need community support.

The SHIFT Project, that helps women who are at risk of homelessness, is running its annual International Women's Day Luncheon on Friday, 13 March, from 11am to 2.30pm at Crystalbrook Byron and are inviting women and men from across the region to support this flagship fundraiser. Mandy Nolan with MC with special guest Jules Allen.

The Northern Rivers Community Foundation's (NRCF) Women's Giving Circle is inviting the community to gather for an evening of connection, conversation and collective impact this International Women's Day on Thursday, 12

March at the Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club. 'Empowerment happens when women are supported, whether through early motherhood, education, or community,' said the NRCF spokesperson. Pick up a ticket at: <https://events.humanitix.com/iwd-with-wgc> and join women in supporting women today.

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual IWD breakfast hosted by Ellen Briggs at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club at 8am on Monday 16 March, with proceeds going to the Women's Resource Service at the MDNC. Pick up your tickets at: www.123tix.com.au/events/52005/international-womens-day-breakfast.

If you are in Ballina on Saturday, 7 March from 8am you can help 'Balance the Scales' at the Ballina Surf Club with MC Mandy Nolan (tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5y2frc>).

As women support one another with maintaining safety, developing skills, and sharing knowledge and resources it creates a more interconnected, fairer, and safer world for everyone.



Jane Laverty Regional Director Business NSW

Getting behind the next generation of female leaders will strengthen the region.

Across the Northern Rivers, the next generation of female leaders are stepping into enterprise with confidence, creativity and purpose. They are launching start-ups, entering trades, innovating in agriculture, building digital businesses and reimagining professional careers in ways that reflect both ambition and values. What stands out to Jane Laverty is not just their capability, but their mindset. They are commercially savvy, community-minded, and unafraid to try something new. They recognise the opportunity that comes with living in the region and are choosing to build meaningful careers and sustainable businesses locally.

The role of the business community is to ensure the pathways are clear, with access to networks, mentors, capital and leadership opportunities. When young women can see others who look like them leading and succeeding, belief and aspiration grow.

Business NSW has established the Northern Rivers Young Professionals Network for emerging leaders aged 20 to 35. For more information, visit the Business NSW Northern Rivers website or email jane.laverty@businessnsw.com

Candice Joseph Entourage Byron Bay

As Director of Entourage Byron Bay, Candice specialises in strategic finance, supporting everyone from first home buyers and growing families to seasoned investors and high-net-worth individuals. With over a decade of experience in banking and finance, she helps clients navigate complex lending scenarios with clarity and confidence.

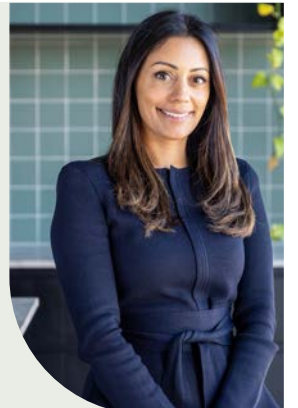
Early in her career, she was often the only woman in high-stakes private banking rooms dominated by a traditional "boys' club" culture. Having her expertise questioned or overlooked forced Candice to develop resilience and an unshakeable belief in her capabilities.

Candice is proud to be known as the person clients turn to when others say no. Her business is grounded in values of trust and results and this continues to remain her greatest professional achievement.

This year's #givetogain theme resonates deeply with Candice. Investing time in mentoring her team and supporting women in business has strengthened not only those around her, but her leadership.

'I believe success is most meaningful when it creates opportunity, lifts others, and contributes to a stronger community.'

entourage.com.au



Vanamala Mayr-Reisch Face Yoga Australia

Vanamala is a leading face yoga expert, physiotherapist, speaker, and founder of Face Yoga Australia. Since 2018, she has helped women around the world look younger, and feel confident.

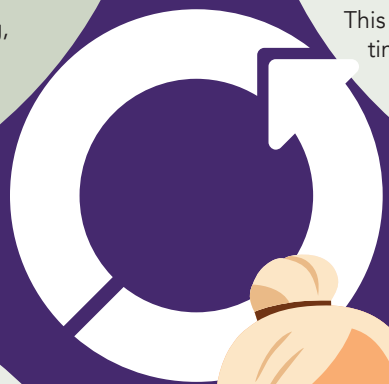
Her first challenge was to educate people that Face Yoga is a 100% natural alternative to looking younger. The bigger hurdle was to stand her ground in a beauty industry obsessed with needles and quick fixes. Many people looking for a healthy alternative to Botox, fillers and surgery are transitioning to face yoga.

Vanamala was named a Top 10 Entrepreneur Disrupting My Industry and won the Bronze Women Changing the World Award, but what touches her the most is witnessing women transform and glow with confidence.

'For the past 8 years, I have poured time, care, and mentoring into the community, and I've gained purpose, connection, and a movement bigger than me.'

Vanamala says her business runs on courage, integrity, safety, and community, and those values help women rise and keep bold, grounded, and unstoppable.

faceyogaaustralia.com • hello@faceyogaaustralia.com • 0429 843 782



Northern Rivers Women in Business

Justine Elliot your local MP

The Albanese Labor Government has kept up the momentum to make women's lives safer and more equal. We're also continuing to deliver on our promise of more choice, lower costs and better care for Australian women and girls. Labor has expanded paid parental leave to 26 weeks and we're paying superannuation on it too. We're also making childcare cheaper and delivering a three-day universal childcare guarantee.

We're delivering over \$500 million for women's health, including PBS listings for oral contraceptives and menopause hormone therapies, more bulk billing for IUDs, and opening new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics. We've invested over \$4 billion towards our goal of ending violence against women and children, as well as introducing 10 days' paid family and domestic leave and an almost 40% funding boost for 1800RESPECT. I'm proud to part of the first federal government in history that's majority women and will continue to accelerate action for the women of Australia.

07 5523 4371 • www.justineelliott.com.au
justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au
107 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South



Mandy Nolan is in the business of being Mandy Nolan

Her products? The ultimate zero carbon commodities. Laughter. Lots of it. Connection. Community engagement. Fundraising. A feminist rebel yell in the wilderness. A voice for the underdog. A campaigner for forests. A self described disruptor and trouble maker, Nolan is at her best on stage, working her magic with an unfiltered stream of consciousness which never fails to tap the rich vein of politics and identity of the Byron Shire and the world at large. A mother of five, Mandy tells it how it is. And for that she is loved by many, loathed by some. A mentor to aspirant comics, an ignition switch for beginner writers, Mandy is passionate about people



finding their voice, their place, and using it. 'There is more of us' she says. Whether it's comedy or politics or opinion, this is a woman worth following.

Her latest offering is Byron Live - a wildly subversive *Tonight* show that drills down on the iconic nature of people and place - at the Byron Theatre on 21 March.

For writing or comedy workshops contact mandynolan.com.au

#GiveToGain.

Yasmin Dulley Byron Family Law

'International Women's Day honours the remarkable achievements of women who have overcome barriers and defied expectations. Let us honour the progress we have made and recommit ourselves to the work that remains to be done. Together, we can create a world where every woman has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.'

Principal Solicitor and Director of Byron Family Law, Yasmin is proud to be part of this legacy. She is among the countless women inspiring the next generation of female leaders making a positive impact in our community by breaking-down barriers across every discipline and advocating for social justice.

Yasmin is the current President of the Far North Coast Law Society. She is the proud mother of three young children, has a business in fashion archiving, a pilot's licence, and is a member of the Australian Army Reserves.

18 Parkes Avenue, Byron Bay
www.byronfamilylaw.com.au • (02) 6687 2774



Stormy in:HAUS Wellness and pilates

Stormy is founder of in:HAUS Wellness, an inclusive, LGBTQIA+-owned pilates and holistic wellness studio in Byron Bay.

At in:HAUS, people are helped to come home to their bodies through trauma-informed movement, creativity, and community.

Stormy was often told that dancing and creative paths wouldn't amount to anything, yet dance, pilates, and aerial arts became the very foundation that carried her here. 'Growing up with an adverse childhood, living with fibromyalgia, endometriosis, chronic fatigue, and neurodivergence, and never going to university, I honestly never believed I'd open my own studio by 30'.

Her proudest achievement is turning something she was told was unrealistic into a real, physical space where people feel safe to exist exactly as they are. Watching others reconnect with movement without shame or pressure reminds Stormy of why this matters.

#GiveToGain lives at the heart of in:HAUS. By giving empathy, creativity, and safe community spaces shaped by lived experience, Stormy has gained purpose, connection, and proof that when we support each other, we heal.

Shop 2/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
inhauswellness@gmail.com • 0467 318 827



Jacinta McEwen Om Healing

Jacinta McEwen ND has been practising the healing arts for over 40 years, working individually as well as facilitating workshops, lectures and healing circles in Australia and overseas.

Initially trained as a nurse, she went on to become a naturopath, herbalist, massage therapist, yoga teacher and Ayurvedic consultant.

Jacinta is a founding partner in the thriving organic herbal dispensary, Mullumbimby Herbals. She now offers in-person and online Ayurvedic and naturopathic consultations and treatments from her healing centre Om Healing in Goonengerry.

Using pulse, tongue and eye assessment Jacinta individualises a



health programme just for you.

Jacinta runs workshops, and lectures, on a range of health-related topics including women's health, Ayurveda, yoga, and natural first-aid. She has a passion for spiritual growth as well as physical and mental well being. As a mother and grandmother Jacinta keeps a fresh outlook on life and brings this inspiration into her practice.

Bookings:
text 0422 387 370 or go to www.omhealing.com.au



International Women's Day

www.internationalwomensday.com

Together we can forge gender equality.

Celebrating International Women's Day

March 8 2026



Tamara Smith MP - Member for Ballina

This International Women's Day we celebrate the incredible capacity of women to give unconditionally, and acknowledge women of all ages who lead, nurture, build and inspire us, across our communities from that foundation of care and compassion.

It is a privilege to serve as your local Member of Parliament and to represent a region that values strong, thoughtful, community-focused leadership. I am continually inspired by the many women across our electorate who lead with fierce integrity, compassion and determination in government, in business, in schools, in community organisations, and in our homes.

