

Risks identified in Bangalow Flood Study

Paul Bibby

A new flood study commissioned by Byron Shire Council has identified five key flood flashpoints in Bangalow, including the current location of the local fire station.

In a development with significant implications for emergency management, community safety, and future building in the town, Council has received the final Bangalow Flood Study after years of preparation and analysis.

The study was formally endorsed by Council's Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee on February 26, and will now go out to public exhibition for 28 days.

The study is a key document

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As part of International Women's Day, the Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce brought local entrepreneurs together last week for the Byron's Badass Women of Business event at Elements of Byron. Pictured (from left) are Miranda Ivey, Marissa Treichel, Louise Bannister, Alison Bird, Elizabeth Griffiths, J'aimee Skippon-Volke, Lyn McCarthy, Renee Simone, Dionne Payn and Elle Meredith. Photo Jeff Dawson

Happy 100th, Mullumbimby hydroelectric power station!

Paul Bibby

In the hills just outside of Mullumbimby a vital, but oft forgotten piece of the town's history, is quietly celebrating its 100th birthday.

Officially opened on March 6, 1926 the Mullumbimby hydroelectric power station now lies dormant and almost completely untouched on land off Wilsons Creek Road.

For decades, this remarkable piece of infrastructure formed the backbone of the region's electricity supply, keeping the lights on in Mullum, Byron, Bangalow and other local towns.

Third scheme in Australia

'At the time it was just the third municipal hydroelectric scheme in Australia,' Susan Tsicalas from the Brunswick Valley Historical Society told *The Echo* last week.

'When they put it in, it was because it was the cheaper option out of wood and coal,' Ms Tsicalas said. 'It was designed by William Corin, who also worked on plans for the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme.'

The idea for the project dates back to 1909, when land along Wilsons Creek at Lavertys Gap was reserved to develop a water supply for Mullumbimby.

Local councillor W. E. Selwood, who later became Mullumbimby's Mayor, proposed that the water scheme could also be used to generate electricity.

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Night-time economy program announced for Byron

Hans Lovejoy

Byron Bay is one of four north coast towns chosen by the NSW government for a Regional Night-Time Economy Program pilot.

Other towns chosen for the pilot are Murwillumbah, Lennox Head, and Sawtell.

Tourism body, Destination Byron, applied for the \$200,000 pilot program for Byron, and President Jeanie Wylie told *The Echo* she is aware of the concerns raised by the community over the recently rejected Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) for the town.

She says unlike the NSW

government's SEP, the pilot grant is flexible and can be tailored, and Destination Byron will focus on small events and 'linking local business with local talent'.

The SEP was abandoned after community opposition led to sound and late-night trading restrictions being included in Council's application.

These conditions were deemed inconsistent with SEP guidelines by the NSW government.

The lack of Council consultation with the community, its potential negative impacts, and the lack of funding to address lighting, transport and safety also played a part.

The NSW government says the

Regional Night-Time Economy Program includes 'capacity-building grants, designed to support organised teams of local businesses to collaborate and further develop vibrant economies and leverage opportunities in their communities'.

2027 event planned

'We are aiming for an event mid-2027', Jeanie says, stressing that it would be during a quieter time for the town. Businesses involved with the application include Main Street Burgers, Byron Community Centre, The Northern, the Beach Hotel, No Bones, and Common People Brewing.

'We are not limited to these businesses, and invite more businesses to get involved with the pilot', she said.

'It's all exciting', says Jeanie.

'We can develop a communication framework, and this will foster more collaboration with the community. We want to attract those who make Byron a vibrant and wonderful place to be', she said.

According to the Destination Byron application, 'Our vision is to enhance Byron's night-time vibrancy by forging links between local businesses and local talent in the region's creative community'.

'Culminating in a two-week

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Let's rummage through how our rubbish is managed!

Hans Lovejoy

Waste management is a core business for councils, and late last year, a question to Council's top brass revealed much around how our local waste is managed.

At Council's planning meeting on 13 November 2025, former mayor, Jan Barham, asked the following questions: 'Could advice be provided about how waste is managed in Byron Shire? 'Where does it go? How much is collected? How much is recycled? How much is attributed to visitors as opposed to residents? And how much does it cost as Byron Shire Council has the highest waste charges in the region?'

In summary, staff replied that after the three yellow, green and red bins are collected and delivered to the Byron Resource Recovery Centre (BBRC) in Myocum, they are then trucked out of the Shire to different facilities.

Landfill waste (the red bin), for example, goes to a facility in South-East Qld.

According to staff's reply,



The Re-Market (tip shop) at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre. Photo Byron Council

5,969 tonnes from red bins were disposed of at the Ti tree Bioenergy, Willowbank in the 2024-25 financial year.

In the same year, nearly the same amount of organics (6,026 tonnes) was collected and driven to Phoenix Recyclers in Yatala.

And staff say that commingled yellow bin recycling (4,521 tonnes) headed to a facility in Chinderah.

Qld waste targets

Yet according to a 2 February ABC report, Qld is generating waste at a faster rate than its population growth, with hundreds of thousands of extra tonnes of rubbish added in the past year as the state government vows to boost recycling. To address this, the Qld government said

it was 'already working with local councils and industry to boost recycling'.

The Echo asked Council staff, 'Given our waste goes to Qld, and the Qld government says that their own waste targets are not being met, has Council got a contingency, or is it working on one for waste?'

'What plans are there to manage waste in Byron in the coming years?'

'Plans for a bio-energy facility seem to have stalled, as has Council's solar farm plans near the Myocum tip.'

'How far away is the BBRC from hitting capacity?'

A Council spokesperson told *The Echo* they have contracts in place with its current transport and disposal of residual waste contractor

until at minimum 2030, 'with an optional three years to 2033 in South-East Qld'.

Regional solution

'We are working collaboratively with other Northern Rivers councils on a regional waste management solution, under the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Residual Waste Steering Committee, to address a Northern Rivers-focused solution to deal with both residual waste and other materials streams.'

'The BBRC is a transfer station, and there has been no active landfilling there since 2013.'

'Therefore, as materials come in, are sorted and then go out for further processing and recovery, it is not nearing capacity.'

'It should be noted that Council offers residents two \$50 waste disposal vouchers per annum for bulky waste at the BBRC, while others do not and therefore the fee structure may differ.'

'Council also allows materials in good condition that can be resold via the Re-Market (tip shop) to go there directly, at no charge.'

'This encourages source separation and recovery of materials and saves residents disposal costs', the Council spokesperson added.

While Byron and Ballina councils do not accept asbestos waste, Lismore City Council does. Tweed Shire Council only accepts asbestos from Tweed Shire residents.

Waste management by other councils

A Lismore City Council spokesperson told *The Echo* they expect to be returning to processing their hard rubbish in Lismore by the end of March, after restoring their facilities following the 2022 floods.

Yellow bin recycling is transported to the Re.Group

Materials Recovery Facility at Chinderah, say staff.

'Food and garden organics (green bin) waste is currently transported to Qld through a contractor where it is processed into compost products. Council explored options for local processing facilities; however, existing organics facilities in the region are currently unable to accept additional volumes.'

According to Ballina Council's website, 'Everything put in the red lid landfill bin is transported to the Ti Tree Bioenergy waste disposal facility, located in Willowbank, Qld'.

According to Tweed Shire Council's website, landfill waste is sent to the Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre located on Leddays Creek Road, in the small Tweed Shire town of Eviron.

'Organic household organic waste (green bin) is processed into compost at the on-site Tweed Organics Processing Facility, operated by Soilco', the website says.

'Mixed recycling (yellow bin) is processed at a separate facility in Chinderah and does not go to the landfill'.

* Standard membership is \$25 per week. From 1 March to 31 March 2026, new members can receive a \$0 joining fee (saving \$79) and their first month free (saving \$100) when they sign up and prepay for the first three months. After the initial three-month term, membership continues at \$25 per week with no lock-in contract. Members may cancel at any time with two week's notice thereafter.

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Wallum crunch time – where is the legal advice?

Hans Lovejoy

With the community-led effort to protect rare ecological and protected wetlands in Brunswick Heads from urbanisation coming to a conclusion in the courts soon, Save Wallum have appealed to Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye to support the release of Council's confidential legal advice.

The Echo has previously sought the release of the advice in the public interest, and Council staff refused, claiming it was privileged information.

Save Wallum believes it pertains to whether conditions were met by developer Clarence Property, and that information could influence the court's decision.

Cr Michael Lyon said last week he would move a Council motion to have it released, while noting it was not of importance.

Save Wallum's publicly-funded campaign took the developer to court after then mayor, Michael Lyon, had the numbers in Council to reject further money being spent on the case.

Svea Pittman from Save Wallum told The Echo the advice relates to the 'B4 consent condition', which requires an ecological and

Wallum on exhibition



A strong Northern Rivers presence helped shape the exhibition opening of *Holding Ground* at the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney last weekend. Photographers Mac Maderski and Mark Seiffert are exhibiting works documenting the threatened Wallum landscape at Brunswick Heads, while artist Lae Oldmeadow presented a striking series of works reflecting on nature and place. Photo Mark Seiffert

riparian buffer along the central watercourse on the proposed development site.

'Developers in the federal court case have relied in part on the argument that the development approval was lawfully granted and that stringent consent conditions and regulatory mechanisms are in place to manage environmental impacts.

'If there has been a failure to apply a consent condition, and the community has brought that to Council's attention, then action must now be taken to remedy that

error. At the very least, the various management plans should be aligned and not directly contradictory, as the WFMP and CEMP currently appear to be.

'For community members, the central question remains straightforward: transparency. Until then, many residents say releasing the independent advice is the only way to resolve growing uncertainty around one of the Byron Shire's most contentious developments.'

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye told The Echo, 'My commitment

to protecting Wallum has never wavered, and I hear the community's deep concern about transparency and due process.'

'I understand why people are frustrated. These are legitimate questions that deserve proper answers. What I can say is that Council has received legal advice, and that advice is subject to legal professional privilege.

'Cr Lyon's Notice of Motion means this will be debated at the 19 March Council meeting. That is the right place for this conversation. I'll have more to say once Council has voted on this issue, but I thank the many people in the community that have worked tirelessly to protect the threatened species and their habitat on this site.'

Right to know

Yet Pittman says, 'The community has a right to know. With zero social licence, and amidst such a heartfelt and broadly-based campaign to protect the Wallum land, any question regarding due process in relation to consent requirements or the planning process must be brought to light immediately.'

'For more than two years, we have been asking Council to clarify whether the B4 consent condition has been properly met,' she added.

Mullumbimby hydroelectric power station turns 100

► Continued from page 1

In 1923, the Mullumbimby Municipal Council engaged Corin to design a hydroelectric power project that would harness the flow of Wilsons Creek.

Construction began in 1924, with water from the creek diverted through a race and tunnel and then carried down a pipeline to a power station located further downhill.

From there, it drove Pelton turbines that generated electricity.

Electric lights powered by the scheme were first switched on in December 1925, and the station officially commenced operation on 6 March, 1926.

Having initially powered Mullumbimby unassisted, the plant was later supplemented with power from diesel generators during periods of low water flow.

The system was gradually expanded, and by the late 1950s the station's combined hydro and diesel generating capacity had increased to roughly 3.15 megawatts.

The facility was also



View of power station floor showing later diesel generators with original hydro turbines to rear. Photo wikipedia.org

connected to the wider electricity grid in 1938, allowing it to operate as part of a broader regional power network. 'It was an important piece of local infrastructure,' Ms Tsicalas said.

Source of income

'The Mullumbimby Municipal Council ran it and it was the Council's main source of income because the other council's had to pay a fee for the right to use the power.'

But as the decades passed it became increasingly clear that the power station simply wasn't keeping up with demand.

'There wasn't enough water moving through the Wilsons River to generate the power needed as the grid expanded to accommodate growth,' Ms Tsicalas said.

Heritage listing

Hydroelectric generation largely ceased during the 1960s, and the station was eventually decommissioned in 1990. Despite ongoing discussions about returning the station to active use as a source of sustainable and renewable energy, the facility is now essentially a historical artefact.

A heritage listing put in

place in 2014 means that it cannot be demolished or significantly changed. But the owners – Essential Energy and Byron Council – forbid anyone from going beyond the large metal gates and fencing which surround the facility.

'Robyn Gray and Ray Musgrave managed to get it heritage listed, but you can't go and bloody see it!' Ms Tsicalas said.

'We're told that there are community safety issues – asbestos etc. I understand that. But what's the point of it being state heritage listed if you can't go and see it?'

'I'd like to see it being opened up a couple of times a year under controlled circumstances and with the proper maintenance. You could have bus trips a couple of times a year. There's a couple of guys who worked there who are still around who could guide the tours.'

But for now, at least, the gates of the old power station remained closed, leaving this grand old relic to sit in silence the world continues to power along all around.

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Risks identified in Bangalow Flood Study

► Continued from page 1 containing an assessment of flood behaviour in the township, evaluating both riverine flooding and overland flooding from urban stormwater systems.

It includes modelling calibrated to the extreme February-March 2022 floods.



Flooding on Deacon Street, Bangalow in March 2022.
Photo Byron Shire Council

Byron Creek

It found that riverine flooding from Byron Creek and its tributaries was the dominant flood risk to Bangalow.

Five key riverine flood flashpoints were identified across the township, including the East Industrial Area and Lismore Road, Deacon Street and Ashton Street, George Street and Market Street, and the Raftons Road crossing of Paddys Creek.

‘Several of these locations experience deep and fast-moving floodwaters that affect multiple properties, critical road connections, and emergency access routes,’ said the authors of the study, Wilde Engineering Consulting.

Fire station access

‘Of particular note, flood modelling indicates that access to the Bangalow Fire

Station via Deacon Street is impacted during relatively frequent flood events, while alternative access routes are also compromised under larger and future climate scenarios.

These combined constraints represented ‘a material consideration for emergency response capability and evacuation planning,’ according to the report.

‘When considered in conjunction with the modelled inundation of Lismore Road and impacts on connectivity to regional emergency services, including Lismore Base Hospital, these combined access constraints represent a material consideration for

emergency management planning and response capability assessment.’

In addition to riverine flooding, the study identified five localised overland flooding flashpoints where intense rainfall exceeds the capacity of the urban stormwater system.

These areas were primarily characterised by temporary street ponding and localised flow paths that could disrupt traffic and pedestrian movement.

While overland flooding is generally less severe than riverine flooding, these locations still presented safety risks and ongoing operational and asset management

challenges the study found.

The study’s modelling indicated that riverine flood levels were projected to increase significantly as a result of climate change, with increases of approximately 250 to 500 millimetres at major flood flashpoints by the late century.

‘These increases result in a greater number of properties experiencing above-floor flooding, more frequent and longer road closures, and heightened flood hazards to people and infrastructure,’ the study’s authors stated.

‘Overall, the findings confirm that flood risk in Bangalow will intensify over time, even in the absence of additional development.’

Future development

The study has significant implications for future development in the town, as Council is required to take it into consideration when making future planning and development decisions.

It establishes preliminary Flood Planning Levels (FPLs) for Bangalow to guide future planning and development decisions.

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A tribute to Jess Flynn from the Stone & Wood family

The team at Stone & Wood are heartbroken at the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Jess Flynn, who passed away last week after an accident, while on holiday in Java.

Jess was more than a member of our team, she was a bright light in our community, someone whose warmth, spirit and generosity touched everyone lucky enough to know her.

Jess made her home in Byron Bay more than a decade ago after leaving Nova Scotia in search of sunshine, surf and a life close to the ocean.

Like many who arrive here, she quickly fell in love with the place and also gave back to the community that welcomed her.

Jess helped shape the culture and spirit that Stone & Wood is known for today.

She cared deeply about her work, and team, and her infectious enthusiasm brought the best out of everyone in her orbit.

Jess's journey with Stone & Wood began with something that now feels beautifully fitting: a handwritten letter. Nearly ten years ago, she wrote to express how much



Jess at The Pass. Photo Maria Nilsson of Atmossea

she wanted to be part of our team. That old-school gesture captured something essential about Jess, thoughtful, genuine and willing to put her whole heart into the things she cared about.

Fearless enthusiasm

Outside of work, Jess lived life with the same fearless enthusiasm. She loved the ocean and spent countless hours chasing waves along the coastline she called home. Many in the surfing community will remember her carving through the lineup at The Pass.

Jess was an adventurer. She travelled often, explored widely and approached life

with curiosity and openness. She had purchased land in Java and loved returning there, another chapter in that lifelong love of discovery, a place of waves, sunshine and friendship.

But what so many of us will remember most about Jess was her heart and her extraordinary ability to connect with people. Jess listened deeply, cared genuinely and made those around her feel valued.

Within the Stone & Wood family, Jess was one of those people who brought everyone together.

She embodied the sense of community that sits at the heart of what we do. Whether

it was rallying the team for a cause, welcoming new faces, or simply bringing laughter into a long day, Jess helped create the culture that so many of us cherish.

Our thoughts are with Jess' family back in Canada, and with the many friends here and around the world who are grieving her loss.

We hope they can find comfort in the extraordinary number of lives she touched and the memories she leaves behind.

Jess lived with adventure, courage, joy and a deep love for the people and places around her and her spirit will continue to ripple through this community.

The sudden loss of Jess is something that words struggle to express. It has left an enormous space in our hearts and in the community she loved so deeply. She will be deeply missed.

March 13 paddle out

Friends are invited to celebrate Jess' life with a paddle out at Clarke's Beach on Friday, 13 March. Arrive from 10am for 11am paddle out.

■ By Paul Tansley, on behalf of the Stone & Wood family.

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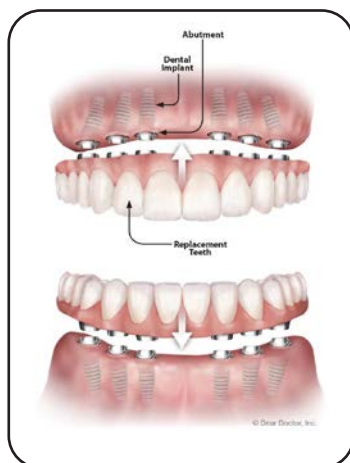


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Fire ant eradication methods questioned by academics

Hans Lovejoy

A new international study published in *Austral Ecology* warns the massive 'broadcast baiting' campaign currently used to combat red imported fire ants (RIFA) in South-East Queensland may be doing more harm than good.

The authors, Southern Cross University's Professor Nigel Andrew and Professor Joshua King (University of Central Florida), argue that large-scale use of non-specific pesticides, known as insect growth regulators (IGRs), inadvertently enables fire ants to expand their territory.

They say, 'Applications of IGRs on areas larger than 10,000 hectares have never been successful in eradicating fire ants; the current area that fire ants occupy in South-East Queensland is now over one million hectares'.

Last week, fire ants were detected at Binna Burra in the Scenic Rim, on the Qld/NSW border, west of Tweed Heads.

Personnel from National Fire Ant Eradication Program (NFAE) say eradication and surveillance activities are underway at the site.

'Everyone in Binna Burra and surrounds is encouraged to look for, and report, suspect fire ants online or by calling 132 ANT (13 22 68)'.

Fire ants rebound quicker than natives

Professors Andrew and King say invasive species, such as fire ants, rebounded quicker than native invertebrate species after being exposed to pesticides such as IGRs at large scales, enabling them to recolonise areas baited and to colonise areas where native competitors and predators have been removed via baiting.

The researchers recommend moving from a one-size-fits-all eradication approach to precision, fire ant-specific strategies.

They highlight a critical 'ecological vacuum' effect.

'By spreading insect pesticides such as IGRs over areas of South-East Queensland, current programs are killing off the native invertebrate competitors and predators that serve as the first line of defence against fire ant queens'.



Don't play with fire ants! Photo www.webmd.com

'We are essentially clearing the neighbourhood for the fire ant invader when we mass-release IGRs into the environment over large areas,' says Professor Andrew.

'Because RIFA are faster at recolonising recently treated areas than our native invertebrate species, the current strategy may be facilitating a faster spread rather than achieving eradication.'

Study rejected by federal govt

A spokesperson from NFAE rejected the findings, but told *The Echo*, 'The NFAE welcomes research into fire ants and eradication methods'.

'Strong science underpins effective and efficient biosecurity responses, and we continue to collaborate with researchers to strengthen outcomes and achieve eradication by 2032.'

'Our eradication strategy works. It is informed by independent assessments, strict regulatory frameworks, and robust Australian and international science.'

'Our broadscale treatment prevents fire ant queens from producing viable offspring, leading to colony collapse. It remains the only proven eradication method effective at the scale required in Australia.'

'There is no local evidence

to support claims that eradication treatment enables fire ants to expand their territory.'

'Australia has eradicated eight of nine fire ant incursions – significantly slowing their spread. Other countries are now looking to our approach. We recently hosted delegates from Colorado, Guam, and Hawaii to share our methods and support their response efforts.'

'Without our intervention, fire ants could have spread as far north as Townsville, west past Longreach and south to Albury.'

'Fire ants pose a serious threat by outcompeting and displacing native ant species. Our treatment specifically targets fire ants, which prefer foods high in oil and protein.'

'The low concentration of IGRs reduces the likelihood of impacts on non-targeted invertebrates that may encounter the treatment product incidentally.'

'Our science team continues to study fire ants and explore new eradication tools. We work with universities to assess treatment products, methods, and impacts. We have also assessed hot water

treatment and found it is not a feasible large-scale eradication method.'

'The 2021 independent strategic review confirmed eradication by 2032 is possible, and Australia remains uniquely positioned to succeed under the fire ant response plan 2023–27. Ongoing community support and property access to undertake treatment remains critical to our success,' said the spokesperson.

Biological pivot

The researchers suggest identifying unique physiological and behavioural traits – such as specific odorant receptors – to create baits that only fire ants will take.

They also suggest using natural landscape features and invertebrate competitors to create 'resistance zones' that naturally suppress RIFA movement.

Direct nest injection with chemicals or hot water (FASO method); and targeted baiting (e.g. subterranean bait stations) which leave the surrounding ecosystems intact are also recommended by the professors.

Streets Alive! It's a free mini festival in Brunswick Heads

Paul Bibby

The experience of watching a big festival roll into town can be a bit deflating if you haven't got a ticket.

As thousands pour in to dance, drink and be merry, all you get is extra traffic, a queue at your local cafe, and the oh-so-reassuring knowledge that 'this is good for the local economy'.

But this year those who don't have the money or the time to get to Bluesfest will

be able to get a little taste of the action for free.

The government-funded 'Open Streets' program, and Bluesfest, are putting on a two-day mini festival in Brunswick Heads on the weekend before Bluesfest.

'Streets Alive Brunswick Heads' will be held over the weekend of 28 and 29 March in Banner Park and Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads.

Running from 12 midday to 8pm on both days, the event will feature some classic

festival flavours, including live music and busking performances, roving entertainers, food stalls, and a pop-up licensed area.

There will also be some family-friendly offerings, including creative art activities, interactive play zones and rides.

Local schools, artists and community groups will be a particular feature of the event, showcasing the talent and creativity of the local community.

'The heart of Brunswick

Heads will transform into a buzzing, pedestrian-friendly playground filled with music, food and community vibes,' the organisers of the event said.

'The event supports local businesses, celebrates the region's culture and brings people together for an unforgettable shared experience.'

Organisers are hoping for 2,000 attendees across the weekend, and also that many will leave their cars at home as one of the town's main streets will be closed.

Byron drainage works continue

The Byron Drainage Project, headed by Byron Shire Council, has moved into the intersection of Jonson Street and Byron Street in Byron Bay, near The Northern hotel.

In a media release, Council staff say, 'The intersection upgrade works are scheduled to be finished by the end of May, weather permitting, followed by works in Byron Street. With the intersection now closed, motorists are asked to slow down and follow the detours and traffic control. Pedestrian

access is maintained – please follow the signage.'

Clock tower removal

'This week will see the decommissioning of the Rotary clock tower, which will be reconstructed at the end of the drainage works. The size and shape will be much the same as the original clock tower, and the clock faces and operating mechanism will be retained.'

'And a reminder that businesses remain open – shop local!'




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Mullumbimby hybrid water supply plan moves ahead

Paul Bibby

Byrone Council has begun moving ahead with its plan to create a hybrid water supply scheme for Mullumbimby.

Late last year, the decades-long debate over the future of the town's water supply was seemingly resolved, with councillors deciding on a scheme in which water would come from both the local Lavertys Gap weir and the Rous County Council (RCC) regional supply.

Council staff have now begun the planning process for the hybrid scheme.

In an update presented to and endorsed by the Water and Sewer Advisory

Committee on February 26, staff indicated that a key operational principle of the scheme was that the two water sources would remain physically separated within the network.

Staff said this approach was needed in order to reduce water quality risks and support regulatory compliance by allowing clearer monitoring and management of each supply.

Under early planning for the scheme, permanent connection to the Rous regional network would supply the vast majority of the town – serving approximately 1,770 water connections via the Azalea Street reservoir.

The Lavertys Gap weir

would supply the 13 rural properties in Wilsons Creek connected directly to the trunk main, and approximately 90 water connections via the Left Bank Road reservoir.

However, before any final decision is made, Council plans to carry out a series of technical studies to determine whether the project is feasible.

These investigations will examine regulatory

requirements, the amount of water that could reliably be supplied from Lavertys Gap weir, possible locations and capacity for a new treatment plant, and the planning approvals required.

Financially viable

The studies will also help Council determine whether the project stacks up financially.

As the report notes, the work will help identify 'what

is the business case for the scheme, and what are the financial implications to Council and the community'.

The investigation phase is expected to cost around \$220,000, covering specialist consultant studies, staff time and contingencies.

Work has already begun, with Council establishing a project control group and beginning discussions with state regulators, including NSW Health and

the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

Council staff say these early conversations are aimed at identifying potential regulatory issues before the project progresses further.

Consultants are also being engaged to undertake a secure yield assessment of Lavertys Gap weir, which will determine how much water the source could reliably provide to the town.

Bums are back in the saddle



About 170 nude cyclists did a couple of blocks around Byron on Sunday to raucous cheers and the applause of onlookers. *Echo* photographer Jeff spotted two young women taking a selfie with the riders in the background saying, 'Now do you believe we're in Byron Bay?' The World Nude Bike Ride aims to draw attention to the insanity of continuing to exploit fossil fuels. Photo Jeff 'Fossil Fool' Dawson

Got a sustainable house?

With Sustainable House Day on 17 May, Council is encouraging those with a sustainable home to open it up to the public.

In a media release, Council staff say, 'The process is simple: just upload a few photos, provide a short description of your home, and submit your application by Wednesday, 11 March at sustainablehouseday.com.

'Council is inviting residents

who have completed (or are progressing) climate-resilient builds, passive solar designs, retrofits using low-impact materials, or any other sustainability-focused improvements, to consider opening their homes'.

'If you've made purposeful changes and are willing to share the insights you gained along the way, your home could be the spark that inspires someone else'.

Night-time economy project announced for Byron Bay

► Continued from page 1 festival of culture and ideas that is backed by a marketing, communications and PR campaign to draw local residents and visitors into Byron's town centre for a memorable night out'.

Four festival pillars are defined: the arts, entrepreneurship, wellbeing, and sustainability.

'Local businesses will collaborate to offer new experiences around Byron's town centre; with a curated schedule that avoids clashes and keeps every festival pillar active'.

Byron Business Chamber president Matt Williamson told *The Echo* the plans by Destination Byron were supported by the chamber.



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The journey from *Puberty Blues* to menopausal magnificence



Author Kathy Lette was in Bangalow last Friday to promote her latest witty novel, *Sisterhood Rules*. She was in conversation with Nell Schofield, who starred in the *Puberty Blues* film, which was based on the book by Lette and Gabrielle Carey. Hosted by the Byron Writers Festival, Lette managed to turn the literary event into something more closely resembling a comedy set. Described on *Kath & Kim* as the 'Thinking Lady's Hornbag', she told the audience she is an 'autodidact', a word she taught herself. Photo 'Non-Thinking Man Bag' Dawson

Giving back through palliative help

For over 30 years, Amitayus Home Hospice Service has been providing palliative support and non-medical assistance to people at end of life, or living with life-limiting conditions who wish to remain at home as long as possible.

They are a non-sectarian, not-for-profit organisation serving the Byron Shire and surrounds.

Offering free care

President Gina Trengrove says, 'We offer respite to families and primary carers, free of cost'.

'We aim to uphold and enhance people's independence and freedom of choice in challenging circumstances'.

Those looking for a meaningful and fulfilling way to be involved in the community are invited to the 'last aid'



Kim Elliott, president Gina Trengrove, Zenith Virago, Emma Williams, and Ron Buckstein. Photo Jeff Dawson

volunteer carers training, to be held 8-10 May, at the Byron Community College in Mullumbimby.