This year, as we embrace the spirit of #GiveToGain, let us recommit to building a culture of generosity and collaboration, where we actively support, mentor and champion the women around us. When we encourage women's potential, we strengthen families, workplaces and communities alike. Because when women thrive, we all rise.

tamarasmith.org.au • @tamara_smith_mp



Janelle Saffin MP - Member for Lismore

Women drive just over a third of small businesses in NSW, and this rising trend is reflected on the North Coast.

Janelle's own background in small business, from running a legal practice to managing a pub, has taught her how rewarding and challenging the journey can be. 'As women, we often have to advocate for ourselves in spaces where our presence hasn't always been assumed.'

In her role as Minister for Small Business, Janelle works with her ministerial colleagues to ensure small business is always considered in policy decision. From reducing red tape to better infrastructure, from workers compensation to improving procurement, small business needs to be at the forefront of decisionmakers minds. Small businesses are the beating heart of regional communities, and it's vital they remain supported.

Choosing to go into business is a bold and worthwhile step, and our state is stronger for the growing number of women taking it.

janellesaffin.com.au



Sarah Marriot Director, SJS Interior Design

For Sarah, design has always been about people first.

At SJS Interior Design, they create homes that genuinely support the lives lived inside them. Not just beautiful spaces, but considered environments that feel calm, functional and deeply personal. When a home works well, everything flows more easily.

This year's International Women's Day theme, #GiveToGain, resonates strongly with the philosophy at SJS Interior Design. In this industry, collaboration is everything.

Sarah and her team give their clients clarity, confidence and guidance. They support local makers, trades and creatives. And in return, they gain stronger communities, better projects and long-term relationships built on trust.

Over the years, Sarah has learned that leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room. It's about creating space for others to contribute, grow and feel valued. When women support women and share opportunities, the impact multiplies.

When one of us rises, we all rise.

sjsinteriordesign.com.au
04 0486 5955



Anne Goslett The S.H.I.F.T Project

Anne Goslett is the founder of The SHIFT Project Byron Bay and a dedicated advocate for women navigating crisis and change.

With more than 30 years of experience across psychotherapy, domestic violence, addiction recovery and community services, Anne has shaped her career around one guiding belief: people heal through safe, consistent human relationships.

Known for her calm strength and deep empathy, she leads with both heart and courage. She is willing to challenge complex systems when they fail to protect women, working tirelessly to keep dignity, safety and respect at the centre of every decision.

Anne embodies this year's 'Give To Gain' theme. She holds an unwavering belief in women's capacity to rebuild, and in return witnesses profound transformation – women reclaiming stability, confidence and purpose. For Anne, generosity is not charity; it is a deliberate investment in stronger families and more connected communities. Her leadership inspires hope and lasting change. Across generations.

theshiftproject.org.au



Amy Colli NRCF Women's Giving Circle

Generosity of community is the perfect description of the Northern Rivers Community Foundation's (NRCF) Women's Giving Circle. The circle is open to all women and provides a meaningful way for local women to support and empower women and girls across the Northern Rivers. The members give, and others gain. Their pooled donations are distributed to grassroots organisations working to create real change, helping women and girls thrive in our region.

As coordinator of the circle, Amy sees that the benefit of being involved extends beyond the tangible impact of the funds. Members build friendships, share ideas and collaborate in ways that strengthen connection across our community.

This year's International Women's Day theme, 'Give To Gain', reflects what we experience every day. Through collective giving, we amplify our impact and create lasting outcomes together.

'I encourage you to attend an event or reach out to learn more about giving where you live.', says Amy.

NRCF Women's Giving Circle Coordinator • givingcircle@nrcf.org.au





ART GALLERIES

Acrylic on canvas by Daniela Ulloa
Kids Art classes - Ocean Shores | ulloa.dani@gmail.com / @dani.artforkids

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

Belongil Beach
Open by appointment
0409 604 405
janrae7.weebly.com

ARTIST'S studio GALLERY

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

BLACK FIG GALLERY

Exhibiting Northern Rivers Artists
Shop 7, Alstonville Plaza
Wednesday to Friday 10am-4pm and
Saturday 10am-2pm
(or by appointment) 0480 676 957
blackfiggallery.com.au
[@blackfiggallery](https://www.instagram.com/blackfiggallery)

BYRON CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

Fairview Studios
Open 10am-4pm
Saturdays and Sundays
John Stewart
0406 404 335
byronclayworkersgallery.com.au

BURRINGBAR GALLERY

Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am-4pm
(or by appointment)
0408 998 446
6184 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar
www.burringbargallery.com.au

GALLERY COSMOSIS

Visionary Art
22 Brigantine Street
Byron Bay
Open Thursday to Saturday
10.30am-3pm
or by appointment 0431 331 205
gallerycosmosis.com

GARAGE GALLERY

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

H'ART GALLERY

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

HAVEN GALLERY

102 Jonson St, Byron Bay
Open 10am-8pm - seven days a week

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

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

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

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

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

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

MZ GALLERY

Byron Bay Contemporary Artspace
57 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay
0468 718 045
www.byronartspace.com

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY

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

The ARTS



IN CONVERSATION WITH A.C. GRAYLING

Pre-eminent British philosopher A.C. Grayling returns to Byron Shire to discuss his book *For The People: Fighting Authoritarianism, Saving Democracy*.

Around the world, the foundations of democracy, freedom, civil liberties are being eroded – what can be done? Are we living through the end of the democratic moment? While democracy once seemed the bedrock of Western societies, the past few decades have revealed a fragile reality. Once liberal countries are turning to authoritarianism, wealthy individuals and corporations are interfering with elections ever more flagrantly, and faith in democracy has plummeted among every demographic. What happened?

A.C. Grayling reveals the forces undermining our democratic ideals and offers bold solutions. An urgent wake-up call to the risks this poses to us all, A.C. Grayling reminds us why democracy remains worth fighting for.

Wednesday, 22 April. Brunswick Picture House
Get tickets at brunswickpicturehouse.com

ART IN THE HEART OF MULLUMBIMBY: EXHIBITION 11

Step into colour, imagination, and community spirit at the Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre, where the H'Art Gallery proudly presents its 11th six-monthly exhibition. This much-loved showcase features over 30 works by ten talented local artists, curated by acclaimed graphic impressionist Solveig.

From bold canvases to intricate details, the two-floor gallery offers visitors a fresh experience every six months, ensuring there's always something new to spark inspiration. More than art on the wall, the exhibition transforms the health centre into a sanctuary of creativity, bringing brightness and calm to patients, visitors, and staff alike.

Located on Stuart Street, the H'Art Gallery is truly art at the heart of Mullumbimby. Don't miss this celebration of local talent!

Enquiries: info@solveig.com.au
Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre
60 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby



TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY

'Sensory' by regional artist Antoinette Edmunds explores the importance of senses, along with the symbiosis between humans and animals, and the salience of a shared environment. Through the use of discarded, everyday materials, Edmunds' whimsical forms comment on consumption and highlight the poignancy of how we engage with our environment. A Tweed Regional Gallery initiative and outcome of the PLATFORM program. Antoinette Edmunds is represented by Lorraine Pilgrim Gallery.

2 Mistral Road, South Murwillumbah
Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm (DST)

Antoinette Edmunds
Audio Books, Silence of Reading 2025
mixed media
188 x 45 x 60 cm
Image courtesy the artist © The artist

Special Event A.C. Grayling in Conversation



Wed 22 April, 6:30pm
Brunswick Picture House

Pre-eminent philosopher returns to Byron Shire to discuss his book *For The People: Fighting Authoritarianism, Saving Democracy*.

brunswickpicturehouse.com

H'ART GALLERY

Art in the heart
INSPIRED LOCAL ART

Mullumbimby
Comprehensive Health Centre

Sensory Antoinette Edmunds 13 February – 17 May 2026



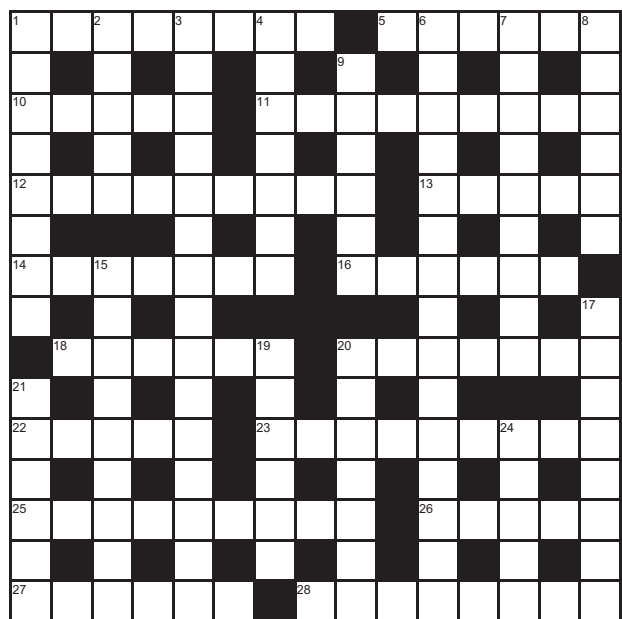
Antoinette Edmunds *Logotherapy* (detail) 2025
mixed media, 100 x 100 x 4 cm, Image courtesy the artist © The artist

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

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

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



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. No gentleman declares for corpses (8)
5. Counter-current in a vehicle (6)
10. Revolutionary in dirty linen (5)
11. Come together and lose 5 for 101 to caretaker (9)
12. Share-trading fee leads to penniless fury (9)
13. Presses for clubs (5)
14. Saluted Bufo on the way east (7)
16. Horny sheep goes after tree – retreat! (6)
18. One insane Scotsman embraces his confused compatriot John (6)
20. Country backs first class philosophy – Papist! (7)
22. Label again scrap about alien (5)
23. Confused pun and fifty with 24 down – a double bungle! (9)
25. Imperial surgery (9)
26. Born a drunk – show embarrassment (5)
27. Particular dock? (6)
28. Old Olgas report of Tom, an Israeli sailor (4,4)