Amitayus AGM

Additionally, the public are welcome to the upcoming Amitayus AGM on Thursday, April 9, from 5pm at the Brunswick Heads CWA rooms.

Ms Trengrove adds, 'We are looking for volunteer carers and those with organisational skills for our committee'.

'We know there are lots of people in our community looking to contribute to a worthwhile cause'.

For more information email info@amitayus.org.au or call 0468 483 857.

Teddy bears' picnic community day

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce are joining forces with Spaghetti Circus, to bring a free, family-friendly community celebration to Mullumbimby.

The chamber says, 'The free teddy bears' picnic community day will be held at the Mullumbimby Showground on Saturday, 28 March from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, and everyone is welcome'.

'A colouring-in competition is being distributed to

local preschools and primary schools ahead of the event, with entries to be displayed and judged on the day.

'The Brunswick Valley Historical Society will also be involved on the day, inviting community members to bring along a teddy bear with a story.

'These special bears and their histories will be put on display for everyone to enjoy, adding a wonderful layer of local colour and nostalgia to the celebrations.

'Local businesses are encouraged to get involved by donating prizes to the raffle and dressing up their shopfronts for the occasion- helping to create a festive atmosphere right across town.

Window dressing

'The picnic is on 28 March so we are hoping businesses will participate from Friday 20 March to dress their windows. We are hoping everyone will get involved'.



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Surfit are celebrating their first Byron birthday

From a gym on the main drag in Lennox Head, to a new home at Epiq and a second gym in Byron, Surfit is on a steep learning and growth trajectory – now celebrating their first year, Surfit gym Byron Bay is looking toward the future and many more years ahead.

Surfit owner Dave Westaway says the first year in the Byron location has been amazing. ‘We have developed an amazing community within our club.’

‘We have set up the gym with strict rules regarding privacy, hygiene and tidiness. We have banned tripods and filming, towels must be used, and shoes are to be worn at all times. We also heavily discourage the use of phones for anything other than workout-related activities.’

These rules aren’t popular with a handful of members, but it’s a welcome change to what many people experience in most gyms around the world.’

Westaway, who has operated the mothership Surfit gym for over a decade, says that the time between the vision and the reality of the Byron gym was about five

We’re really strongly community-focused. We’re just creating communities within the community... Prospective marriages have started in the gym. It’s nice.

– Surfit owner Dave Westaway



Surfit staff member Ariel took a moment to check in with gym member Bella between leg extensions. Photo Tree Faerie

years. ‘It’s great to have one of our gyms in Byron.’

‘I had one in Ballina before that, and I was a trainer in Sydney for 15 years before that. Over that five or six years there was never any suitable place. When this site came up it was very similar to our one in Lennox Head, which

is in the shopping centre above Woolworths. So really, it was almost the same situation, and we pretty much did the same thing.’

Westaway says the Byron reality has exceeded the expectations of the original vision. ‘The community of people that we have here is great, like the seniors’ classes

three days a week, it’s a nice, little, beautiful community event.’

‘We’re really strongly community-focused. We’re just creating communities within the community. It’s funny when we see people in here and they’re all in their own group – they make their own little social group. And

couples! Prospective marriages have started in the gym. It’s nice.

‘We are also out in the community. We are sponsors of a couple of footy teams and we are involved with other events. We support locals – like the wildlife hospital fundraiser.

‘We’re really the only club here in Byron – we found that there was a need for a gym that was new and had great parking, especially on the bottom level – it’s always empty!’

Westaway says there are subtle difference between the Lennox and Byron gyms. ‘Lennox has a lot more classes. We really didn’t go much for classes here, it’s a different demographic. Lennox is a lot more family-orientated, and a bit older, but on average, realistically, the type of person that comes to use it is very similar.’

Westaway says the Byron gym will be celebrating in March with membership deals and a spinning wheel for members with prizes from energy drinks to free memberships.

Westaway says the next 12 months will be about consolidation. ‘We’re really happy with how it’s all going. So after one year, to be able to just look back and say, “well, it’s come such a long way”, is great stuff. We’re really just lucky. We’ve got great staff and great members.’

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

Manslaughter charge over Kambo death

Following an investigation and coronial inquest, a man will face court charged with manslaughter following the 2021 death of a man near Kyogle.

Renewed push for NSW drug driving law change

The NSW Greens say they're ready to help fix unfair state laws punishing medicinal cannabis patients.

Man charged over alleged armed robbery – Murwillumbah

A man faced court yesterday after being charged over the alleged armed robbery of a man at Murwillumbah.

Police and fire vehicles crash – Lismore

A police vehicle and Rural Fire Service truck have been involved in a crash at Wollongbar.

Man charged with indecently assaulting a boy in Ballina

A man will face court today charged with allegedly indecently assaulting a boy in Ballina last month.

Man charged with alleged break and enter – Tweed Heads

Police say a man will face court today following an aggravated break and enter in Tweed Heads last month.

Team Koala hands over cheques to help wildlife

World Wildlife Day this year saw two very welcome donations from Murwillumbah-based volunteer environmental group Team Koala, the product of months of fundraising, to local wildlife organisations.

www.echo.net.au

All hands on deck: construction industry called to lead rebuild

The Northern Rivers is entering its most critical home rebuilding phase, and the NSW government has issued a region-wide call for licensed builders and trades to help homeowners upgrade, raise, rebuild or relocate homes impacted by the 2022 floods.

With a 2027 program deadline looming, the focus has shifted from administrative assessments to active construction sites. Builders, designers, engineers, architects, project managers and house relocation specialists are urgently needed to support communities to meet this deadline.

With a multi-year pipeline of work now confirmed, there has never been a better time for builders and contractors to get involved in the Northern Rivers recovery.

To ensure the industry is briefed on these significant opportunities and the technical requirements for resilient construction, the NSW Reconstruction Authority is hosting a series of regional engagement sessions.

Local tradies are encouraged to attend an upcoming 'Builder Brekkie' or information workshop to connect with the program team and learn how to access this work. The full list is below.

Resilient homes

Following the devastating 2022 floods, the Australian and NSW governments established the Northern Rivers Resilient Homes Program (RHP) to reduce long-term flood risk across seven local government areas.

The program supports voluntary home buybacks

and resilience measures including house-raising, retrofitting, rebuilding and relocation. In addition, the NSW Reconstruction Authority is working with delivery partners to unlock land for hundreds of homes across the region in 2026, with thousands more in future years, driving demand for builders and skilled workers to construct housing options ranging from small one- and two-bed homes and terraces, to larger three- and four-bed family homes.

Coupled with private developments taking off across the Northern Rivers, there is a clear pipeline of work for many years to come.

These efforts will sit alongside the NSW Reconstruction Authority's work with councils and

communities planning for the future use of vacant buy-back land, with consultation to occur throughout 2026 for all areas with buyback land, particularly in Lismore, South Murwillumbah, Kyogle, and Richmond Valley.

Northern Rivers Resilient Homes Program

- Total program funding: \$880 million co-funded by the NSW and Australian Governments.

- Deadline: all building and renovation works must be completed by 31 March 2027.

- Pipeline of work: approximately 600 homes are slated for resilient measures (raising, retrofitting, or rebuilding) in this final phase.

- Grants available for homeowners: home raising/rebuild/relocation: grants up to \$100,000. Home retrofit: grants up to \$50,000 for flood-resilient materials and modifications. Co-contribution bonus: the program will match homeowner contributions dollar-for-dollar, potentially doubling total project value (up to \$200,000 for raising/rebuilds or \$100,000 for retrofits).

- Design support: homeowners can access an additional \$20,000 grant specifically for planning, design, and development application (DA) costs.

- Priority areas: recovery efforts are concentrated across the seven LGAs of Lismore, Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, and Tweed.

Fighting for forests

As some Lismore and Ballina councillors seek to prevent further protections for local koala habitat, ruling out extensions to the Great Koala National Park, Northern Rivers Guardians have announced two public events focusing on forests, happening later this month in Lismore. Saturday, 21 March will see the Forest Frontline Environmental Forum, with an opportunity to better understand what's at stake, and hear from experts and frontline campaigners about the threats to local forests. Learn what you can do as an individual and community to secure protection for Richmond River Koala Parks.

This forum is happening



Koala at Braemar State Forest 25km south of Casino. Photo Dailan Pugh

from 3pm to 6pm at the Whitebrook Theatre, Southern Cross University, Lismore.

The following day, Sunday, 22 March, will see a March for Forests through the streets of Lismore, as part of a national day of action, in conjunction with the Bob Brown Foundation. There will be speakers and performers at the Quad from 10am.

Domestic violence at least 25% of all Northern Rivers arrests

A 29-year-old Stokers Siding man is to appear at Tweed Heads Local Court charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm in a domestic violence (DV) context.

Police said his arrest on 3 March was just one of 49 across the Tweed Byron district in the week ending March 4.

Twelve of the arrests, or more than a quarter, were related to domestic violence.

Further south in the Richmond Police District, which includes Ballina and Lismore local government areas, more than a third of all arrests the same week related to domestic violence.

Officers there arrested 40 people for a variety of charges, 24 of them

including DV offences.

Assault is the most common DV offence in Tweed Byron.

There were eight charges for domestic violence assault laid in the Tweed Byron District, making it the most common DV-related offence there, and another five in the Richmond Police District.

Breaching AVO

The most common DV-related offence in the Richmond PD was for breaching a domestic violence apprehended violence order (AVO), while it was the second most common in Tweed Byron.

Multiple charges were also laid in each district for stalking and/or intimidation and for destroying property.

Tweed Byron officers said they charged someone for intentionally choking a person in a domestic violence incident.

Meanwhile, a 36-year-old from Tweed Heads South was ordered to 12 months' intensive correction after being found guilty of a series of DV-related offences against a vulnerable family member.

Officers said they used capsicum spray and control tactics in their arrest of a 21-year-old man in Ballina who was wanted on two outstanding warrants for alleged AVO breaches.

They said he provided false details and resisted arrest and is to appear before Lismore Local Court today.

Janelle Saffin MP

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Reflections unveil plans for camping among WW1 Bruns memorial

Hans Lovejoy

Plans to provide ten 'soft' camping sites around a protected and diminished cypress pine tree community, planted to honour local WW1 soldiers in Brunswick Heads, is being pushed by NSW government-run holiday park company Reflections.

The protected pines are located at the southern end of the Terrace Park near the abandoned tennis courts and along Simpsons Creek.

The protected pines have been degraded under Reflections management, after they allowed campers and vehicles under the trees.

Whether Reflections have properly managed the pines has long been contested by residents and Council, along with Reflections' maintenance of the public foreshore, public access and adherence to Reflections' legal obligations.

Plan of management

Central to Reflections' operations is an approved Plan of Management (PoM) and 'licence to operate', which applies to all

government-run land assets such as holiday parks.

Reflections told *The Echo* that it is operating under the 2014 PoM, despite residents claiming an updated amended PoM was agreed upon between Reflections, community members and Council in 2019.

After that 2019 agreement, former Reflections CEO, Steve Edmonds, took Council to court for deemed refusal after it did not provide a licence for the contested southern precinct. The court made their decision in 2021: *Reflections Holiday Parks Terrace Reserve v Byron Shire Council (No 2) NSWLEC 51*.

The court accepted Council's position that continued operation of the park, particularly in the central and southern precincts, had the potential to cause serious harm to the cypress pine trees.

Self compliance

As for PoM compliance, Council staff told *The Echo* last week that as Crown Land managers, Reflections is responsible for 'ensuring compliance with any applicable PoM'.

As for their approval to



Stella and Spike Dodd hear how their grandfather, D'Arcy O'Meara, watered the pines in the Terrace Reserve Caravan Park when he attended Brunswick Heads Primary School. Photo Sean O'Meara

operate at the location, Council staff told *The Echo* Council are responsible for assessing and issuing approvals to operate the Terrace Reserve as a caravan park under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

They said, 'Council understands that Reflections intends to submit a new "Approval to Operate" application for The Terrace Reserve. Once received, Council staff will assess the application to determine whether an Approval to Operate as a caravan park should be issued'.

Reflections told *The Echo*

last week they sought Byron Shire Council endorsement of the plan to locate ten camping sites in the southern precinct, 'which is in line with Reflections' current S68 Licence to Operate'.

The Echo understands this represents a change to the 2021 court order.

Reflections also say that the small amenities block in the southern precinct will be removed.

The remaining memorial planting of coastal cypress pines survives at the southern precinct of The Terrace Park, which is where

Reflections propose to establish ten semi-permanent camping tents. No car parking is proposed owing to the sensitive nature of the root system of the pines.

The coastal cypress pines are considered an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

26 camping sites

Reflections says that while it has approval for 26 camping sites in the southern coastal cypress pine precinct, they plan to erect ten fixed camping tents.

The semi-permanent structures are designed so they won't interfere with the roots of the cypress pines, says Reflections.

The Echo asked for assurance that these semi-permanent structures can withstand cyclones and heavy weather.

They said, 'The ten camping tents will be installed on fixed decks secured using a concrete free Eco Anchor foundation system'.

'This design has been selected to ensure the root systems of the existing trees in the precinct are protected.

Public access

Residents had long fought to retain public access walkway along the riverbank, including where long-term residents have blocked access in the central precinct.

While Reflections management say they have no power to remove the blockages to the pathway by the long-term residents, there will be a 'more defined walking trail [at the southern precinct] with a perimeter fence at a cost of approximately \$60,000'.

'This will run from the tennis court end of the precinct, connecting to the riverbank boundary and continue through the precinct. This will provide residents with access through the precinct and will ensure safe access can continue during the construction period.

And while Reflections say they will 'endeavour to achieve the 3m setback,' the width of the walking trail through the southern precinct 'will vary due to the established trees along the walking trail and riverbank erosion in some sections'.

Do you need help to make your home more flood-resilient?

Join us at a Resilient Measures Information Session.

Connect with the NSW Reconstruction Authority, council and industry professionals for advice on grant funding and support available to make your home safer and more flood resilient.

Local construction industry is welcome to attend.

Byron Shire

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to open our doors every single day.

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we are so grateful to you.





The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #40 • March 11, 2026

Drip, drip, drip

With the US and Israel's war on Iran unlikely to end soon, Australia's lack of fuel security is worth a closer look. This has been an ongoing managerial problem for years, led by the federal duopoly of Labor and the Liberal/Nationals coalition. Think tank, the Australian Institute, says Australia has long failed to meet the International Energy Agency (IEA) requirement of holding 90 days of net imports, with stocks closer to about 50 days as of 2025. We rely on imports for about 90 per cent of liquid fuels (petrol, diesel, jet fuel), according to another think tank, www.lowyinstitute.org.