DOWN

1. Blanchett holds back peevishness while doing without sex (8)
2. Ernie's turn after row (5)
3. Unhappy civilian renting, finally got his land back in 1975 (7,8)
4. The first was a crusader but the third was a villain (7)
6. Indulge our limbic habits in Canada (7,8)
7. Hypocrisy covers a thousand between alternatives – get the bird! (9)
8. Cover each second with bean sauce – that simple! (2,4)
9. A no good drink up for Merkel (6)
15. Flat bit in the last word on a shirt (9)
17. The Prez is caught by B., also known as Red Granny (8)
19. PCCu (6)
20. Purple bloomer loses German – yes, an oil palm! (7)
21. Followed and ran under bar (6)
24. Rock and roll three turns, left and right, near 28 across (6)

Quick Clues

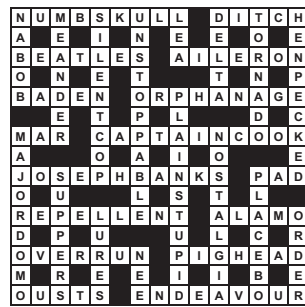
ACROSS

1. Dead bodies (8)
5. Counting device (6)
10. Bolshevik leader (5)
11. Doorman, caretaker (9)
12. Fee paid on share transactions (9)
13. Presses clothes (5)
14. Brownd under griller (7)
16. Indian retreat (6)
18. Lunatic (6)
20. Balkan nation (7)
22. Label again (5)
23. Real name of Bungle Bungles (9)
25. Birthing operation (9)
26. Redden in embarrassment (5)
27. Particular, descriptive note (6)
28. Real name of the Olgas (4,4)

DOWN

1. Not indulging in sex, chaste (8)
2. Warrigal (5)
3. Leader of the Gurindji strike at Wave Hill (7,8)
4. Name of three English kings (7)
6. Canadian province (7,8)
7. Diving sea bird (9)
8. As simple as that (2,4)
9. Girl's name, seraphic (6)
15. Residence unit (9)
17. Russian grandmother (8)
19. Reddish metal (6)
20. South American oil palm (7)
21. Discovered the whereabouts of (6)
24. Real name of Ayers Rock (6)

Last week's solution #6



■ Crossword circa 2008



We Are All We Have

Mandy Nolan

Are these end days? It certainly seems like it. Violence and insanity seems to have gone to warp speed. I wake at 5am to read my newsfeed. 'Israel hits Tehran again.' I feel sick. Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979 Iran has moved from being a US ally to an anti-Western power. It's about regional influence, nuclear programs, oil and ideology. Oh, I should mention that Iran holds the world's third largest crude oil reserves. As a feminist, all I see is powerful old men fighting. And oil, spilling into the sea. Like the black blood of a dying monster. Except it's not dying. It's coming for us.

This is chess. To capture the queen (or king) you lose a lot of pawns. The people on the ground, people like us, the powerless, they become the human collateral in a play that was never about them. We're in the beginning of what could be a world war, where bad diplomacy, super egos and a lack of restraint, could see this current Israel-US attack on Iran, and subsequent retaliations, escalate into a broader Middle East conflict. And beyond. It's five past midnight on the Doomsday Clock. The sociopaths are at the wheel. And we're all in the backseat, on the highway to what certainly feels like hell.

The skies over Iran Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan and the Arab Emirates have been shut down, this is the world's busiest aviation corridor. Attacks have hit some of these airports with people sheltering in place in Dubai. I was only just there, it seems surreal to imagine the chaos, the smoke, the thousands of people trapped in the most liminal space on the planet.

Then there's the 11 Australian women and 23 children in Syria's Al-Roj camp. They have passports but the Australian government is adamant that they won't lift a finger to bring them home. These are the so called 'ISIS' brides – and our government is more afraid of the political backlash in bringing them home than they are of leaving them to die. The women are under heavy surveillance and they are cooperating with authorities. Only one of the women has had a temporary ban placed on her. They are



What the fuck is happening to our democracy? Be quiet. Step down. Don't speak up. Don't rock the boat.

languishing in one of the most unliveable places on earth. One woman was 14 when she travelled to Syria.

I have no doubt that these women have been in coercive relationships. That they made stupid decisions. But the 23 Australian children? They are innocent. How can we as Australians witness this decision of our government to leave them in danger? To continue their suffering? Where is our compassion? When are we going to stop creating the conditions that radicalise children? Bring them home.

Back here, the media has decided to focus on hating on Grace Tame because targeting outspoken women is great for social media algorithms and distracts from the real issue, which is why, during a genocide in Gaza, our PM would

invite Israeli President Isaac Herzog to Australia. And why tens of thousands of peaceful protesters were subject to police violence? What has happened to our right to protest? Are police actually allowed to punch you in the neck? Or push and grab you while you're praying?

And in the months after the mass shooting in Bondi, instead of sweeping gun reform, the Minns government has announced a 250-strong police unit with longarm rifles who can form a rapid response unit to protect against hate-related offences. The Armed Response Command. We still haven't seen how 'hate' is defined. And who it applies to. Does this mean they'll attend peaceful protests like the one on 9 February? Are the guns there to protect us? Or shoot us?

What the fuck is happening to our democracy? Be quiet. Step down. Don't speak up. Don't rock the boat.

These are my dark thoughts before the sun comes up. The knot of anxiety about what is ahead. And my fury at psychopathic old men who hold power and the lunacy of their actions. Only one thought reassures me. There are more of us. Don't believe their bullshit. Don't fall for fascism. Keep your compassion.

We're going to need each other. We are all we have.

■ 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

Three planets in fluid Pisces and four in fiery Aries suggest a certain amount of hot water this week, especially when one of those planets is Mercury retrograde ...



PISCES THE FISH

ARIES: Amorous Venus joining Saturn, Neptune and Chiron in your sign until March 30 makes this your month for exercising Aries Joseph Campbell's dictum to 'Follow Your Bliss!' With your ruling planet Mars in his gentlest expression, surrendering to the flow is likely to be this week's most productive approach.

TAURUS: It's likely that early March's full moon eclipse in the zodiac's most exacting sign, highlights something you've been putting off. Whether that's attending to inefficient habits, unprocessed emotions or a mounting workload, this no-nonsense lunation sounded a much-needed wake-up call to get more organised.

GEMINI: With Jupiter and Gemini's ruling planet Mercury both retrograde in emotional water signs, undeniable feelings could bubble to the surface this month. If you need to debrief, and you may, have a private confab with someone you trust before saying something that can't be unsaid. Slow down, ask questions, listen up.

CANCER: A potent alignment of the south node, with a full moon eclipse in the sign of cleansing and decluttering, just delivered a double dose of motivation to downsize physical belongings, detox emotional patterns and delete relational habits that no longer work. To say sayonara, thank you, bless, and release.

LEO: If this week's retrograde soundtrack has old narratives and unresolved questions playing on repeat, you'll want to turn them off, but try getting curious instead, because there's buried treasure to unpack in whatever circles back. Don't rush to formulate fixes; hit cruise control and watch what comes through.

VIRGO: Your annual Virgo full moon, a total lunar eclipse on March 3, calls for an unflinching life edit. Since eclipses tend to highlight backstage issues that haven't been dealt with, this might perhaps look like the need to address longstanding habits like overextending yourself or over-focussing on flaws.

LIBRA: With your planetary muse Venus in her annual red-hot phase, chemistry can be instantaneous, and you might find yourself drawn towards a completely different direction than you intended. Passions may express in new and experimental forms during this indie-spirited cycle, which could stretch your limits in interesting ways.

SCORPIO: As the zodiac completes another cycle, this month invites you to step back from the world's noise, starting perhaps by listening to Seamus O'Rourke's gorgeous poem 'Rescued Time' about what's important in life. If some things don't seem sensible, this week responds to following instinct rather than reason.

SAGITTARIUS: This is the zodiac's most emotional month, and with your planet guide Jupiter in reactive mode, feelings you would normally keep under wraps could erupt unexpectedly. If you're feeling agitated, attempts to clear the air are most likely to succeed later in March when Jupiter's on the move again.

CAPRICORN: With four planets this week in sensitive water signs, it's essential to read the room's shifting moods. To check in, to let people air their feelings, and pause if you hit a wall, rather than forging ahead regardless. Take a break from rigid to-do lists and let your imagination flow freely.

AQUARIUS: Paradoxical Aquarians are both fiercely independent and expansively interactive, more at home in the mental realm of ideas than this month's emotional currents. Which do, however, brilliantly prime your curious minds to receive intuitive downloads, so find a quiet spot to unplug and be surprised by what arrives.

PISCES: Yes, Mercury retrograde in your sign could complicate communications, but this month's magical start with the sun, Mercury and Mars in Pisces encourages a lifestyle makeover to remove whatever's past its use-by date to make room for what's waiting to emerge at 19 March Pisces new moon.

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 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
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 W: echo.net.au/entertainment

seven

Seven days of
 entertainment



March into music, movement and community

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink is back in the **Shed at the Billinudgel Hotel** on Saturday, bringing together quality dance music, a generous dancefloor, and a community that knows how to do a good night properly. Running from late afternoon into night, March's event is shaped around giving the music time to settle and the crowd space to connect. It is a gathering that values flow over fuss, warmth over hype, and the simple pleasure of dancing together for something that matters. Since 2015, Cunning Stunts has donated more than \$450,000 to 42 local organisations, proving that the Northern Rivers knows how to party with purpose.

March's Nudge Wink features a mix of guest DJs and resident selectors chosen for their ability to read the room and let the night unfold dancetastically. With delectable sets across the afternoon and evening, featuring an incredible mix of returning favourites and first-time Shed guests: **DJ Jason Lewis**, a respected Australian DJ known for his refined technical ability, deep musical knowledge and intuitive sense of timing, makes his Shed debut with a two-hour set

to close the night out at March's Nudge Wink. **DJ SHE J** is the DJ alter-ego of Australian artist **Sheila Finke**, returning to the Shed, she too will bring two-hour set that will move dancers between warm deep grooves, spacious dub textures and driving late-night energy.