Fossil fuel behind 98 per cent of transport

And the Lowy Institute says fuel powers roughly 98 per cent of the transport sector, 'making supply disruptions a major economic and national security risk'. Iran has now closed the Strait of Hormuz, with threats it will 'set fire' to any ships trying to pass through. The world's busiest oil shipping channel provides one-fifth of the world's seaborne crude oil supply (and other things too), yet funnily enough, this doesn't impact the US, because they are energy self-reliant. But it impacts us, because we rely on Asian refineries (primarily in Singapore, South Korea, Japan, and Malaysia), and these refineries largely rely on crude oil from the Middle East. Oil refineries have also been closing in Australia over the past decade, with only two still operational: the Ampol Lytton Refinery in Brisbane, and the Viva Energy Refinery in Geelong. Refineries not only produce petrol, but diesel, LPG, jet fuel, avgas and low aromatic fuels. According to the Brisbane refinery, it can process up to 109,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) and the Geelong refinery says it can process up to 120,000 bbl/d. But that's nowhere near enough – Australia consumes approximately 1.09 to 1.15 million bbl/d, as of 2024–25, according to www.worldometers.info. With the recent vulnerability, the federal government have made some moves to ensure more oil security, such as the Fuel Security Package in 2020-21. But is it enough? And why not accelerate other fuels and technologies? Independent organisation Climate Council (climatecouncil.org.au) argue that, 'Now is the time to double down on policies to accelerate the renewable rollout and make the benefits of rooftop solar, storage and electrification more accessible'. The electrification of homes, industry and transport is perhaps the only way to future-proof us from oil dependence. Norway leads global electric vehicle (EV) adoption, with reuters.com reporting 95.9 per cent of all new cars registered in 2025 were EVs. Why? Incentives and tax breaks were established in the 1990s. It's time for federal Labor to get cracking on it!

Hans Lovejoy, acting editor

Knee-jerk, evidence-free legislating

When there is a mooted new medication for a disease, there is a detailed process for approval which has developed over centuries.

There are experiments and several phases of trials and eventually, when and only when, it jumps all the hurdles, the medication is approved.

This is as it should be, because there is great harm that can be potentially caused by taking medications that either do not cure, or because the side effects are worse.

Of course, there are still stuff-ups, but the process is designed to be evidence-based, to minimise harm, and maximise benefit.

It is a shame we don't apply that sort of rigour to other types of perceived ailments in our society and instead clutch at punitive measures as a catch-all.

Take youth crime. In almost every jurisdiction in Australia penalties are being increased for young offenders.

In the Northern Territory, they are locking up more and more for longer and longer periods of time.

In Queensland, 'Adult Time for Adult Crime' means much longer sentences, even life sentences, for young people and they have just this week increased the number of offences where it applies.

In Victoria, they are touting the toughest regime for sentencing and bail for young people in Australia.

And in NSW, it is often harder for a young person to get bail than an adult with the same charges and criminal record.

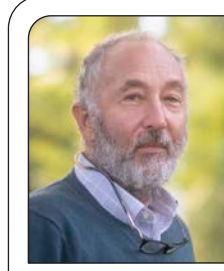
Not evidence-based

And it's mainly Aboriginal kids affected. Yet nowhere is there any evidence that this works to reduce crime. No tests, no experiments, no trials just wham bam and 'lock the little buggers up'.

Yet we know that these regimes increase harm – removing children from family and Country, making them suffer in detention, increasing their risks of reoffending on release and creating a new wave of undergraduates for adult prison.

Next, take reducing antisemitism.

NSW has drastically reduced the right to protest, shifting all the power from the courts to the police, and



'Where is the evidence from anywhere in the world that any of these criminal law measures will actually reduce terrorism or hatred of Jewish people?'

– David Heilpern

using major event legislation to limit marchers and protesters even more.

NSW will be banning one phrase, Queensland two, and the Commonwealth hate crime laws have been so far used only to shut down and seize art works at a Canberra cafe called Dissent, which pictured Netanyahu in a poster as a Nazi.

Criminalising everything from walking with watermelons to mouthing phrases such as 'free Palestine' are touted as effective measures against terrorism and antisemitism.

But where is the evidence from anywhere in the world that any of these criminal law measures will actually reduce terrorism or hatred of Jewish people?

More knee-jerk, evidence-free legislating and policy making that has more to do with foot-stomping and do-something electioneering than actually making a difference.

And yet the harm caused by these repressive measures is demonstrable immediately.

I have been litigating, determining, studying and commenting on police brutality for all of my working life, and I have never seen anything like the vicious and pitiless violence perpetrated by junior moustached officers during the protests by tens of thousands of citizens against Herzog.

It is simply impossible for this to have occurred in the full knowing glare of multiple mobile phones and media without green-lighting from above. Well above.

These young people in uniform were not about to throw away their career by punching, spraying, hitting and charging members of parliament, pensioners and students without very clear clearing clearance. Then there is the harm of assaulting people of the Muslim faith engaged in prayer. After other police approved it.

Then there is the incalculable harm to our freedoms – of speech, of

movement, of protest and of association. These have been hard fought by toil and sweat and blood and will be almost impossible to gouge back after this latest legislative salad of criminalisation without evidence.

Yet, of course, there is plenty of evidence as to what works with youth crime – resources for education, safety at home, recreational activity, drug and alcohol counselling, disability support, family counselling, transport options. Almost every repeat young offender has been a victim of crime and has been reported as in need of care.

And I think we all know at least one way to reduce antisemitism pretty quick smart too, only no-one is game to say it. Not really. Not out loud. Not in print. I'll give you a hint. It has something to do with Gaza. We whisper it to each other in small gatherings checking first to see if we are committing one offence or another.

Science methodology

So, here's an idea.

Let's try utilising the same process for criminalisation and penalties as we do for medicine.

Trials, tests, approval and then monitoring. We might actually get somewhere on youth crime and antisemitism if we do. But perhaps, just perhaps, the powers that be don't want to reduce either. My conspiracy inner voice says – maybe they like it just the way it is.

And to answer a question I am being asked at least 460 times per day – can Pauline Hanson be prosecuted under the NSW rushed hate laws for saying there are no good Muslims? No. Because that legislation protects Jews as intended. But not Muslims, as intended. Surprised?

■ Professor David Heilpern is SCU Dean of Law and Chair of Discipline, Faculty of Business, Law and Arts.



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1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Mandy's Soapbox

'We are all we have'. Thank you, Mandy! Agree! It's all so very grim out there!

I know that is such an understatement! But 'yes', 'we are all we have'.

Ashara Branson
Mullumbimby

Division in our community

As war once again dominates our news feeds, public debate collapses into familiar binaries: for or against, liberator or aggressor, good versus evil. Social media demands allegiance.

History shows that when populations are emotionally mobilised, structural change often unfolds behind the scenes.

Wars expand state power, surveillance grows, public debt rises, and legislation accelerates under urgency. While citizens argue morality, the future being built behind the headlines moves forward largely unexamined, including the digital systems increasingly shaping daily life.

It is possible to hold more than one truth at once: civilians everywhere deserve safety and dignity; extremist violence is real; military escalation carries devastating consequences; and governments often act from strategic interests rather than moral absolutes.

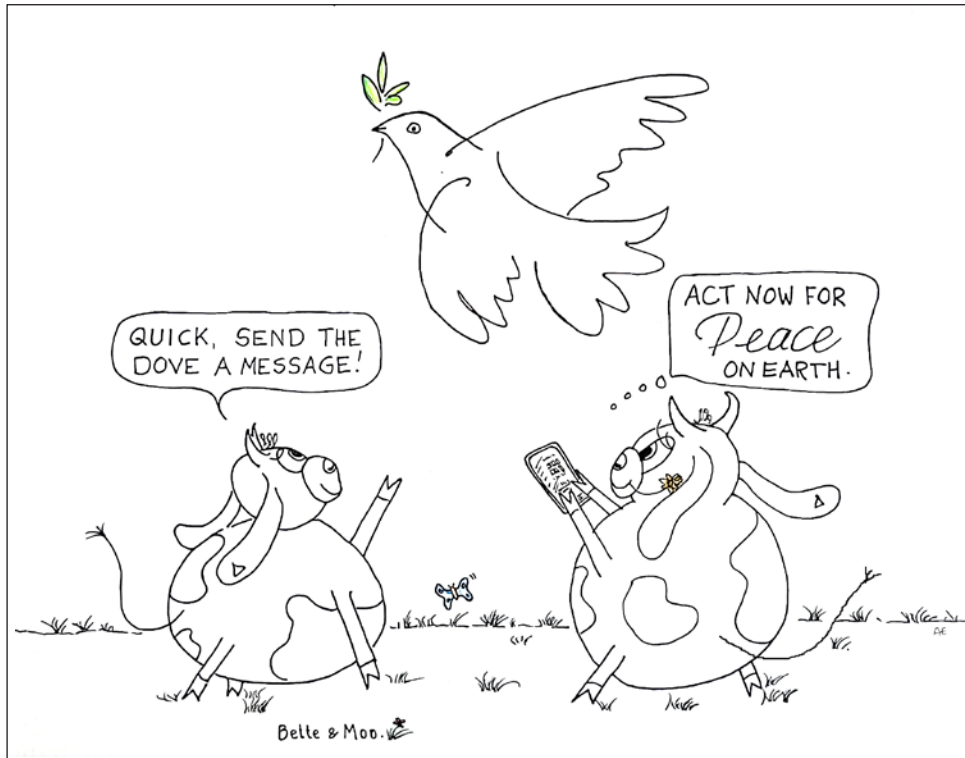
There is another response available. Instead of reacting with outrage or certainty, we can pause and think clearly. We can question concentrated power, refuse collective blame, and resist dehumanising entire populations for the actions of leaders.

In an age of instant narratives, steadiness is personal sovereignty. When we refuse to be herded into division, we protect our discernment, and that may be the most powerful stance of all.

Fiona Kaminski
Ocean Shores

Terrible new weed

There is a new, terrible emergent weed species *dyschoriste nagchana* (common name in Australia is snake herb), that takes over and smothers



Act now for peace. Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbey

disturbed or grassed areas in particular. It chokes out virtually all competitors and spreads rapidly.

Managing or eliminating it at this stage appears really difficult unless you catch it very early and meticulously pick it out by hand, bag, and remove it.

The first action by most people has been mechanical, mowing or brush cutting, PLEASE DON'T, IT DOESN'T WORK, every cut fragment can become a new plant.

The main vector for spreading appears, at the moment, to be mowing and gardening contractors who have seeds or fragments attached to equipment.

A good understanding of how to manage, treat, or eliminate it is very limited at present, even in Brisbane, where it has spread from. Early identification is the key, if you get to it quickly, you will save yourself serious costs and heartache. Good luck everybody.

Malcolm Price
Mullumbimby

Eco-tourism future for Byron Shire

With interest in Cr Delta Kay's passed motion in Council, for eco-tourism advancement in our shire, I see great potential in the possibility of liberating parts of our future rail trail corridor land to the planting of known local

Aboriginal diet plants.

This, with a steady stream of nature-loving cyclists and walkers, would broaden interest, knowledge, and taste buds, as well as the depth of appreciation in our First Nation peoples' ancient ways of successful sustainable existence over millennia, for which they are renowned across the world.

The rail trail section between old Byron Mitre 10 and the Roadhouse Cafe in Byron, is one of the most incredible areas yet to be shown off to locals and visitors alike, running through Cumbebin Swamp's picturesque wetlands.

This 1.3 km stretch is a hidden gem, and has enormous tourism attraction, and will be directly accessible just south of Byron's CBD.

To incorporate an integration of eco-tourism ideas within the rail trail design stage would be highly desirable for all and reap many additional rewards.

Tim Shanasy
Byron Bay

Iran will win

Crude oil refineries, terminals, and tankers cannot be defended, so by blocking the flow of crude oil and essential food imports through the straits and bombing the desalination plants, America's oil-rich Persian Gulf allies can be devastated and hence their petrodollar funding, that supports the United States dollar, can become greatly diminished or completely stopped.

Professor Jiang and former CIA analyst Larry Johnson, say Iran will win this war, not through military superiority, but

by undermining America financially. America's finances fund these wars.

Iran is currently waiting for its opponents to run out of their dwindling supply of land and sea-based interceptor missiles, to thereby gain an upper hand.

A French carrier is moving to the war zone, and a Chinese warship is already there.

This war will still be going on in a year's time, and the oil price shock will likely lead to a global economic depression.

Somehow, troops, maybe Kurdish, will eventually be sent in: without the troops, one can't secure the oil. Soon, everyone will want an electric car.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

Let kids enjoy life

This morning I looked out my window and saw my neighbour and her two children on their way out. The little one had a large teddy tucked under his arm. There were smiles and laughter, an outing that they were excitedly looking forward to. Innocence and expectation that every child should be entitled to. I had a warm feeling that we are indeed fortunate to be living in a country where we can be reasonably free, safe, fed, and able to enjoy some of the nice things of life.

Shortly after I opened my computer and my consciousness of humanity being something worthwhile being part of, was shattered. I was confronted with the headline '65 children between the ages of seven and 12 killed in a missile attack'.

Terry Hand
Mullumbimby

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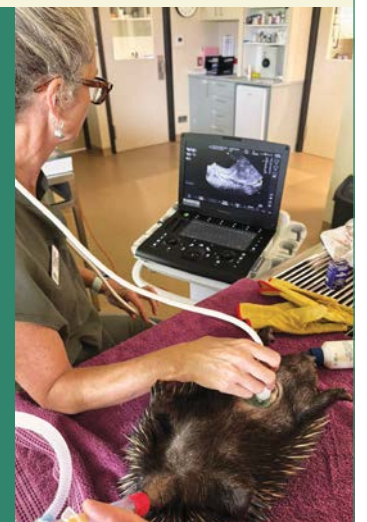


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Letters to the Editor

■ Send your letters to the Editor: editor@echo.net.au
Deadline: Noon, Friday. Letters longer than 200 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters edited for length will be able to be read in full (if a reasonable length) online at: www.echo.net.au/letters.

Important freedoms

I'm a Christian based locally and have been reading recent letters in *The Echo*, including those from John Scrivener and Danny Wakil, with growing unease. Israel is often painted as the villain, while some basic facts quietly disappear.