Cunning Stunts co-founders and DJs, **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen**, open the night, setting the musical mood with mixes that tease, tempt and takes their time. **Hoodlum Ballet** returns with a performance that weaves movement directly into the night, their incredible dancers adding moments of intensity, playfulness and release.

Proceeds from the March and April 2026 events will support Women Up North.

Be at the Nudge **Saturday from 4pm**.

This event is expected to sell out. You can still support Women Up North by making a donation via the ticket link: bit.ly/Tickets_Nudge_Mar7th.

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

THENORTHERN.COM.AU
 @thenorthernbyronbay

THUR 5 MAR	Front Bar: Ino Pio 6pm, DJ Quendo 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
FRI 6 MAR	Front Bar: Ben Walsh Trio 7pm, DJ Renee Simone 10pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: SELVE - free entry
SAT 7 MAR	Front Bar: Kane Muir Band 7pm, DJ Jamie Lowe 10pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: 909 UNDERGRND FT ZAC & FAZZ - free entry
SUN 8 MAR	Front Bar: Dan Hannaford 5pm, Vinyl Sundays 8pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm SIPPIN' SUNDAYS \$15 COCKTAILS
MON 9 MAR	Front Bar: Erin Shay 6pm, DJ Renee Simone 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
TUES 10 MAR	Front Bar: Marshall Okell 6pm DJ Jamie Lowe 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
WED 11 MAR	Front Bar: Milo Green 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm



Hayley Mary

Comedy, films, concerts and theatre

March is gearing up to be another jam-packed month at the **Brunswick Picture House**, with big stand-up comedy shows, exquisite films, unforgettable concerts, and their biggest theatre co-production yet.

In just two weeks' time, the Picture House will team up with Bangalow Theatre Company to present a new musical by Australian musical theatre royalty, Eddie Perfect, in the hilarious, biting, and outrageous **Vivid White** – with ten sessions, this promises to be one of the most exciting theatrical events the Northern Rivers has ever seen – **Thursday, 19 to Saturday, 28 March**. Get in quickly as some Saturday sessions are already sold out.

As the home of comedy in the Shire – all year, not just in summer – more big names are bringing their shows to Bruns: the star of *Mother and Son* **Matt Okine** in his first national tour in over six years, on **Thursday**; the hugely acclaimed raconteur **Lewis Garnham** on **Wednesday, March 11**; and the much-loved Logie winner **Rob Carlton** with a new storytelling hour on **Friday, March 13**.

The Picture House has hosted some jaw-dropping intimate concerts from singer-songwriters over the years and they've got two gracing the Bruns stage: the incredible ex-Jezabel, **Hayley Mary** on **Sunday**, and the superb **Sam Buckingham** on **Saturday, March 14**.

And finally – this weekend sees the return of one of the most in-demand film festivals in the Shire: the all new, short-film extravaganza **Ocean Film Festival** on **Friday and Saturday**.

Looking ahead – April is packed with shows ranging from Shrek-inspired comedy burlesque – **Swampesque** on Sunday, April 26; to mind-blowing magic for all ages with **Aiden Schofield** on **Wednesday, April 15**; to a conversation with the philosopher **A.C. Grayling** on **Wednesday, April 22**.

This Easter sees the Brunswick Picture House celebrating Ten Years Bold with the return of their signature hit show that started it all, **Cheeky Cabaret** from Thursday, April 2 to Sunday, April 19.

Tickets for all shows at brunswickpicturehouse.com

Good news for dog (and beer) lovers

Good news for dog lovers and beer lovers alike: **Dog Adoption Day** is heading back to **Stone & Wood!** The Byron Bay brewery is once again teaming up with **Willow Tree Sanctuary** for a feel-good Saturday filled with wagging tails, cold beers and plenty of pats.

From 11am to 2pm on **Saturday, 14 March**, the Stone & Wood Tasting Room will be taken over by a pack of very good dogs on the lookout for their forever homes. Visitors will have the chance to meet a gorgeous crew including Eddie, Basil, Carmen, River, Rubble and Pumpkin, each with their own pup personality and plenty of love to give.

Whether you're ready to adopt, thinking about fostering or just keen to meet a few four-legged locals and learn more about animal rescue, everyone's welcome. The Willow Tree Sanctuary team will be on hand throughout the day to chat through the adoption process and help match dogs with the right homes.

It's a relaxed, community-minded afternoon where visitors can enjoy lunch and a fresh brew in the courtyard, get to know the dogs, and maybe even leave with plans to foster or adopt one of these four-legged legends.

Stone & Wood Brewing Co.'s, **Kurtis Day** says the brewery is stoked to once again team up with Willow Tree Sanctuary for a Dog Adoption Day. 'The entire crew at Willow Tree do incredible work for our community, including rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming animals, while also sharing their knowledge through education. If you've been considering welcoming a new addition to your family and can offer one of these pups a loving home, swing by the brewery.'

Co-Founder of Willow Tree Sanctuary, **Kate Morris**, says they are so pleased to be able to join with Stone & Wood again for the annual Pups & Pints Adoption Day. 'If people are considering adding a new fur-friend to their family, or have been thinking about helping a vulnerable animal by becoming a foster carer, come down to Stone & Wood and meet the team and learn how.'

And because doing good is always better when we do it together, \$1 from every litre of beer sold at the Stone & Wood bar throughout April will be donated directly to Willow Tree Sanctuary, helping support their ongoing work caring for animals in need.

So come on down, enjoy a beer, meet some adorable pups and maybe even find your new best mate.

Find out more at willowtreesanctuary.com.au.

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The **TEMPEST**
William Shakespeare
13-29 March

MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE COMPANY
MURWILLUMBAHTHEATRECOMPANY.COM.AU

Eclectic Selection

What's on this week

The Alliance Française French Film Festival has made a grand return with a plethora of awesome films – get ready for an unforgettable cinematic journey featuring a spectacular selection of French films – from comedy, romance, and drama, to thrilling adventures.

From Wednesday at Palace Cinemas. More info at palacecinemas.com.au.



The Force is funny with this one! After decades of laughter, chaos and standing ovations (from those who can), the legendary **Steady Eddy** blasts back onto stages across Australia for his interstellar Return of the Stedi Tour 2026.

Saturday at the Soundlounge, Currumbin. Tickets \$49 at soundlounge.com.au.



Faulty Towers the Dining Experience is back – a brilliant night is on the cards when the Faultys come to town. This is the show where you step inside the BBC *Fawlty Towers* TV series and see it from the inside out. Highly improvised, highly interactive, and fully immersive; where audiences join the action, becoming guests who play along with Basil, Sybil, and Manuel.

Friday 7pm at the Lismore Worker's Club. Tickets \$69 + bf at lismoreworkers.com.au.



The documentary *Revealed: KillJoy* offers a unique view of family violence in Australia. The film was a finalist in the 2025 Australian Human Rights Awards.

Saturday 2.30pm at the Court Theatre, Lismore. Free event, but registration required (Star Court Theatre website: www.starcourttheatre.com.au).

A high-energy, one-woman show, *Divas* pays homage to classic divas while blending current pop culture in hilarious mash-ups, bringing audiences of all ages together for a night of music, laughter, and celebration with rapid-fire costume changes, audience interaction, and powerhouse vocals.

Saturday 7.30 at the Ballina RSL. Tickets from \$45 at <https://ballinarsl.com.au/>.



The **Trombone Kellie Gang** is one of the hardest-working bands on the Northern Rivers, delivering an electrifying mix of street blues, jazz swing, gospel, soul, and rock 'n' roll. With powerful vocals, dynamic trombone, and gritty guitar work, they bring an exciting and authentic take on delta swing and blues.

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



The **Neighbours from Hell** offer high energy solos and improvs across diverse music genres: jazz, funk, blues, dub, pop hits, classic movie themes and originals. All unique interpretations (mostly instrumental) from this highly accomplished trio.

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



The all-original Bourbon Street

Australian four-piece rock band **Bourbon Street** – all original members – formed in Byron Bay, in early 1987. The band enjoyed immediate success on the live circuit as a '70s-styled, high-energy cover band and soon began writing their own songs.

During the next six years, Bourbon Street performed more live shows than any other band in Australia. They won multiple awards and released three albums before disbanding in September of '93.

Their debut LP, *Stronger Than Dirt* (1988) opens with a cover of Neil Young's 'Powderfinger' – the band's traditional opener for live shows. A young Brisbane-based group at the time were largely influenced by Bourbon Street and chose the song's title as their band's name – Powderfinger.

Meanwhile, *Stronger Than Dirt* went on to become a cult classic. It was re-pressed four times and is still in popular demand today.

In 2005, the band started writing again and began touring their native Northern Rivers area. Their fourth album, *Banned for Life* (co-

produced by Powderfinger's Ian Haug) was released in February, 2007. The album yielded three minor hits with *Silver Dollar*, *Natural Blonde* and *Rosie's Bar & Grill*, all receiving extensive airplay in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

A communal mid-life crisis hit the band shortly after the album's release and the group went their separate ways for the next several years. In November of 2013, the band was lured out of assumed retirement by the Airlie Beach Music Festival organiser, Gavin Butlin.

The reunion ushered in a successful return to the stage and brought the band back together.

Since then, Bourbon Street have regrouped regularly for special appearances in and around their Northern Rivers area. Their current repertoire features fan faves from their albums and the usual mix of high-energy covers from the Doors, Led Zeppelin, Stones, AC/DC and the like.

See them at the Beach Hotel on Sunday, March 15, from 4.30pm.

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ReStored at the Con

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium has continued to make music throughout the years of flood recovery, and now the community is invited to celebrate the completion of its major restoration works and the renewal of one of Lismore's most iconic buildings.

While the Conservatorium has remained operational during the restoration period, **ReStored at the Con** marks the formal completion of the project and provides an opportunity to truly show what has been achieved. It is a moment to pause, reflect, and celebrate the care, craftsmanship and vision that have gone into restoring this much-loved cultural landmark.

The Con will host a free open day to formally acknowledge the completion of the works and welcome the community to experience the renewed building.