Israel is tiny – only about forty times the size of Byron Shire – yet for decades has been ringed by groups and regimes that openly say it should not exist at all. Despite this, it remains a noisy democracy and, right now, is helping dismantle an Iranian regime whose leaders chant 'Death to America', and brutalise their own people. The recent targeted strikes on Iran's leadership and nuclear network were aimed at freeing Iranians from a dictatorship, not destroying their cities.

Think about our own freedoms: women in shorts on Jonson Street, pink-haired baristas, rainbow flags, same-sex couples at the Mullum markets. None of that would last long in Tehran or under Hamas, but it flourishes in Israeli cities.

You can criticise Israel, and you should care about

Palestinian suffering, but if you had to choose to live under Israel, Hamas, or the Iranian regime, which streets would you really rather be walking?

Sharyn Jones
Mullumbimby

Safe products

I wish to thank Ginny Black for sharing remarkable historical information about deadly toxins identified in the Byron Shire waters when her husband was alive and her current sharing that her husband died from Hodgkins lymphoma. I am so very sad for you Ginny and understand your grief.

I did recently mention the death of a young person from cancer after visiting a farm. He too died from Hodgkins lymphoma. Shortly after his death his mother, a dear friend died. I believe her death was a culmination of stress and grief over the death of her son. Whilst this was decades ago, the loss of anyone close to one resonates eternally from the soul.

Life has taught me that WE must always speak truth to power and the history of Roundup and the corporate 'spin'

surrounding the marketing of any deadly product elicits a need to expose and campaign for better products, immediate cessation of deadly practices and social justice.

Jo Faith
Newtown

The 'big take'

Congratulations to Kathryn McConnochie and Patricia Warren.

Truth, told, cannot be denied. There are very sad aspects to the neglect by our governments, which have long failed the people in the housing crisis, and of course, neglected to deliver social housing statewide. Government makes the legislation, but seriously are negligent in their duty to manage supply and demand.

Affordable housing governance is a disgrace and of course it is not the right type of housing to offer true affordability.

It is sooner built than sold off to investors who rent out at the highest possible rate for return on their investment. Meanwhile, the developers find the next location to make their profit in yet another one of the shires with competitive rental returns.

No one to monitor and no governance to listen.

The word 'affordable' doing its dirty little work. The big take.

Annie Radermacher
Brunswick Heads

Petrol and popcorn

Which lies to believe? The empire of lies seems to have met its match. Not many can fit the 'I' word five times into one sentence. China says barking dogs don't bite.

Russia is booming while slowly devouring Ukraine. Iran's 80+ million people have built a dozen or so missile cities and thousands of advanced missile sites deep inside solid rock mountains, which only nukes can reach.

A nuke on Iran would pollute Russia and China. And we hear Iran has, in these mountain cities, robotic assembly plants plus endless missile stock, while loudmouth is finding their cupboard is bare.

Looks like we need to watch the match from afar, judge how your side is faring from the prices of petrol and popcorn.

Len Hend
Chiang Mai

Time to stand

The Rolling Stones recorded 'Salt of the Earth' in May 1968, according to Wikipedia. The song was reportedly inspired by John Lennon, with Jagger attempting to write a working-class anthem. The lyrics lament the fate of 'us average people'.

Written almost 60 years ago, these two stanzas foretold where we'd be today. Our leaders state, federal, and that big bad buddy are just gambling for their own gain or that of their sad kind.

Arguments around morality have vanished: Raise your glass to the hard-working people; Let's drink to the uncounted heads; Let's think of the wavering millions; Who need leaders but get gamblers instead.

Spare a thought for the stay-at-home voter; his empty eyes gaze at strange beauty shows; and a parade of the gray-suited grafters; a choice of cancer or polio.

Duncan Dey
Ex-councillor for Byron Shire

Just ask Alan Dickens

Oh, Sharon (*Echo* Letters, 6 March). As you know, we live in a democracy; our model is

good, but not perfect.

As a young Professional Engineer I worked for the state government and was involved in 'flooding six houses'. The owners could not get to talk to me – or get a satisfactory answer from their state MP.

Local government is not perfect – particularly in a non-viable council like Byron Shire. But local government is the best form of democracy in Australia. If you can't get to talk to people in Council, go to the Ombudsman.

Most stormwater, drainage, and sewerage issues are local council responsibilities and problems – directly – not state government problems.

I could go on, but most of us know that Byron Shire Council has been ignoring technical recommendations for decades – just ask Alan Dickens.

If councillors don't represent 'you', vote 'em out – democracy at work.

Most importantly, don't 'go silent'.

Roger Seccombe
Retired local government engineer
Ballina

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NSW farming's record-breaking growth

The NSW Government's Agriculture Economics research team is reporting that the state's primary industries' Gross Value of Production (GVP) has continued its strong recovery since the 2017-19 drought, reaching record levels in cropping and livestock.

Analysis of the latest data, from 2024-25 activities, confirms the sector has continued to bound upwards, with robust results across cropping, livestock and key sectors driving growth and jobs.

The Minns government is continuing to help build-up and protect the state's primary industries with \$100 million invested in agricultural research and \$1 billion in biosecurity systems and programs.

Over the last five years primary industries' GVP rose from drought-impacted levels to a new record level of \$25.5 billion, an increase of \$13.6 billion or 114 per cent.

The data shows particularly strong results in cropping and livestock: cropping GVP surged 33 per cent to \$11.6 billion, supported by above-average yields and record pulse

production across much of the state; livestock GVP leaped 28 per cent to \$7.2 billion, driven by record meat production volumes and strong price conditions, including exceptionally high lamb prices; farm cash incomes are estimated to have hit record highs with the average broadacre far cash income estimated to have reached a record high of \$419k, up 24 per cent from the previous record high in 2021-22; the forecasts for 2025-26 have farm cash incomes staying relatively high (above 5 and 10-year averages), and; the average NSW broadacre farm has seen its equity ratio increase from 84.5 per cent in 2014 to 91.9 per cent in the latest data.

Favourable seasonal conditions

These results reflect favourable seasonal conditions in the central, coastal and northern districts of NSW and sustained global demand for quality NSW agricultural products reaching \$13 billion.

Farm balance sheets across NSW also remain in

strong shape, positioning producers to confidently buffer future financial risks, including drought conditions.

Average broadacre farm capital reached \$13.7 million in NSW underscoring the financial strength of regional agricultural enterprises.

Record production

Backed by record production levels, strong financial health and continued investment in drought preparedness, NSW farm businesses are well-placed to respond to seasonal and market conditions.

Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional New South Wales, Tara Moriarty, says that the numbers show that NSW producers have not only recovered from the 2017-19 drought, they have persevered through the volatility of the environmental conditions and foreign trading surprises, and emerged stronger than ever. 'Record production levels, improved seasonal conditions and strategic business management and investment have all contributed to these outstanding results,' said Moriarty.

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What Australian values? What way of life?

Stephen Ralph

You will hear a lot more mention of 'Australian values' and 'our way of life' as the political circus gains momentum and rolls on towards the next election.

What seems to be missing though is a clear account of what values and whose lifestyle we are actually talking about.

Conservatives have recently referred to smaller government, reward for hard work, support for small business, lower taxes, and so on, but these are not values but policy positions.

So, what are Australian values? Is it even possible to lump all Australians together and identify shared, common values?

The land of 'a fair go'

Historically, Australia has been identified as the land of 'a fair go' in which people are 'fair dinkum,' 'the underdog' is always favoured, and 'the bludger' is despised.

That is, notions of equality, honesty, hard work and personal freedom are embedded in Australia's colonial past, along with a belief in the superiority of western /white culture which stubbornly persists to this day.

However, the world has mostly moved on and Australia has evolved into a pluralistic, diverse society in which almost a third of the Australian population has been born overseas and loyalty to 'god, king and country' is no longer at the forefront of the Australian psyche.

Which religion?

Religion has traditionally provided some degree of guidance in identifying



Is what we need a great big melting pot? Image Cloudcatcher Media

values to live by and how to lead a good life. However, those Australians who identify as Christian are becoming fewer and fewer, while adherents of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and other religions are steadily on the rise.

There is also a significant and steady rise in the number of Australians who identify as having 'no religion' with this trend most pronounced among young Australians, particularly millennials.

In this situation, government, mainstream media, social media influencers/communities are left to tell us what is of value and how we should lead our lives. Many people struggle to make sense of what to believe and how we should act. This contributes directly to declining social cohesion, festering grievances, and the oppression of disadvantaged minorities and those in need of our support.

In the land of 'a fair go' one in seven Australians live in poverty, and at the

same time wealth inequality continues to grow with the rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer. In the face of this trend, there is a glaring lack of political will to address this issue that goes to the heart of the so-called Australian lifestyle. Our willingness to turn a blind eye to the suffering of others, and the unfairness of it all, and focus instead upon never-ending economic growth, interest rates, and increasing profits for the wealthy, is a matter that shames us all.

Australian lifestyle

And the 'Australian lifestyle?' Who knows what that is! Meat pies, kangaroos, and Holden cars no longer do it! What does the Australian lifestyle of Gina Rinehart and her cronies share with the Australian lifestyle of a town camp resident in Alice Springs or a marginalised African youth drawn into gang membership? That is, it is impossible to define 'the Australian lifestyle' in a pluralistic, diverse society where structural inequality

and disadvantage are ingrained.

Unfortunately, the term is more often used as 'a dog whistle' to prompt privileged, white Australians to protect their long-held entitlements from the threat posed by non-white others.

In such circumstances it is important to remember a fundamental Christian value - 'do to others as you would have them do to you' - a call for compassion, respect, kindness, and fairness for all. These values are not unique to Christianity but can be found in all of the world's great religions. A starting point for us all in finding our way through the chaos and turmoil of the world today is to embrace this principle in deciding what is right and how we will respond. It might also be a good starting point for any politician who seeks to extol 'Australian values' as the foundation of their policy decisions.

■ Stephen Ralph is a forensic psychologist living in Mullumbimby.

Hemp field trip a sold-out success

More than 65 hemp enthusiasts gathered in the Northern Rivers over the weekend for the sold-out iHemp NSW Northern Rivers Hemp Field Trip, highlighting the region's growing role as a hub for Australia's emerging hemp industry.

Co-organiser Maxine Shea told *The Echo*, 'visitors travelled from far and wide to take part in the guided two-day tour across Byron and Lismore Shires, exploring innovative hemp businesses, homes and manufacturing initiatives.

'The field trip began with visits to Hemp Culture in Mullumbimby and Hemp Collective, where we learned about the growing market for Australian hemp wellness products, including natural personal care and pet care.

'The group then travelled to Eureka to see two remarkable hemp homes, showcasing the benefits of hemp-based construction and sustainable building materials built by Permastructure.

'In Byron Bay, Permastructure and Australian Hemp

Masonry Co hosted a hands-on hempcrete building workshop, allowing participants to see the sustainable material mixed and applied in real time and be inspired to build with hemp.

Ms Shea said day two continued in Nimbin with a visit to Northern Rivers Hemp, followed by a Hempstone workshop exploring innovative hemp-based materials. 'We also visited Hempflora in Wadeville before finishing the tour at Hemscape, a new hemp building supply store

supporting the region's growing hemp construction sector.

'The event brought together conscious consumers, farmers, processors, builders, manufacturers and innovators, highlighting the extraordinary versatility of industrial hemp from carbon-negative building materials and textiles to food, wellness and sustainable consumer products. It also created valuable opportunities for networking.

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Byron Boardriders second in national titles

Nail-biting close finish in Burleigh Heads last weekend saw Byron surfers pipped by North Shelly Boardriders

In a tightly-contested competition, Byron Bay Boardriders Club were oh so close to claiming victory at the Australian Boardriders Battle (ABB), held in Burleigh Heads last weekend.

North Shelly Boardriders Club claimed the title of Australia's best boardrider club in the grand final.

The event is described as the 'biggest grassroots surfing series, involving over 80 boardrider clubs in eight state qualifying rounds before culminating in the epic grand final showdown'.

'The event has been instrumental in strengthening club culture, fostering future champions, and celebrating Australia's deep connection with surfing', say organisers.

'The event features club teams of five – comprising open men, open women, junior, masters, and a "power surfer" – compete in a tag-team relay style event. Strategy, endurance, and surf prowess combine to create some of the most intense and dramatic heats seen in competitive surfing.

Dreamy three-to-four-foot conditions

'With extended heat times to accommodate the challenging Burleigh rock jump into the ocean, the 500m sprint up Burleigh Hill, and a field stacked with past, present, and future World Surf League (WSL) stars, the stage was set for an electrifying showdown at one of Australia's most iconic right-hand point breaks'.

In a media release, event organisers said, 'Burleigh Heads delivered firing,



Australian Boardriders Battle grand final. Photo Surfing Australia

dreamy three-to-four-foot conditions, setting the perfect stage for a finals day packed with high-stakes drama and elite-level surfing'.

'The event brought together 42 of Australia's top boardrider clubs, all battling through state qualifying rounds to earn their place at the prestigious national final.

'In a final that was ultimately decided on the sand after the buzzer, North Shelly Boardriders held their nerve and delivered high-scoring performances from all five surfers.

'The victory marks the club's second ABB grand final win, deeply cementing North Shelly's legacy in Australian surfing history.

Down to final scores

'With no teams able to cross the finish line in the dying seconds, it all came down to the final scores from each club's "power surfer", highlighted by a dramatic exchange between North Shelly's Hughie Vaughan and

Byron Bay Boardriders Club's Dakota Walters'.

Dakota Walters

Walters posted an excellent 8.08 to briefly move Byron Bay into the lead, but Vaughan answered moments later, launching a massive air to also post an 8.08 on his final ride and secure the event for North Shelly.

'Surfing as North Shelly's "power surfer", Vaughan wasted no time, launching a huge air straight off the bat that earned an outstanding 8.88 and instantly put his club into contention.

'In a format where momentum can swing with the unpredictably of the ocean, North Shelly capitalised as teammates added crucial scores across the heat.

'I haven't even tried an air all weekend,' Vaughan said.

'I figured now that we're in the final, I might as well go for it. We have to go hard because this final's lineup is absolutely crazy.'

Organisers said, 'Despite falling just short of the title, the Byron Bay Boardriders Club delivered a standout campaign, producing multiple high-scoring rides across the final.

'Their run to the decider demonstrated the club's strength and ensured the pressure remained firmly on the eventual champions right through to the final exchanges.