The restoration followed significant damage caused by the 2022 floods, which affected teaching rooms, studios, performance spaces and essential infrastructure. The works were proudly supported by the NSW government through Create NSW, alongside the commitment and determination of the Conservatorium board, staff, teachers, students, and the wider community.

The completed works have enhanced the Conservatorium in both subtle and striking ways. Visitors will have the opportunity to see and learn about restoration elements ranging from the bell tower, beautifully-renewed internal spaces and a new goods lift, ensuring the building continues to serve the community for generations to come.

Throughout the day, the community can enjoy performances by Conservatorium ensembles in the Concert Room, open rehearsals, and informal performances showcasing the depth and diversity of music-making at the Conservatorium.

Guided tours will offer insight into both the restoration and the spaces that support learning and creativity. Visitors can also take part in a 'try an instrument' session, meet Con teachers, explore open studios, and experience early childhood music workshops designed for younger participants and their carers.

ReStored at the Con is a celebration of resilience, creativity and community, and a chance to honour the renewal of a treasured cultural home.

Everyone is welcome to the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, in Lismore on **Saturday, March 14, from 10am to 2pm**. This is a free event.

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



bayfm.org
Listen like a local

50 YEARS MENTAL IS NOT LONG ENOUGH



Australia's legendary band Mental As Anything is set to make a historic comeback for Bluesfest 2026 – the first in 25 years – as original founding members Peter O'Doherty and brother Reg Mombassa reunite, leading an exciting new lineup to perform once again under the iconic banner Mental As Anything.

Known for their infectious melodies, sharp wit, and unmistakable sound, the ARIA Hall of Fame inductees have carved out an enduring place in Australia's cultural and musical history. With 25 top-40 hits in Australia, Mental As Anything's catalogue includes beloved classics such as 'The Nips Are Getting Bigger', 'If You Leave Me, Can I Come Too?', 'Too Many Times', 'Come Around', 'Berserk Warriors', 'Spirit Got Lost', 'You're So Strong', and the international smash 'Live It Up' – a song that continues to receive regular airplay across the UK and Europe more than three decades after topping charts around the world.

What began as a Sydney pub band formed by five art students has, over 50 years, grown into one of Australia's most successful and beloved musical acts.

Seven recently spoke to the Mental's Reg Mombassa about the upcoming Bluesfest show.

Reg, where are you today? And what's the weather like?
I'm in Sydney and it is a pleasant sunny day.

50 years is a huge accomplishment. What do you think is the band's biggest achievement/s in that time?

Probably managing to stay together and perform consistently without a lineup change for 25 years. We also managed to record a few popular tunes.

There seems to be more family members than not in the band now. Is it a little bit mental playing with people you're related to? (O'Doherty's son Declan also play in the band)

Not really. Peter and I played together in the Mentals for all that time and we have also done 35 years with Dog Trumpet without any problems.

What would you say to dyed-in-the-wool Mentals fans about this tour?

I would say I hope they enjoy this lineup. Obviously without Martin, Greedy and Bird it is not the same as the earlier version of the Mentals.

Will there be some new music?

Probably not. Without the involvement of the other original members of the band, it would be slightly inappropriate to write and record new songs.

What would you say to encourage people that may have never heard your work, to come and listen to you?

I would say come and hear some catchy garage pop songs played by a good band.

Does the Mentals stop after this tour?

We haven't decided yet whether to continue beyond the 50th anniversary year.

What is it about Bluesfest that makes it a great festival?

There is always a great lineup, and it is a well-organised festival for the bands and punters.

Are there any other acts you are hanging out to see?

Yes, Split Enz, the Pogues, Buddy Guy, Adrian Belew and Jerry Harrison, among others.

What is your current earworm?

'Duquesne Whistle' by Bob Dylan, released in 2012 so not that current.

What in your life right now, is inspiring you to get out of bed every day?

Hanging around with my family members and doing some drawing and playing.

Are you having enough fun?

Hopefully yes. I'm not loudly fun-loving, but I quietly enjoy quite a few things.

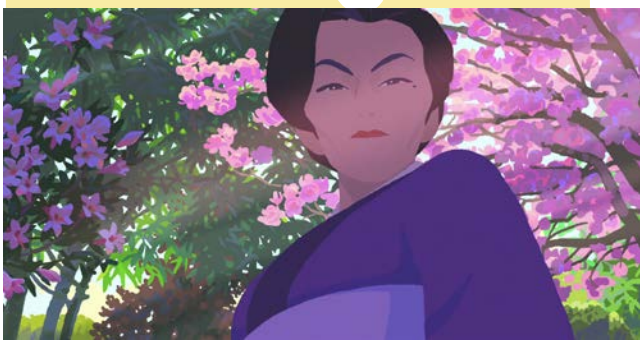
This landmark performance celebrates the Mentals' musical legacy, timeless hits, and ongoing influence, offering fans a rare and unforgettable opportunity to connect with the band's artistry and performance flair. Don't miss your chance to celebrate one of Australia's most iconic and enduring bands. Mental as Anything play Saturday at Bluesfest – for more information, visit bluesfest.com.au.

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



GIG GUIDE

CINEMA



Little Amélie or the Character of Rain

A wonderful film screening as part of the Alliance Française French Film Festival at Palace Cinemas, is *Little Amélie or the Character of Rain* – the story of a little Belgian girl born in Japan, who spends her early years trapped within her own body: until she is two-and-a-half, she sees herself as a simple 'tube', unable to act or express her feelings. In her innocence, she believes herself at the centre of the world, almost divine, watched by adults who try to pierce her silence.

Everything changes on her third birthday. A single piece of white chocolate sparks a breathtaking transformation: the child awakens to life. Light, fear, joy, sounds, and words surge within her like a burst of discovery.

Amélie learns language, explores her family, and the paradise-like garden surrounding her home, as well as her first passions and aversions. Guided by her friend Nishiosan, every moment becomes an adventure, every feeling a revelation.

Japan in the 1960s emerges in vibrant colours and delicate textures, reflecting Amélie's emotions and her innocent, naïve, and wide-eyed perspective. This adaptation of Amélie Nothomb's short novel celebrates the transition from early childhood to childhood, and the awakening of a mind marveling at the beauty of the world.

Little Amélie or the Character of Rain is screening this Saturday at the Palace Cinemas, Byron Bay.

Find out more at palacecinemas.com.au.

WEDNESDAY

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- 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**
- OTLILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO HUM JAZZ QUINTET**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

THURSDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MICKA SCENE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MONTANA BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO + DJ QUENDO + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM JAZZ QUINTET**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CALLUM CREELMAN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **MATT OKINE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS BOWLING CLUB 6.30PM **FAULTY TOWERS THE DINING EXPERIENCE**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM **REDD KROSS + THE HARD-ON FT. TIM ROGERS**

FRIDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **EPIC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **CUT COPY + DRIFTING CLOUDS**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **BYRON TANGO FESTIVAL 2026**

- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **PANGAEA, SPRAY, PHIL SMART & IN THE FLOWERS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **BEN WALSH TRIO + DJ RENEE SIMONE + DUELLING PIANO BAR + SELVE**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BEN WALSH**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **NATTALI RIZE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2026**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SALVE JORGE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **FAULTY TOWERS THE DINING EXPERIENCE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **JEROME WILLIAMS**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **THE HITMEN**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**

SATURDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RESONANT HAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM + RECORD BREAKERS + SHANTIAN WANTAN ICHIBAN**
- BYRON THEATRE 4PM **THE MENDOZA TANGO QUARTET**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ ALICE Q + DDJ EEP PEPA**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **DJ MASDA & MR BROTHER**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR BAND + DJ JAMIE LOWE + DUELLING PIANO BAR + 909 UNDERGRND FT ZAC & FAZZ**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **FLOORBURNERS**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM **NATHAN KAYE, 8PM DIVAS**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD, 8PM HARRY NICHOLS BAND**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2026**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ WAYAN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK DJS JASON LEWIS, SHE J, DALE STEPHEN, LORD SUT + THE HOODLUM BALLET**
- STAR COURT THEATRE, LISMORE, 2.30PM **REVEALED:KILLJOY, 7PM CONSCIOUS LIGHT - THE DIVINE LIFE AND REVELATION OF AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **JONO'S MATE SHEEP + DIMMERINDIANNA**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 6PM **PAUL A. GEORGE & ANDY V**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5PM **JOCK BARNES**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **I LOVE YOUR FACES**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **SOUL'D**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **THE JACKS + DIV 4**

SUNDAY 8

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LISA HUNT + MISS RENEE SIMONE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **DAN HANNAFORD + VINYL SUNDAYS + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT TROMBONE KELLIE GANG**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **GRAVITY'S GUMBO**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **THE NEIGHBOURS FROM HELL**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 1PM **KIM CHURCHILL, FINOJET, ALLY PALMER, DAN HANNAFORD, HAYLEY GRACE, JORDY QUINN, BEN CAMDEN & BRIONY ALIC**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM **HAYLEY MARY**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 4PM **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- DUNOON SPORTS CLUB 4PM **PLUCKERS AND POETS OPEN MIC**
- KINGSCLIFF SURF CLUB 3.30PM **THE FUNNY GOATS BAND**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **TRACY VAUGHAN + MONO**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 4.30PM **BONDI CIGARS**

MONDAY 9

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **YAZMINDI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ERIN SHAY + DJ RENEE SIMONE + DUELLING PIANO BAR**

TUESDAY 10

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL + DJ JAMIE LOWE + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **WILLIE WATSON**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **THOMAS ARMSTRONG ROBLEY**

WEDNESDAY 11

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DEVU**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MILO GREEN + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTLILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO HUM JAZZ QUINTET**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **LEWIS GARNHAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **CASEY FOGG**

PALACE CINEMAS
 BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
 THURSDAY MARCH 5
 TO WEDNESDAY MARCH 11

COMING SOON
HAYLEY MARY

NOW SHOWING
PEAKY BLINDERS

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

AURORA: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EARTH? (K12)
 Sat: 3:00PM

COLOURS OF TIME (PG)
 French FF opening! Fri: 6pm arrival, 6:30PM screening

OLD BOY (MA15+)
 CUST VALLI Mon: 6:30PM

REMEMBERS OF HIM (K12)
 Wed: 8:30PM

THOM YORKE LIVE AT SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE (K12)
 Fri: 6:15PM