Soli Bailey

'Byron Bay "power surfer" Soli Bailey reflected on the passion within the team after their strong run to the decider.

'I had to watch from the sidelines last year,' Bailey said. 'We've got the best team, we've got so much talent coming through Byron and so much passion'.

'I just told them this is the last time we're going to surf together as a team for the rest of the year, let's put it all on the line, run as hard as you can and surf as best you can.

'Three of the six clubs competing in the 2026 Grand Final – North Shore, Byron

Bay, and North End – also featured in the 2025 decider, highlighting the continued dominance and consistency of these powerhouse clubs on the national stage'.

Leihani Zoric

Byron Bay's Leihani Zoric also reflected on the importance of teamwork within the unique boardriders team format.

'This event is all about teamwork, so I did what was best for the team,' Zoric said. 'I back our team, everyone is capable of amazing scores.'

Final results

The final results were North Shelly (34.19); Byron Bay (34.15); North Shore (26.52); Kawana (24.56); Sandon Point (17.55) and North End (17.13).

For more information, visit www.australianboardridersbattle.com.

Byron triathletes claim fifth in Forster comp

The NSW Club Champs race brought together triathletes from 35 clubs across the state for a day full of competition, camaraderie, and celebration.

After a five-and-a-half-hour drive, the majority of Byron Breakers blew into the lovely coastal town of Forster on Thursday, ready to race and eager to enjoy the weekend.

The Byron Breakers had an absolute blast, not just racing, but also catching up, having picnics, runs, swims, dinners, and plenty of fun as a team. It was great to meet up with some of the triathletes we've known over the years, and to have a boogie after the club awards.

Out of 20 teams in our



Photo www.byrontriclub.com

Division 4 (the small clubs division), the Byron Breakers finished in fifth place, which is a fantastic achievement for a relatively small team.

Congratulations to the Brighton Baths Athletic Club,

who took out the division by ensuring the majority of its members participated in the race. Amazing efforts!

■ First published on www.byrontriclub.com

CALLING ALL SPORTS

The Echo wants to support you.

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





Stewart's Menswear

As we move into Autumn, Stewart's Menswear is encouraging locals to think about layering to build wardrobes that work with the changing season. Cooler mornings and milder afternoons require practical pieces that can be easily added or removed.

The family-owned Mullumbimby store is showcasing its new season arrivals alongside comfortable organic cotton base layers, designed to provide lightweight warmth without bulk. Paired with relaxed shirts, tees, and overshirts, these essentials create simple combinations suited to work, weekends, and everything in between.

Established in 1929, Stewart's Menswear continues to focus on quality, fit, and thoughtful selection, helping customers choose clothing that not only feels good, but is used across all seasons. With the right layers in place, autumn dressing becomes comfortable, practical, and ready for whatever the day brings.

52-54 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
02 6684 2148
stewartsmenswear.com.au



ZÓCALO

Born in Mexico as an ethical collective, ZÓCALO brings its vibrant spirit to Australia with their third location in beautiful Newrybar in the Byron Bay hinterland. A bohemian, well-travelled haven, it's filled with color, prints, and an ever-changing collection of ethical fashion, gifts, jewellery, and globally-inspired pieces – making it the perfect place for holiday gifting.

Every purchase gives back, with a portion of each sale supporting four local charities in Mexico, keeping ZÓCALO'S roots and purpose alive. Alongside artisanal Mexican finds, they stock Australia's favorite brands, including Spell, Nine Lives Bazaar, The White Raven, Ottway, BOPO, Posie, Leif Products, Gentle Habits and more. Gift-wrapping available.

Shop ZÓCALO in store or online:
17 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar
0493 382 497
shopzocalo.com.au
@shopzocalo

Filter Off

beauty style fashion grooming



Bodypeace Bamboo Clothing

Be at peace in your body. Born in the heart of Bundjalung Country, Byron Bay, Bodypeace welcomes you into their world of sustainability, inclusivity, and freedom. Discover their buttery blends of bamboo. Breathable, moisture-wicking, UV-protectant, thermo-regulating, antibacterial, sustainably-sourced, natural fibres. Better for your health and the planet.

Join them in revolution, spreading love and ethical consumption.

The goddesses who grace their seven boutiques across Australia can't wait to meet you and support you in embracing your fullest expression of self. Alternatively, find peace in shopping on their online portal.

bodypeacebamboo.com

HEAD OFFICE

Byron Bay • 2/1 Boronia Place, Banksia Drive • 02 6685 5616

BOUTIQUES

Byron Bay • 21 Fletcher Street • 02 6680 8885

Mullumbimby • 49 Burringbar Street • 02 6684 4006

Brunswick Heads • 12 The Terrace • 02 6685 1081

Burleigh Heads • 26 James Street • 07 5535 6945



Temple of the Sun

Temple of the Sun's Byron Bay store offers a quiet retreat, where jewellery, story, and craft come together. Founded in Byron by Darren and Yonna, the brand draws inspiration from ancient symbolism, art and the natural world; a philosophy they describe as 'ModernAncient.' Inside the store, pieces are displayed in what is a museum-like setting, inviting visitors to slow down and explore the meaning behind each design. Collections range from sterling silver and gold vermeil to fine gold heirlooms, including ceremonial and engagement jewellery designed to mark life's meaningful moments. Each piece is created to be worn daily and treasured for years to come. Whether discovering Temple for the first time or returning for another piece, the Byron store offers a place to pause and connect with jewellery that carries meaning beyond adornment.

templeofthesun.com.au

Good Taste

Culinary Spotlight

BILLINUDGEL

 ROSEFINA'S MEXICAN	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
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BYRON BAY

 three blue ducks	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	Roca Byron Bay Open: Every day (except Wednesday) from 6:30am to late 14 Lawson St, Byron Bay (02) 5642 0149 @rocabyronbay www.rocabyronbay.com.au	Latin fusion all-day dining Come and try our new summer menu. Savour our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche & oysters, or elevate your night with the Roca dining experience. Pair it all with a classic Pisco Sour or our best-selling Hot Like Papi cocktail. JUST OPENED: Roca Cabana - our brand new pool bar in the heart of Byron Bay. Follow us to find out more: @roca.cabana
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 FOREST	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.
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 NO BONES	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.
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 Main Street BURGER BAR	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.
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MULLUMBIMBY

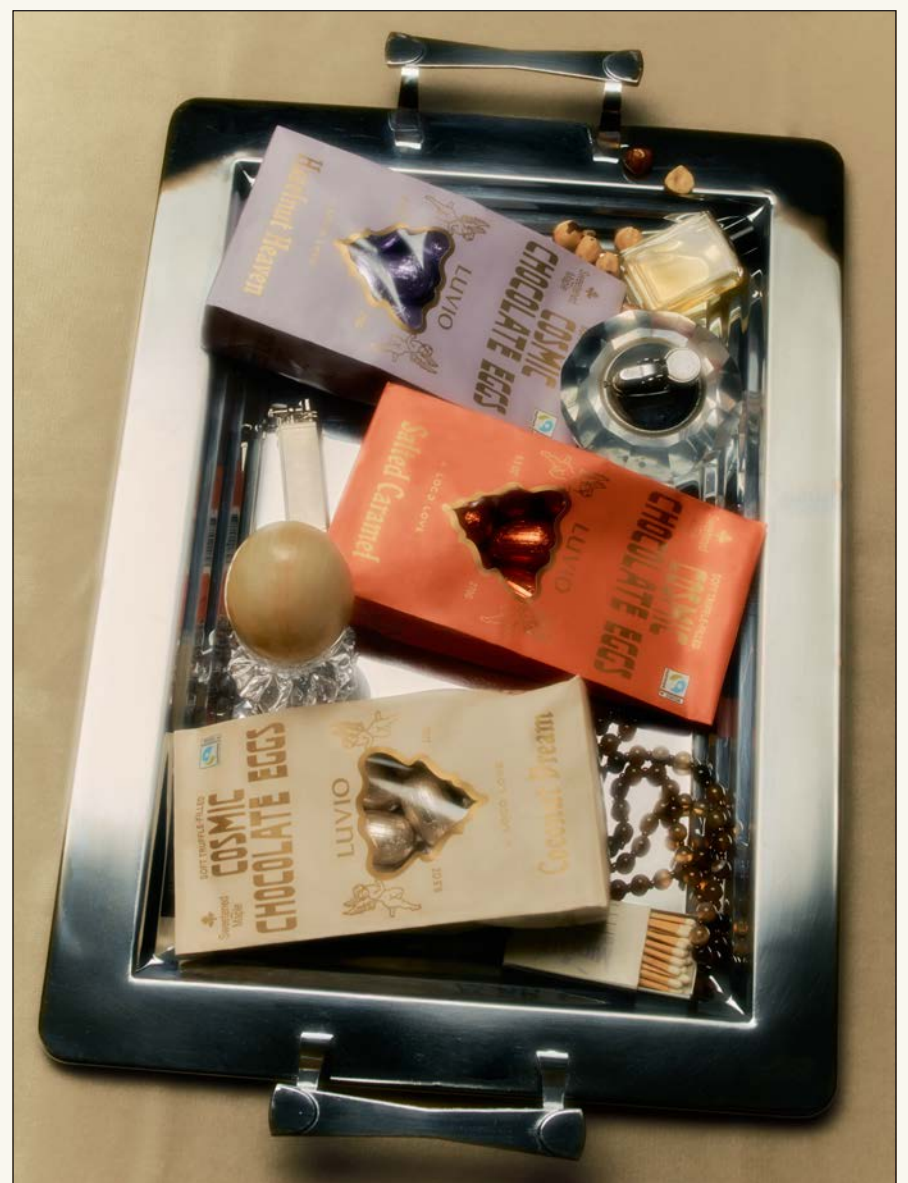
 Bacco	Bacco Wine Bar Opening Hours: Wednesday - Sunday Opening times: 3pm - late Happy Hour: 3 - 5pm Email: bacco.mullumbimby@gmail.com Phone: 0434 450 415 Instagram: @bacco.mullumbimby	Your favourite new wine and charcuterie board bar in Mullumbimby. Italian aperitivo in true enoteca style. Buon cibo. Buon vino. Buon amici.
--	--	--

MURWILLUMBAH

 OLIVEWOOD BISTRO	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.
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CATERING

 CELEBRATIONS BY LIZ JACKSON	Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.	lizzijackson@gmail.com 0414 895 441
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A more thoughtful Easter - by Loco Love Byron Bay

Easter has always been a story about renewal. About small moments that feel quietly magical - a gathering around the table, little hands searching the garden, the joy of sharing something sweet that feels special.

This year, we imagined Easter a little differently.

Not louder. Not bigger. Just more thoughtful.

These eggs began with cacao grown in living forests, where farmers are fairly paid and the land is cared for with regenerative agroforestry. In places where birds still sing through the canopy and cacao trees grow the way nature intended - surrounded by life.

From there, we followed a simple question: what would an Easter treat look like if every ingredient was chosen with care?

Instead of refined sugar, we turned to pure maple - softly sweet, with its own quiet depth. We folded it with cacao, coconut, and tigernut to create a chocolate that feels silky, grounding, and satisfying in a way that goes beyond sweetness.

Inside each egg is a softish truffle centre. Sometimes caramel with a delicate crunch and a touch of fleur de sel. Sometimes roasted hazelnut, rich and comforting. Sometimes toasted coconut that melts like a dream.

Each one wrapped in maple-sweetened tigernut chocolate.

There are no palm oils, no dairy, no gluten, no shortcuts. Just ingredients the body recognises and flavours that feel abundant rather than overwhelming.

Because we believe indulgence can be joyful and considered at the same time. That treats can feel celebratory while still honouring the land they come from. That families deserve chocolate made with the same care they bring to the people they love.

So these eggs are our small Easter offering - a moment of sweetness, a little nature's alchemy, something to savour slowly together.

■ Available now at locolove.com, in our Byron Bay showroom, and through our beautiful stockists.

The Good Life



Brunswick Heads Bowling Club: new energy with old-school charm

If you're looking for a place where community still means something, you'll find it at the Brunswick Heads Bowling Club. Far from being just a place to roll a few bowls, the club has become a lively social hub where locals and visitors come together for great food, live entertainment, and genuine connection.

Over the past year, the club has been building real momentum. From sold-out dinner and show nights to live music events that have had the dancefloor buzzing, there's a fresh energy in the air. Recent gigs have drawn fantastic crowds, with people embracing the relaxed atmosphere and friendly welcome the club is fast becoming known for.

Of course, bowls remains at the heart of it all. The greens are active all week, with mixed bowls on Thursdays

and a wonderful group of ladies hitting the green on Tuesday mornings. The ever-popular Mufti Bowls runs on the last Sunday of every month and is perfect for anyone wanting a fun, social roll-up without the pressure. Barefoot bowls is also available anytime, making it easy for families, friends, and first-timers to jump in and give it a go.

Off the green, there's always something happening. The members draw keeps the excitement alive, while the seafood raffle, and traditional meat raffles continue to be crowd favourites. These classic club traditions, paired with modern entertainment and events, create the perfect balance of old-school charm and new energy.

Dining and social nights are another big drawcard, with affordable meals and themed events that make it easy to

gather a group and enjoy a great night out without heading far from home. It's all about creating a space where people feel welcome – whether you're popping in for a quick drink, a game of bowls, or a full night of entertainment.

At its core, the Brunswick Heads Bowling Club is proudly community-driven. It's a place where friendships are formed, locals support locals, and visitors are welcomed like old mates. If you haven't been in for a while, now's the time to rediscover it. Come down, bring a friend, and see why the Brunswick Heads Bowling Club continues to be one of the heartbeats of our community.

107 Tweed Street, Brunswick Heads
02 6685 1328
www.brunswickbowlingclub.com

Backyard gardening advice from Luke Sansom – Seedlings Organic

Allie Godfrey

For backyard gardeners, this time of year is ideal for refreshing garden beds and planting cool-season crops. A little preparation now will help ensure strong growth and productive harvests over the coming months.

Start by clearing out old summer plants and weeds so you're working with a clean garden bed. Once the space is tidy, focus on improving the soil. Adding organic matter is one of the most important steps. Spread a generous layer of compost through the soil and lightly mix it in. Compost improves soil structure, feeds beneficial microbes and provides nutrients for new plants. If you have a worm farm, worm castings are also excellent for boosting soil fertility.