FAMILY FILMS

GOAT (PG)
 SNEAK PREVIEWS Fri: 1:00PM, 4:30PM, Sat, Sun: 10:45AM, 1:20PM

ZOOTOPIA 2 (PG)
 Thurs, Fri: 11:00AM, Sat, Sun: 10:45AM

ALL FILMS

CRIME 101 (M)
 Daily except Thurs, Fri: 1:00PM, 8:30PM, Thurs: 2:30PM, 5:15PM, Fri: 2:30PM, 8:10PM

EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT (PG)
 Thurs, Fri, Mon: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 6:10PM, Sat, Sun: 2:00PM, 6:10PM, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 6:10PM

FACKHAM HALL (M)
 Daily: 11:00AM

HAMNET (M)
 Thurs: 1:30PM, 4:10PM, Fri: 1:30PM, Sat, Sun, Mon: 8:20PM, Tues, Wed: 3:30PM, 8:20PM

HOW TO MAKE A KILLING (M)
 Daily: 11:00AM, 3:50PM, 8:30PM

MARTY SUPREME (M)
 Thurs: 11:30AM, 8:00PM, Fri: 11:30AM, 5:30PM, Sat, Sun: 3:30PM, 5:30PM

Mon, Tues, Wed: 5:30PM

MIDWINTER BREAK (M)
 Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM, Fri: 10:45AM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM, Sat, Sun: 1:00PM, 4:10PM, 6:30PM, Mon: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 4:10PM, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 6:20PM

PEAKY BLINDERS: THE IMMORTAL MAN (MA15+)
 Daily: 1:10PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM

PILLION (R18+)
 Thurs: 10:50AM, 8:20PM, Fri: 10:45AM, 8:20PM, Sat, Sun: 3:00PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:50AM

SCREAM 7 (MA15+)
 Thurs, Fri, Tues: 3:10PM, 8:20PM, Sat, Sun: 8:30PM, Mon: 3:10PM, 8:45PM, Wed: 3:10PM

THE BRIDE! (K12)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:10PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM, Sat,

Sun: 10:45AM, 3:30PM, 6:10PM, 8:40PM

THE MOMENT (MA15+)
 Thurs, Fri: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM, Sat, Sun: 11:20AM, 1:30PM, 6:15PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM

THE TESTAMENT OF ANN LEE (M)
 Thurs: 11:15AM, 5:45PM, Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:15AM

TRUE SOUTH (M)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 2:00PM, Sat, Sun: 1:40PM

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (M)
 Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:45PM, 8:15PM, Fri: 11:00AM, 12:40PM, 3:20PM, 6:45PM, 8:15PM, Sat, Sun, Mon: 11:00AM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM, Tues, Wed: 10:45AM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

CRIME 101 (M)
 Daily except Fri: 2:40PM, Fri: 12:20PM

EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT (PG)
 Daily except Thurs, Fri: 12:40PM, Thurs, Fri: 10:10AM, 12:40PM

FACKHAM HALL (M)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:10AM

GOAT (PG)
 SNEAK PREVIEWS Fri: 5:15PM, Sat, Sun: 10:10AM

HOW TO MAKE A KILLING (M)
 Daily except Thurs, Fri: 2:50PM, 7:50PM, Thurs, Fri: 12:15PM, 7:50PM

PEAKY BLINDERS: THE IMMORTAL MAN (MA15+)
 Daily except Fri: 12:15PM, 5:30PM, Fri: 10:00AM, 5:30PM

REMEMBERS OF HIM (K12)
 Wed: 7:30PM

SCREAM 7 (MA15+)
 Daily except Fri: 5:10PM, Fri: 3:10PM

THE BRIDE! (K12)
 Daily except Thurs, Fri: 2:40PM, 5:10PM, 7:40PM, Thurs, Fri: 2:40PM, 5:15PM, 7:45PM

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (M)
 Thurs, Fri: 10:00AM, 2:30PM, 7:30PM, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues: 10:00AM, 7:30PM, Wed: 10:00AM

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

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

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Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

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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.

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\$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.

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Prepayment is required for all ads.

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TUITION

Adobe Tutoring

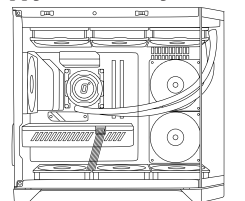
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BIRTHDAYS

Happy 12th Birthday Matias!



Love Mum, Dad, Sol & Tubby

PETS

PET SITTER AVAILABLE

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

Who gives a Cluck?



Adopt a Rooster.
This is Mika. Rescued from abandoned golf club on gold coast, left with no food or water. Been with our foster carer Ann Maree for a month now. A big friendly boy with a sweet temperament. Every day he sides up to Ann Maree, his Foster Carer trying to make her his special friend. Please let's find him a good home.
Here's the link to adopt him (#56).
www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/

SUN, MOON & TIDES – TIMES FOR NEXT 3 WEEKS

DATE (March)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
4	W	6:39 / 19:15	19:37 / 7:02	10:00 1.76 22:19 1.49	03:25 0.25 16:11 0.28
5	TH	6:40 / 19:14	20:06 / 8:00	10:32 1.67 22:56 1.52	04:05 0.30 16:40 0.29
6	F	6:40 / 19:13	20:35 / 8:57	11:02 1.56 23:30 1.52	04:45 0.37 17:06 0.32
7	SA	6:41 / 19:12	21:06 / 9:54	11:31 1.44	05:26 0.46 17:31 0.36
8	SU	6:42 / 19:11	21:39 / 10:51	00:05 1.51 12:00 1.31	06:09 0.56 17:59 0.41
9	M	6:42 / 19:10	22:16 / 11:48	00:43 1.48 12:32 1.19	06:57 0.65 18:29 0.48
10	TU	6:43 / 19:09	22:59 / 12:45	01:27 1.43 13:13 1.08	07:58 0.72 19:05 0.56
11	W	6:43 / 19:08	23:46 / 13:40	02:25 1.39 14:11 0.99	09:22 0.76 20:00 0.63
12	TH	6:44 / 19:06	14:33 / 14:33	03:45 1.37 15:48 0.95	11:00 0.74 21:24 0.67
13	F	6:45 / 19:05	0:39 / 15:22	05:06 1.40 17:28 0.99	12:10 0.67 22:55 0.65
14	SA	6:45 / 19:04	1:36 / 16:06	06:09 1.47 18:30 1.08	12:58 0.59
15	SU	6:46 / 19:03	2:35 / 16:45	06:59 1.56 19:15 1.18	00:02 0.57 13:34 0.51
16	M	6:46 / 19:02	3:36 / 17:21	07:41 1.64 19:56 1.29	00:53 0.48 14:07 0.43
17	TU	6:47 / 19:01	4:36 / 17:53	08:19 1.71 20:35 1.40	01:36 0.39 14:37 0.35
18	W	6:48 / 19:00	5:37 / 18:25	08:56 1.74 21:15 1.51	02:17 0.32 15:08 0.28
19	TH	6:48 / 18:58	6:39 / 18:56	09:32 1.73 23:18 1.73	03:00 0.28 15:39 0.23
20	F	6:49 / 18:57	7:42 / 19:29	10:08 1.68 23:35 1.69	03:43 0.27 16:12 0.21
21	SA	6:49 / 18:56	8:47 / 20:05	10:45 1.59 23:18 1.73	04:29 0.30 16:45 0.22
22	SU	6:50 / 18:55	9:56 / 20:45	11:25 1.46 00:03 1.74	05:19 0.37 17:21 0.27
23	M	6:50 / 18:54	11:06 / 21:33	12:08 1.31 00:55 1.70	06:16 0.46 18:00 0.35
24	TU	6:51 / 18:53	12:16 / 22:28	12:59 1.17 01:56 1.64	07:26 0.55 18:45 0.44
25	W	6:52 / 18:51	13:23 / 23:30	01:56 1.64 14:08 1.05	08:50 0.61 19:47 0.53

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

FEDERAL SCHOOL OF ARTS

ASSOCIATION INC AGM will be held on Saturday 21 March at 8.30am in the Federal Hall, Federal. All community members welcome to attend. Membership forms available at Federal Store.



Want to volunteer?

Volunteers are the heart of our community.

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

We simply couldn't do it without you!

02 6685 6807

volunteers@byroncentre.com.au

Proposed lease over road reserve

Byron Shire Council is proposing a lease over road reserve to a private landowner for structural encroachments.

118.9sqm adjoining 27 Marine Parade, Byron Bay.

In accordance with Section 154 of the Roads Act 1993, interested parties are invited to make submissions about this proposal within 28 days.

Submission close 1 April 2026.

For more information go to byron.nsw.gov.au Public-Notices

THANK YOU

VAGINAS RAISED 2026 = \$37,543

RAISED OVER 11 YEARS = \$196,537

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL the VERY GENEROUS Vaginas & Audience & Donors & Services & Bruns Picture House. Money raised is for the Mullum & Tweed DV Services. See you all next year, Zenith Virago

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This is a key leadership support role within our school, responsible for overseeing the financial and administrative operations that underpin the smooth running of Aetaomah School.

How to Apply

Please submit your application directly to:
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Applications close: Friday 13 March 2026



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If you're seeking a sweet and friendly, easy to look after feline companion, then Maia is your girl. Once she gets to know you she will happily sit on your lap or lay by you in bed. She will even let out a sweet meow for a stroke when you walk past her! With her gorgeous tabby coat and general all round easiness, she will make a lovely companion. Preferably no other cat's as darling Maia was bullied in her past life!

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To make an appointment
0403 533 589 • Billinudgel
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Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

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Hugo enjoys other dogs but can be selective, so slow introductions are important. Not suited to young kids, cats, or chickens. Could you be Hugo's forever person?

Call Julia on 0458 461 935 or apply via
byrondogrescue.org
MC: 991003001950459

VIVIEN

Vivien is a 6 month old, Bull Arab Cattle X. If you would like a smart, active pup to join your family, Vivien could be the one for you.

M/C # 991003002920306
 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** to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
 ABN 83 126 970 338

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.

Bangalow Community Association meeting

The next general meeting for the Bangalow Community Association (BCA) will be held on Tuesday, 17 March at 7pm, Heritage House, 4 Ashton St, Bangalow. All postcode 2479 residents and business owners are invited to attend BCA quarterly general meetings to discuss currently active development and infrastructure matters. Informed feedback from an engaged and collaborative community helps to achieve significantly better outcomes for our village, so come along and join the conversation.

International Women's Day

Northern Rivers ZONTA event for International Women's Day will be held on Saturday, 7 March from 8am 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 or 0424 427 077.

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.rtrll.nsw.gov.au or 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. For further information on any program of Royal Life Saving, contact the Northern Regional Office on 02 6651 6266.

Friends of Libraries

Friends of Libraries (FOL) are now collecting books for next year's Book Fair. Any books both clean and in good condition will be gratefully accepted, highlighting the need for children's books, young adults, art, fiction, non-fiction, history, and sport, to name a few. Book drop-off will take place on the first Monday of each month between 9 and 10am, until the Book Fair in July, 2026 at the Byron Bay Self Storage Shed, 8-10 Tasman Way, Byron Arts & Industry Estate. Donated books will be collected by a FOL member at the storage shed gate. Contact: Janene Jarvis 0407 855 022 if unable to deliver books or for any other queries.

Prostate Cancer Support

The next meeting of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support

Group is to be held on Wednesday, 11 March from 10am until 12 noon at the Alstonville Plateau Sports Club, Deegan Drive Alstonville. Men previously, and newly, diagnosed with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories told, which give a great opportunity for all to share, learn and benefit from each other. Partners and carers are also most welcome to attend, as family are very much involved with the process and treatment of those with this diagnosis. Members are also reminded to bring a friend or someone you know who may be in need of support. This will be a morning of quality sharing updates. Enquiries, phone Bob Corney on 0493 075 612.

AIR meeting

The next meeting of Australian Independent Retirees (AIR) will be held as usual on the first Friday of the month, being Friday 6 March. This meeting will commence at 10am at the Ballina RSL Club, 1 Grant Street, Ballina. Doors will open at 9.30am to allow members and friends to mingle and be seated in time for the commencement of the meeting. Following the business end of the meeting, morning tea will be available prior to the guest speaker addressing those present. This month's speaker will be Pip Carter, who will bring us up to date with the changes which are happening in aged care. A meeting fee of \$5 is collected from all members present to help defray the costs. At the conclusion of the meeting, a table has been reserved in the Boardwalk Restaurant for those who wish to purchase their lunch and continue with friendly chatter. Any enquires please contact the President, Mrs Jill Huxley on 6686 8958.

BUDDY

Buddy is a 3-year-old Border Collie Cross who is active, intelligent and eager to bond with his forever person. He thrives on daily exercise and mental challenges, from long hikes to energetic games of fetch. Buddy needs a secure yard and a home without small children or chickens. If you're seeking a loyal, spirited companion for outdoor adventures, Buddy is ready to be your devoted best friend

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 AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay 131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510
 Mullumbimby 6629 7570
 Byron Bay 6685 9499
 Bangalow 6629 7500

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
 Storm & tempest damage, flooding 132 500

BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE
 Primary rescue 6685 1999

BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER
 6685 0148

BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL 6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY
AFTER HOURS 6622 7022

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
 (Mullumbimby) 6684 1286

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LIFELINE 131 114
MENSLINE 1300 789 978

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NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
 Meets daily 6680 7280

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HIV/AIDS – ACON
 Confidential testing & information 6622 1555

ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)
 6622 1881

NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE
CARERS 6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE 6622 1233
WIRES – NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service 6628 1898

The Echo's Market Guide

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

MONTHLY MARKETS:

1st SAT: Brunswick Heads Markets – 8am–2pm

1st SUN: Byron Community Market – 8am–3pm
Pottsville Beach Markets – 7am–1pm

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

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

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

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

4th SAT: Kyogle Bazaar – 9am–2pm

Last SAT: Evans Head Rotary Market – 8am–1pm

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

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

5th SUN: Nimbin Markets – 8.30am–3pm

Seasonal: Byron Beachside Market – four times a year: Wed 7th Jan 2026, Easter, July and Sept

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:

Each TUE: New Brighton Farmers Market – 8am–11am
Lismore Organic Market – 7.30am–10.30am

Each WED: Murwillumbah Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Nimbin Farmers Market – 3pm–6pm
Newrybar Hall Twilight Market – 3pm–7.30pm

Each THU: Byron Bay Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Lismore Produce Market – 3pm–6pm

Each FRI: Mullumbimby Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Evans Head Farmers Market – 2.30pm–6.30pm

Each SAT: Bangalow Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Duranbah Road Farmers Market (Tropical Fruit World) 8am–11am
Uki Farmers Market – 8am–1pm
Lismore Farmers Market – 7.30am–11.30am
Byron Twilight Market (October to April) 4pm–9pm

Each SUN: Ballina Farmers & Producers Market – 7am–11am

The Echo updates this guide regularly, however sometimes markets change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch if you want to advise us of a change.

Echo

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Byron Seniors

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

Soul song

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

Seniors activities at the Byron Community Cabin

Seniors activities at the Byron Community Cabin, Carlyle St, Byron Bay: Seniors Chair Yoga Tuesday and Fridays, 10-11am – Contact Pippy 0421 926 785, by donation. Free Tai Chi with Baz – Tuesdays 11.15am till 12.15pm, Thursdays 2pm till 3pm. Still Here Theatre – Senior's theatre group. All ages welcome to our fun drama and theatre workshops. Thursdays 10am to 12pm at the cabin. By donation. Contact Brin on 0423 120 280.

Bruns U3A

Lifelong learning for retired folk in their third age. Our 2026 groups are up and running. Tuesday forum, garden group, foodies, movie/lunch group, men's shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walkers and talkers, shabashi, table tennis, chess, debating group and ukelele group. Contact Denise 0423 778 573 or info@brun3a.org.

Brunswick Heads

Women's Social Tennis

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

Bruns backgammon

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

Free baby clothes

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

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

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

meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.
Listening Space: free counselling.
More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday–Thursday 12.30–1.30pm.
Financial counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.
Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
Orange Sky free laundry service: The Orange Sky service at MDNC only runs on Monday and Wednesday 9am–12pm. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community Centre

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

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**
Line ads: \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid
Display ads: \$70 per week for colour display ad.
 Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.
 New ads will be placed at end of section.
Contact: 6684 1777 or adcop@echo.net.au



SERVICE DIRECTORY INDEX

Accountants & Bookkeepers 36	Handypersons..... 37
Acupuncture 36	Health 37
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration 36	Hire 37
Architects 36	Hypnotherapy..... 37
Automotive..... 36	Landscaping 37
Barber Shops 36	Locksmith 37
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters..... 36	Pest Control 37
Bricklaying..... 36	Photography..... 37
Building Trades 36	Physiotherapy..... 37
Bush Regeneration & Weed Control..... 36	Picture Framing 37
Carpentry & Joinery 36	Plastering 37
Chimney Sweeping..... 36	Plumbers 38
Cleaning 36	Removalists 38
Computer Services 36	Rendering..... 38
Concreting & Paving 36	Roofing..... 38
Decks, Patios & Extensions.. 36	Rubbish Removal 38
Design & Drafting 36	Self Storage 38
Driveway Maintenance..... 37	Septic Systems 38
Earthmoving & Excavation.. 37	Solar Installation 38
Electricians 37	Television Services 38
Fencing..... 37	Tiling 38
Floor Sanding & Polishing... 37	Tree Services 38
Garden & Property Maintenance..... 37	Transportation Services..... 38
Gas Fitters, Suppliers & Servicing..... 37	Upholstery..... 38
Guttering..... 37	Valuers 38
	Veterinary Surgeons..... 38
	Water Filters 38
	Welding 38
	Window Cleaning & Repairs 38
	Window Tinting 38

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GNF Real Estate—selling homes in Bangalow

If you've spent any time in Bangalow, chances are you've walked past the GNF Real Estate office on the main street. They've been part of the town for more than 20 years now, making them the longest-serving real estate agency in the area. But according to the team, what they do has never just been about property.

'It's really about people,' says licensee Chris Hayward. 'Bangalow's a community town. Trust matters here. Our job is to guide people through a sale with experience and confidence.'

Chris works alongside sales team members Alli Page and Sandy Jovanovski, and together they've seen the market evolve. Prices have shifted, demand has grown and new faces have arrived—but the heart of Bangalow hasn't changed.

'People might come and go,' Chris says, 'but Bangalow will always be a special place to live. You're close to the coast, close to the airports, but you still get that real village feel. That's what draws people in.'

One of the things the team is most proud of is the number of repeat clients they've worked with over the years. In some cases, they've sold the



GNF have the experienced team to help you into the highly sought after Bangalow real estate market. L-R: Melissa Weaver, Chris Hayward, Tegan Benson, Lorelei Schultz, Sandy Jovanovski and Alli Page.

same home more than once—helping families as they upsize for a growing household, downsize later in life, or sell their investment properties.

'That only happens if you're honest with people,' Alli explains. 'We focus on clear advice, open communication and strong negotiation. Results matter—but how you achieve them matters just as much.'

For Alli, the variety is part of the fun. 'No two days are the same,' she says. 'Selling homes in Bangalow is an experience! One day it's an elegant country home, the next it's a family house, something heritage, something modern or something full of potential. Every property has a story.'

Sandy agrees, adding that

understanding those stories is key. 'Behind every sale is a person, or a family, making a big decision,' she says. 'In a town where you see your clients at the cafe or Saturday markets, reputation and integrity matter and relationships last well beyond settlement.'

The team also works with a strong database of active buyers,



Bangalow is well known for the character of its heritage homes and country village charm.



both locally and interstate, often creating healthy competition and premium outcomes. Beyond sales, their property management team supports investors with the same attention to detail and professionalism.