Because rainfall often increases at this time of year, some nutrients can leach out of the soil. A light sprinkle of garden lime can help restore calcium levels and support healthy plant growth. Some gardeners also add trace minerals, such as boron and magnesium, to help balance the soil.

Once the soil is prepared, it's a good time to plant brassicas, including broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and kale. Planting them now allows the plants to grow while the weather is still warm and then produce as temperatures cool.

For smaller backyard gardens, it helps to focus on crops that give the most harvest for the space they occupy. Broccolini is an excellent example. Instead of producing a single head like traditional broccoli, it sends

up many small shoots that can be harvested continuously. You can often pick from the same plant for weeks, making it very productive for the space it occupies.

Some brassicas, such as cauliflower and cabbage, are more long-term crops and can take several months to mature. However, there are also mini cabbage varieties that grow much faster than traditional cabbages, with some ready to harvest in as little as eight weeks, making them a great option for home gardens.

Fast-growing leafy vegetables are also excellent choices.

Silverbeet, rainbow chard, beetroot leaves and lettuce grow quickly and allow regular harvesting, often producing within about six weeks.

It's also a great time to plant alliums, including onions and leeks, which grow well through the cooler months and are usually ready to harvest in late winter or early spring.

■ High-quality seedlings are essential for a productive garden, and gardeners can buy Luke Sansom's organic seedlings every Friday at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market from 7am to 11am.



AZTECA MARGARITA
× NO BONES



Margy March
\$15 MARGARITAS

Join us at No Bones - book now



*Fine words
butter
no parsnips*



Open 6am – 12pm
Monday – Saturday
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street
Mullumbimby.
@bimbi_coffee_shop
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO



THE SCOOP

PERSONAL LEGAL SUPPORT NOW IN BYRON BAY, LISMORE AND THE NORTHERN RIVERS REGION

With a strong regional firm behind him and a dedicated local team, Josh McKay combines legal expertise with compassion and clear communication. He is particularly experienced in supporting trauma survivors and is known for building trust through empathy and straightforward advice. The Byron Bay office emphasises person-to-person service: clients meet an experienced local lawyer rather than using an automated claims portal or dealing with a city-based lawyer they may never meet. Josh can arrange home or hospital visits so clients can learn their legal entitlements without delay.



Don Cameron & Associates
1/19-21 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
02 5643 9240
www.dcalaw.com.au



Jin Wu Koon Karate – Byron Bay

Jin Wu Koon (JWK) Karate was established in Byron Bay in 1977 by Sensei Light. The club produced champions at regional, state, national, and international levels in karate, kickboxing, and kung fu, while positively shaping generations of Byron Bay locals.



When taught well, karate supports strong personal development, building concentration, confidence, self-discipline, resilience, and self-awareness. Training also helps students manage stress, find purpose, and live by clear values. JWK Karate supports both children and adults to achieve goals on and off the mat through commitment, perseverance, and striving to be their best.

Their code of conduct follows Bushido principles: loyalty, honour, courage, honesty, respect, and humility in daily life.

Ewingsdale Hall
0490 849 295
jinwukoonkarate@gmail.com
jinwukoonkarate.com.au



VIRIDIAN ADVISORY

With rates on the move, a simple financial check-in can help



With the RBA interest rate rise, plenty of locals are already feeling it; higher mortgage repayments, tighter cash flow, and more pressure on day-to-day budgets are becoming the new normal. If there's one upside, it's this: moments like these are a good reminder to check in on your finances. Not later 'when things settle', but now.

A financial review can often uncover simple ways to ease the pressure. Meeting with Alana Pincombe for a financial review can help you

take practical steps to gain peace of mind, confidence, and plan how to stay ahead if rates move again. This is where having a local adviser in your corner really matters. One good conversation can make all the difference. Get in touch with Alana today:

0491 204 142
apincombe@viridianadvisory.com.au
www.viridianadvisory.com.au



BYRON EVENT ROOM



Byron Bay's business community has a new space designed to think bigger and work smarter. Located in the heart of town on Marvell Street, The Byron Event Room at BASQ House offers a purpose-built, light-filled meeting space tailored for small business owners seeking a professional setting for board meetings, strategy sessions, training days or special interest retreats. Surrounded by Byron's vibrant cafes, restaurants and wellness facilities, it blends productivity with the relaxed coastal atmosphere the region is known for. With

modern conferencing technology, flexible catering options and capacity for up to 30 guests, it provides the ideal environment to step away from daily distractions and focus on growth. For local enterprises ready to plan their next chapter, this central venue delivers both convenience and inspiration.

byroneventroom.com.au
02 56711000
7 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
@byroneventroom



GOOD THINGS TAKE TIME

Whether you're saving up for something special or just want to lock in a secure rate of return in today's fluctuating interest rate environment, a Term Deposit can help you reach your financial goals.

While savings accounts offer greater flexibility, allowing you to deposit or withdraw funds at any time, a term deposit is best for locking away a lump sum of money for a period.

Along with a fixed interest rate, Term Deposits offer choice, giving you the power to decide the term of your deposit, as well as how much you'd like to contribute, with Newcastle Permanent accepting deposits from \$1,000 and offering terms between 30 days and five years.

Set-and-forget with the confidence it will help you reach your financial goals.

Account terms, conditions, fees and charges apply. This information has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Therefore, before acting on this information, you should consider its appropriateness having regard to these matters and the product Terms and Conditions, available on request from any branch, newcastlepermanent.com.au, or by calling 13 19 87.

Newcastle Permanent, part of Newcastle Greater Mutual
Group Ltd ACN 087 651 992
Australian Financial Services Licence/Australian credit licence 238273.



RICHARDSON MURRAY FAMILY LAWYERS

Richardson Murray Family Lawyers is a leading family law firm based in Byron Bay, renowned for its exceptional legal services and commitment to supporting clients through challenging family matters.

With extensive experience in divorce, child custody, property settlements, and domestic violence cases, the firm's team of dedicated professionals ensures clients receive personalised and empathetic legal advice.

Known for their expertise, integrity, and results-driven approach, Richardson Murray offers tailored solutions to resolve disputes efficiently, whether through negotiation or litigation.

Their deep understanding of the complexities of family law, combined with a compassionate approach, has earned them a stellar reputation in the region.

Richardson Murray Family Lawyers is the go-to choice for those seeking trusted legal counsel in Northern NSW.

42 Parkes Avenue, Byron Bay
info@richardson-murray.law
www.richardson-murray.law



THE SCOOP

ANGEL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Medical-Grade Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Clinics – Australia & USA



Oxygen Health Clinics is seeking a select group of angel investors to support the next stage of their Australian and US clinic rollout.

Following a successful North American proof-of-concept, they are launching their first flagship medical-grade Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) clinic in Australia, with a clear pathway to national scale.

HBOT is an evidence-based therapy used for chronic wounds, diabetic limb salvage, radiation injury, complex infections,

concussion and brain injury care, stroke recovery, sporting injuries, PTSD and TBI.

They operate purpose-built clinics with TGA-registered chambers, NSW Health-aligned governance, and both insurance-rebatable and private-pay pathways.

Capital is being raised for clinic establishment, equipment deployment, staffing, and institutional partnerships across defence, sport, and hospitals.

Confidential information memorandum available on request. For further information please contact Peter Stone, Managing Director or Dr Phil Jeffery, Medical Director.

+61 413 111 621 – Peter | +61 407 876 200 – Dr Phil

peter@healingchambers.com

Office (AU): 68b Hyde Street, Bellingen

Office (US): Alexandria, Virginia USA



GATHER, LEARN, GROW

The College kicked off the term with a relaxed Pizza Lunch in the courtyard, welcoming both new and returning students. Delicious pizzas from local favourite Baker & Daughters created the perfect setting for connection, conversation and community, as students reconnected and met new faces.



Classrooms are already buzzing with inspiring courses, with plenty more still to come. Upcoming workshops include the NDIS Support Worker Workshop, HeartMath Resilience, Owner Builder Workshop, Car Maintenance, Reflexology and The Accidental Counsellor.

The College is also excited to share that the Certificate IV in Mental Health will begin in Term 2. This training is subsidised by the NSW Government, with only a few places still available. Apply now to secure a place.

02 6684 3374

www.byroncollege.org.au



WILDBILLY BOOKS & BRUNS BOOKS

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



11 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay - 50m down from Surf Club

BrunsBooks: On Fingal Street opposite the school

0493 355 719

www.beachsidebookshops.com.au



DONATIONS WANTED



Do you know what's really cool about what we do? YOU!

By donating and recycling your goodies with Global Ripple you are creating a ripple effect of goodness out into the community.

Every donation, every purchase, is making an impact.

Come and check out our new space, spend some time and revel in the glory of your epic thrift finds.

Furniture? Perfect, we have you! Text photos and details to

0457 192 225 and we will pick up from your door.

Come and be a part of the culture and kindness tribe, ten years and counting.

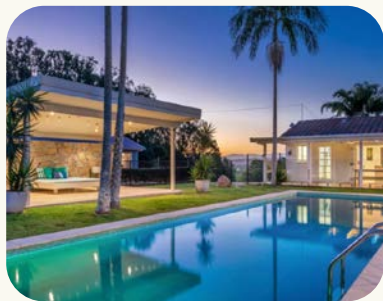
268 Ewingsdale Road

FB Global Ripple

Insta: theglobalripple



AWAKENING OF THE TEN BODIES



Step away from the noise of daily life and turn inward. Nestled in the lush serenity of the Byron hinterland, this immersive weekend retreat invites you to peel back the layers, reconnect with your essence and renew clarity and vitality. Gather with an open-hearted community for a powerful transformational experience.

The program blends mythic storytelling, immersive theatre, Kundalini yoga, expressive dance, guided breathwork, meditation, Lemurian crystal and energy healing. Participants explore

the ancient Kabbalistic archetypal map of the soul alongside their Human Design blueprint.

An embodied initiation, this retreat offers a pathway to personal liberation and authentic collective connection.

Join us to awaken, remember and rise.

March 20-22 Byron Hinterland

www.themagictheatre.rezdy.com/739652/awakening-of-the-ten-bodies



SUPPORT WILDLIFE CARE THROUGH THE NRWH WILDLIFE WISHLIST

Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital is a community-funded wildlife hospital providing specialised veterinary care for sick, injured and orphaned native animals across the Northern Rivers. All treatment is provided free of charge, assisting wildlife carers and helping animals return safely to the wild.

To help make this vital work possible, the hospital has launched its Wildlife Wishlist. This gives individuals, businesses and community groups the opportunity to choose how they help wildlife in our region.

Each item has been selected by the veterinary team and represents equipment and supplies used daily in treatment and rehabilitation. The list ranges from \$75 to help fuel the hospital's wildlife van, right up to \$6,000 for an anaesthetic machine used in specialised veterinary procedures.

Every contribution helps ensure wildlife receives the care it needs.

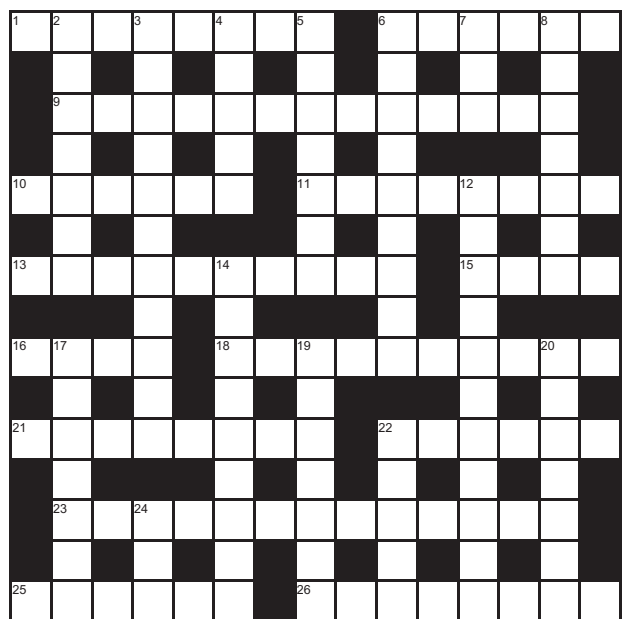
Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital

50 Lindendale Rd, Wollongbar NSW 2477

(02) 5657 9447

www.nrwh.com.au





Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Very fast but not imperial about the east; nothing (8)
6. Heard that woman was close – but really a rupture! (6)
9. Mad prophetic sort describes England in 1650 (13)
10. Two poles exude the rest (6)
11. Capone keeps faith about one, a do-gooder (8)
13. Present day renegade has large hesitation in the brain (10)
15. Cheek skin (4)
16. Yankee queen, an addict (4)
18. Klim drinks! (10)
21. Our crime, committed for Romeo's cousin (8)
22. The Great male deer turned before close (6)
23. The quality of being able to gauge the extent of out-of-control military abuse (13)
25. Three feet of soil turned over the river (6)
26. Princess's hair causes unhappiness (8)

DOWN

2. Former coppers report cost (7)
3. Type of statistical modelling for Umberto at an Alaskan city with a short prank (11)
4. Sheriff appears about sunset (5)
5. Sound of disapproval for performance up in ring (7)
6. Callous paper covers droughts and floods, for instance (4,5)
7. Brief cheer for rugger-bugger (half) (3)
8. Model says she's ready, but pur herself forward unwanted (7)
12. He in the urinal is sick – sicker! (11)
14. Bugs's enemy, or ex-senator Rod Kemp? (5,4)
17. Kitchenware craft (7)
19. Mysterious ape lord, or just another cat? (7)
20. Back number covers brother, unknown to those not yet developed (7)
22. Networks needed by setters! (5)
24. Mountain party (3)

Quick Clues

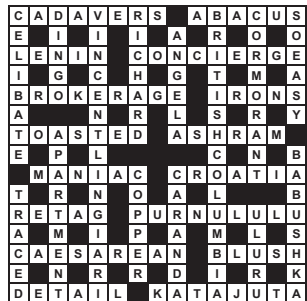
ACROSS

1. Like a shooting star (8)
6. Rupture, usually abdominal (6)
9. What Oliver Cromwell provided from 1648–1660 (13)
10. Short, light sleep (6)
11. One who seeks the welfare of others (8)
13. Hind part of the brain (10)
15. Conceal from others (4)
16. Employer (4)
18. Flavoured dairy drinks (10)
21. Romeo's cousin (8)
22. F Scott Fitzgerald anti-hero (6)
23. Quality of being calculated, especially in length (13)
25. Three legged stand (6)
26. Unhappiness, anxiety (8)

DOWN

2. Cost, outlay (7)
3. Concerning statistical modelling (11)
4. Bailiff, sheriff (old) (5)
5. Jeer, make disapproving sound (7)
6. Difficult periods, usually involving poverty (4,5)
7. Short cheer, sound of encouragement and approval (3)
8. Put upon, inflicted (7)
12. Less fit, less well (11)
14. Bugs Bunny's enemy (5,4)
17. Ocean liner (7)
19. Wild spotted cat (7)
20. Organisms in early stages of development (7)
22. Blank patterns for crosswords (5)
24. European mountain (3)

Last week's solution #7



■ Crossword circa 2008

The Right to Be Forgotten

Mandy Nolan

It seems ironic, that in a life where so many of us have strived to be remembered, the real challenge, the greater subversion, is in fact the opposite: the right to be forgotten. And here in Australia, we don't have the statutory right to erasure like they do in the EU, which means it's pretty standard for private information about you to be easily found by third parties through search engines.