'At the end of the day,' Chris says, 'our door's always open. People can walk in, have a chat and get honest advice. That's what we've built our reputation on.'

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5 Wattle Place, Bangalow

4 2 1

Price guide: \$1,420,000

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Alli Page
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SOLD!



4 Granuaille Road, Bangalow

4 1 2

A house for all reasons!

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SOLD!



28 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow

4 2 2

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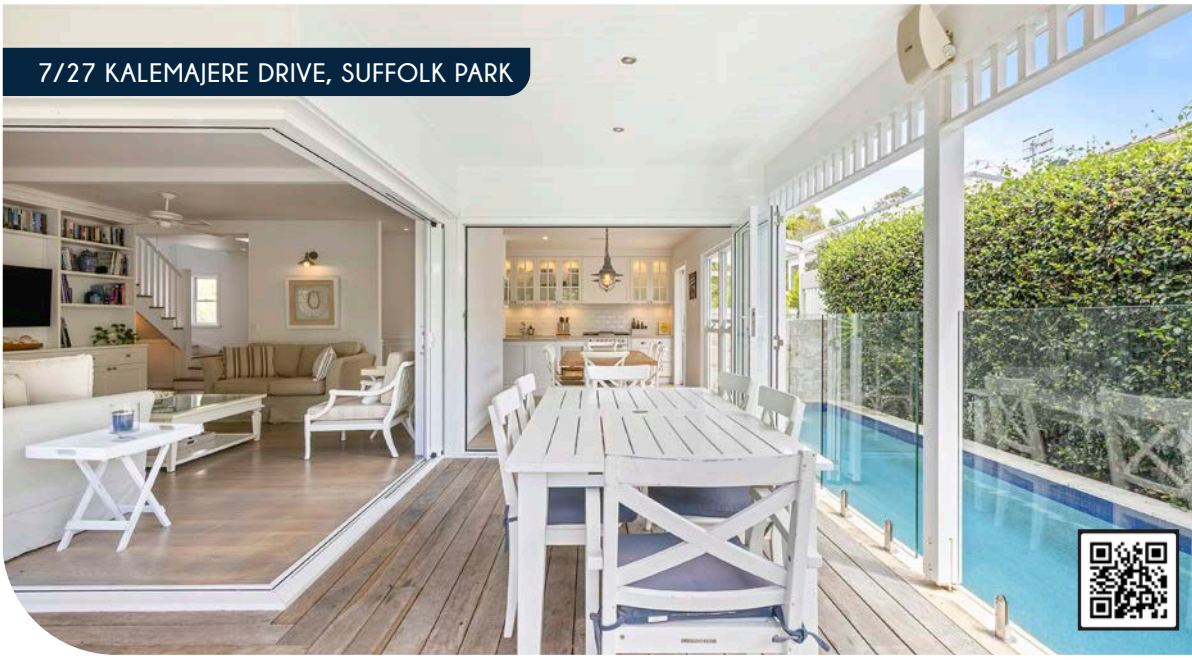
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Price Guide: \$1,450,000 - \$1,550,000

3 2 2 8420m²

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40 BOOYUN STREET, BRUNSWICK HEADS



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25 Bangalow Rd | ★★★★★ | Verified Review

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13 Kalemajere Dr Suffolk | ★★★★★ | Verified Review

Fabulous all round!!!
From start to finish Bryce and his team were outstanding and set the bar very high. Bryce's enthusiasm and happy nature made the process easy. Great communication along the way. I would don't hesitate to recommend Cape Byron Real Estate. It's simply been a pleasure.

2 Daniels St | ★★★★★ | Verified Review

We couldn't be happier with the experience of selling our Byron Bay property with Bryce Cameron and the team at Cape Byron Property. From start to finish, their strategic approach to marketing ensured maximum reach and strong buyer enquiry, which ultimately led to an outstanding result. Communication was always clear and timely, and we were consistently impressed by their attention to detail and deep understanding of the local market. Bryce and the team guided us through every step with professionalism and care, making the entire process smooth and stress-free. We highly recommend Bryce and the Cape Byron Property team to anyone considering selling their property in the near future.

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Property / Open For Inspection

PALMS VILLAGE – Site 151
The Palms Village – Tweed Heads South
2 1 1 \$515,000



Fantastic opportunity to secure a spacious 2-bedroom home nestled on a corner block close to village amenities and café.
Immaculate, modernised home featuring raked ceilings throughout the living areas, fully renovated kitchen as well as a good size front verandah.
Fabulous kitchen featuring soft-touch drawers, generous white storage cabinets are complemented with Caesar stone benchtops, built-in oven and ceramic cooktop.
Two carpeted bedrooms one on either end of the home, both with built-in wardrobes & ceiling fans; master has Fujitsu split system air conditioner.
The bathroom is a good size and includes a large shower & vanity as well as a separate toilet. Bathroom, toilet & laundry feature new modern floor tiles.
Adjoining carport is suitable for 1 vehicle and has a roller screen door matching the outside window awnings.
The established side and front gardens are low maintenance and would ideally suit a keen gardener.
Energy efficient home with a 2Kw Solar System & Heat Pump hot water service.
Situated just minutes from Tweed Heads/Coolangatta; The Palms Village is for the over 55's and is 'Pet Friendly'.
Village amenities include a swimming pool, club house, social club & library.
Retirement living at its best without the associated costs of exit fees and no stamp duty.

Inspect: By appointment
Contact: Kelvin Price 0423 028 468 / Heike Wilson 0403 713 658
Mr Property Services

DJ Stringer Property Services

- 1444/6-8 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 9-9.30am
- 9/277 Golden Four Drive, Bilinga. Sat 9-9:30am
- 7/105 Golden Four Drive, Bilinga. Sat 10-10:30am
- 1/42-44 Thomson St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2046/20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 16/19 Ivory Cres, Tweed Heads. Sat 11-11:30am
- 2101/20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 7/20 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 12 Altair St, Tweed Heads South. Sat 12-12:30pm

First National

- 4/6 Canowindra Court, South Golden Beach. Thurs 9.30-10am
- 178 Tyagarah Road, Myocum. Thurs 10.30-11am
- 10 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Thurs 11.30am-12pm
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Thurs 12.30-1pm
- 103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11.30am
- 119 Hunters Hill Road, Corndale. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 8 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 142 Phoenix Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1/6 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 22 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 7/27 Kalemajere Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5/124 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 8 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7/37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 20 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 517 Friday Hut Road, Brooklet. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/33 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 19 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am

- 22/9 Easy Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 35A Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 8 Cassia Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30-11am
- 2/113 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Botanic Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 29/6-8 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 234A Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 50 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1/113A Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 93 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 56 Ruskin Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 93 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 23/22 Bay Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 20 Bilin Road, Myocum. Sat 2.15-2.45pm

Harcourts NR

- 4 Seaward St, Lennox Head. 9.30-10am
- 16 Sand St, Skennars Head. 10-10.30am
- 16 Sartories Road, Pimlico 11-11.30am
- 43 Scullin Street, Townsend 1-1.30pm
- 15 Killarney Cr, Lennox head. 10.15-10.45am
- 18 Brunswick Street, Ballina. Sat 10.30-11am
- 12 Clare Street, Alstonville. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3/20 The Terrace, East Ballina. 11am-11.30am
- 19 Dalmacia Drive, Wollongbar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 9 Ironbark Court, Goonellabah. Sat 12.15-12.45pm

Mana Re

- 1/16 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/21A Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores Sat 10-10.30am
- 25 Flinders Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am

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- 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
- 14 Mitchell Street, UKI. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 33 Robin Street, South Golden Sat 12-12.30pm
- 15 Nargoon Court, Ocean Shores Sat 12-12.30pm
- Lot 20, 2981 Kyogle Road, Kunghur (aka 14 Sisters Court, Kunghur) Sat 12.30-1pm

Real Estate of Distinction

- 98 Greenvale Court, Burringbar. Sat. 10.30-11.15am
- 11 Bian Court, Ocean Shores. Sat. 12-12.30pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 40 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 63 Lizray Road, Federal. Sat 11.30am-12pm

New Listings

First National

- 1/6 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park
- 22/9 Easy Street, Byron Bay
- 2/66 Lawson Street, Byron Bay
- 7/27 Kalemajere Drive, Suffolk Park
- 1410 Main Arm Road, Upper Main Arm
- 35A Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay
- 1/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay



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Macabre post-punk cabaret trio, Tiger Lilly, spread their 'self help' message of hope: 'If you want to win, don't be dim, take heroin' at the Bruns Picture House last week. Photo Jeff 'I'm Not Your Heroine' Dawson

From *The Shovel*: 'Australian Prime Minister <INSERT NAME HERE>, says Australia stands fully behind the United States's decision to invade <INSERT MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRY NAME HERE>, which was necessary owing to <CUT AND PASTE REASON FROM WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE HERE - DON'T MENTION THE OIL>'. ■■■■

They say follow the money and in terms of the wellness industry you just have to look up to the proposed 58-storey \$1.5 billion wellness resort, sorry 'destination', about to transform Southport's former Star of the Sea site. Now what was that you were saying about the pharmaceutical industry? ■■■■

While the *Australian Financial Review* has reported that US-born, Altus Property Group director David Young has previously faced bankruptcy and hacking charges, the ABC has reported

that he previously ran a development company that collapsed owing creditors \$28 million. So is with little surprise that a change.org petition (www.change.org/p/stop-the-proposed-trump-tower-development-on-the-gold-coast) calling for the Gold Coast Trump Towers project to be rejected has received more than 123,818 signatures as we went to print. ■■■■

The juvenile Newcastle crocodile discovered in Federal Park, Wallsend, initially escaped capture by specialist reptile animal handlers on Saturday. But with renewed efforts they were able to safely capture the animal on Sunday, 1 March. ■■■■

Australians lose between \$13 and \$16 billion annually on poker machines. Neil Walsh has started a campaign to introduce a 'losing sound' to poker machines because they don't currently have any. 'When tested on real

players it halved desire and made people aware of losses,' he said. You can support his campaign at:

change.org/p/enforce-losing-sounds-in-australian-poker-machines. ■■■■

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Volume 8 ~ 2025-2026

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