I googled 'Mandy Nolan feet'. Someone has used my Facebook photos and put me on a wikifeet fetish page. This was done without my consent. But in this place, where consumption is king, consent is a mere curiosity. The very platforms that data rape us have slowly turned us into narcissists. We want privacy. But we also want to be seen. Even when we want protection we can't stand the erasure.

I hoped I would be remembered for what I had done. Who I had loved. Whose lives I had touched. People I had impacted. But in reality, the world will remember me, like you, for our purchase history. For what we buy. What we don't buy. What we look at. What we can't afford. What we settle for. What we want. What we love. And what we hate.

If we look at shoes it says 'she likes shoes, show her more shoes'. So she sees more shoes and every time she picks up her phone a little ad pops up with shoes, just like the ones she likes. She can't help but look. These are shoes that persist. Coercing her until she consumes. Until late one night, when she wakes in terror from a dream where she is pursued by some unseen force, and seeks the solace of her iPhone, weirdly the very force that is relentlessly pursuing her, and she sees the shoes.

This sense of calm pervades her. These shoes keep appearing. It must be a sign. Shopping helps quiet her mind. The shoes soothe her. So she pops them in the virtual basket and hits the purchase button. When she wakes she has forgotten, but the



The internet knows you better than you know yourself. It knows what emails you send. What websites you visit. What petitions you sign. What your political allegiances are. Who you follow. We're being stalked.

machine has not. Three weeks later shoes arrive. Not the right size. Not the same colour. And nothing like the glowing lure that caught her at 2am one dark morning. They know her. They know her patterns. What it takes to change her mind. To lead her to the basket. They know what to show her. And when.

And they listen. So when she says, 'I really need a holiday', ads for holidays start populating her Facebook newsfeed. So she pauses a little longer on these images. Even clicks through on one of them. Her data is already there, and she slips through the virtual cracks. Her browse history is bigger than her. The algorithm knows her better than her psychologist. It knows how long she looks at something. It knows what she likes. What she hates. It knows what to show her. What to hide. It

knows how to get her when she is locked safely inside her home.

The internet knows you better than you know yourself. It knows what emails you send. What websites you visit. What petitions you sign. What your political allegiances are. Who you follow. We're being stalked.

In this world, there are vampires, but they don't want your blood. The living dead feast on your data. And we continually surrender.

Maybe it's time we had a right to be forgotten?

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

STARS BY LILITH

This week the usual Mercury retro recommendations apply, as in back up important data, strengthen passwords, confirm and recheck times, details and arrangements...



PISCES

ARIES: Last year was about release and closure, this year's about transitions. If your imagination wanders this week from the busy to-do list into daydreaming about ways in which you could uplift and inspire others, then let it. Listen for the message your intuition is trying to deliver.

TAURUS: If issues around trust arise during this sensitive and emotional cycle, don't mistake distraction for disinterest: ask for clarity. Your ruling planet Venus aligned with healing Chiron reminds you that loving yourself is both courageous and necessary, offering a taste of what's in store when Chiron moves midyear into Taurus.

GEMINI: Your ruling planet Mercury retrograde in another of the zodiac's dual signs can be a confusing time for Geminis. But while we think with our minds, we know with our hearts, and this week supports starting the practice of listening to your heart for just a few minutes every day.

CANCER: With the energetic release of Jupiter heading forward in Cancer for its final months in your sign, the coming weeks offer your personal opportunity to consider Cancerian playwright Tom Stoppard's advice and look on every exit as being an entrance to somewhere else. What new venue might that be?

LEO: If you feel too raw this week, forget tough talks with others. Take your creativity and questing heart and make them into art. Get yourself on the love train, and don't be surprised if its track heads straight back to you know who, yes, you, for some unjudging self-compassion.

VIRGO: Your planet mentor Mercury, in a tender and vulnerable retreat phase, suggests writing a stop-doing list. Scary, eh? Nurturing your nerves with quiet time, long baths and nature walks. Using Mercury retro words like retire, reflect and reformulate until the quicksilver planet turns direct and presses restart on 20 March.

LIBRA: With Venus in her most enterprising new-start mode, this is prime time to initiate a makeover or new look, although best wait till Mercury turns direct on 20 March at the equinox, your special balance time, before locking in any major style renovations. Most alluring accessory this week? Confidence.

SCORPIO: This highly psychic week recommends tuning into clues from your inner compass, consulting your internal reference for what feels right. Staying open to signs, synchronicities and insights. Breakthroughs, revelations, epiphanies and new understandings are likely concerning your sense of where you belong. And what belongs to you.

SAGITTARIUS: While your boss planet Jupiter, the great striped gas giant, means heading direct this week will enhance your magnetism, try to resist making promises that might be hard to keep. Best use of this week's cosmic climate? Heartfelt conversations, intimate sharing, respectful disagreement, artistic expression and forming supportive alliances.

CAPRICORN: This week continues the current complex cycle of astrological and terrestrial changes, with endings and new beginnings happening simultaneously. The potential for positive change is always present, so use this turning point into a new phase to redefine what's worth your time, energy, money, and life – and what's not.

AQUARIUS: Iconoclastic Aquarians aren't astrologically inclined to play by anyone else's rules. So give yourself time to listen to your own intuition this week, because the right idea at the right time could shift your entire perspective on how you can make the changes that are taking place work for you.

PISCES: This year's Pisces restart cycle is brimming with fresh momentum to get something up and running, which can feel both thrilling and intimidating. But there's plenty of astral support for taking steps toward that bigger version of you, so share an idea this week, and say yes to an opportunity.

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Seven days of entertainment



Eclectic Selection

What's on this week



Daryl Braithwaite is an iconic Australian singer-songwriter and ARIA Hall Of Fame inductee – the front man and vocalist for 1970s band Sherbet, Braithwaite rode a wave of local and international success. A highly successful solo career has included a #1 ARIA Album Chart hit.

Friday from 7pm at the Coolangatta Hotel. Tickets \$60 +bf at oztix.com.au.



Tim Stokes live is an experience a smooth, honest and comforting voice complemented with songs on acoustic guitar, that oscillate from upbeat celebrations to deep oceanic ballads. His songs can be poetic images from his own journey, some songs are journeys in themselves and some of it is just plain fun.

Friday from 7pm at the Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina. Free show.

Experience the electrifying sounds of **Si Hopman**. A masterful musician and self-accompanied



singer, Si seamlessly blends the best of rock and pop to create an unforgettable performance, whether it is a chilled, or party, vibe.

Friday from 5.30pm at Saltbar Kingscliff. Free show.

ReStored at the Con marks the formal completion of the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, and major restoration works. 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, and enjoy performances by Conservatorium ensembles in the Concert Room, open rehearsals, and informal performances.

Saturday, from 10am at the Northern Rivers Con, Lismore. Free event.



Sam Buckingham has built a cult-like following on the Australian live circuit. She's lapped the country six times on sold-out headline tours – she says the songs for her new

album, *Beautiful Machine*, were written on hikes, beach walks, lying on the couch in her underwear, and on long drives to see her family.

Saturday 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets from \$39 at brunswickpicturehouse.com.



Cindia Luz is a singer, and as a percussionist Cindi and the Drums, she brings Afro-fusion with luxe vocal harmonies in songs of joy and freedom for the dancers, the singers and the music lovers.

Saturday from 6.30pm at the Billinudgel Hotel. Free show.



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. Since then, they have regrouped regularly for special appearances.

Sunday from 4.30pm at the Beach Hotel. Free show.



He's not nutty he's Mad

The Mad Professor (Neil Joseph Stephen Fraser) began recording 'lovers rock' bands and vocalists for his own label (including the debut recording by Deborah Glasgow), and recorded his first album after moving the studio to Peckham in the UK in 1982, equipped with an eight-track setup, later expanding to 16.

Fraser's *Dub Me Crazy* series of albums won the support of John Peel, who regularly aired tracks from the albums.

Although early releases were not big sellers among reggae buyers, the mid-1980s saw this change with releases from Sandra Cross (*Country Life*), Johnny Clarke, Peter Culture, Pato Banton, and Macka B (*Sign of the Times*).

Fraser moved again, this time to South Norwood, where he set up what was the largest black-owned studio complex in the UK and recorded 'lovers rock' tracks by Cross, John McLean, and Kofi, and attracted Jamaican artists including Bob Andy and Faybiene Miranda.

He teamed up with Lee 'Scratch' Perry for the first time in 1983 for the recording of the album *Mystic Warrior* (1989).

That was then...

The Mad Professor Dubs Down Under Tour brings dub legend Mad Professor to Australian shores to deliver his dub message via a mixing console and he's landing in Byron this weekend.

An innovator of live dub performance and a disciple of Lee 'Scratch' Perry, witness the Mad Professor's renowned and ever-changing live dub show journeying through the history of dub to the present cutting edge, including exclusives from his deep Ariwa Sounds catalogue.

Plus an Australian first for the Professor, a live dub mix of Melbourne instrumental reggae band Kong & The Dudley Flats Rockers. Alongside guest selectors, vocalists and very special guests.

This very special show in on Saturday from 8pm at The Northern, Byron Bay. Tickets \$30 + bf at oztix.com.au.



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

THENORTHERN.COM.AU
 @thenorthernbyronbay

THUR 12 MAR	Front Bar: Record Breakers 6pm, DJ Quendo 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: MUNGOS HIGH FI , ROOTS RECYCLED & 420 SOUND
FRI 13 MAR	Front Bar: Wet Fish Band 7pm, Sarah Grant Trio 10.30pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: DEEPDOWN FT SIMON VUARAMBON
SAT 14 MAR	Front Bar: JB's Blues Breakers 7pm, DJ Oren Selecta 10pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: MAD PROFESSOR
SUN 15 MAR	Front Bar: Jordy Quinn 5pm, Vinyl Sundays ft Mutcespro 8pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm SIPPIN' SUNDAYS \$15 COCKTAILS
MON 16 MAR	Front Bar: Lachy Dwyer 6pm, DJ Davi Bangma 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
TUES 17 MAR	Front Bar: Pink Zinc Duo 3pm Four Piece Clover 6.30pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
WED 18 MAR	Front Bar: Ino Pio 6pm DJ Oren Selecta 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm



SAT: MAD PROFESSOR





Magical Tempest

The magical world of Shakespeare comes to town when Murwillumbah Theatre Company presents *The Tempest* from **March 13 – 29**.

Twelve years before the action of the play, Prospero, formerly Duke of Milan, and a gifted sorcerer, had been usurped by his treacherous brother Antonio with the aid of Alonso, King of Naples. Escaping by boat with his infant daughter Miranda, Prospero flees to a remote island where he has been living ever since. There he used his magic to force the island's only inhabitant, Caliban, to protect him and Miranda. He also frees the spirit Ariel and binds him into servitude.

When a ship carrying his brother Antonio passes nearby, Prospero conjures up a storm with help from Ariel and the ship is destroyed. Antonio is shipwrecked, along with Alonso, Ferdinand (Alonso's son and heir to the throne), Sebastian (Alonso's brother), Gonzalo (Prospero's trustworthy minister), Adrian, and other court members.

The Tempest follows through revenge and restoration – an engaging story about betrayal, a plot for revenge, incompetence of drunkards, the enchantment of young love and overarching all – the power of the magic arts.

The Tempest will be staged at **Murwillumbah Civic Centre** on **March 13, 14, 15, then 21, 22, 27, 28, 29**.

Tickets from murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au or Trybooking on www.trybooking.com/DIFPN.

Little Gallery at Uki is staging an exhibition with *The Tempest* theme during the production.

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

Seven days of entertainment



Theatre Games

The **Star Court Theatre** are back for 2026's free monthly event played by the very talented **Star Court Theatre Players Troupe**.

If you're in the audience you're safe, the teams are already chosen – sit back and enjoy the show as they compete in a series of short improv games in front of a panel of three judges – technical, narrative and entertainment.

The games are hosted by the fabulous **Beth Would** and supported by the 'Timekeeper' and the 'Stage Faerie'.

Be prepared to laugh until you hurt as these very talented performers improvise their way out of all sorts of unexpected situations.

Doors open at 6pm and the games begin at 7pm sharp! Please support the continuation of this event by purchasing a drink or some snacks from the bar, for without the Star Court Theatre there would be no Theatre Games!

Theatre Games contains coarse language and adult themes. Children under 12 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times.

See more at starcourttheatre.com.au.

DR BAZ presents
**FUN FRIDAY
Sci-Fi Special**
Premiere Screening

ENTOMBED
A BARRY FERRIER FILM
WRITTEN BY DES COLLINS

Best Experimental Film
2024 New York
Arthouse Film Festival

PROJECT SENTINAL:
You Have Been Warned!

AI

**FRIDAY 20 MARCH • 7-9PM
COORABELL HALL**

Feature: ENTOMBED – award-winning sci-fi thriller
PLUS: Project Sentinal short + award-winning sci-fi music videos
Traditional Indian Curries & Bar available. Entry \$10



Friends of Palestine

The **Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine** are inviting you to join them for **Afterglow**, a curated evening of live music, visual art, dance, and community.

Doors open at 5.30pm with a photography exhibition by **Herberto Smith** and **Dr Annie Pflugst**. Local legend and Northern Rivers icon **Mandy Nolan** hosts the night as MC, bringing her trademark warmth and wit to the evening.

Julie Hayes, Irish singer, songwriter and spellcaster, opens with a **Roots & Rhythm Song Circle** before her solo set – soulful soundscapes that stir the heart and awaken something wild and true within us.

Hannah Pearl weaves honeyed pop with threads of Latin, soul, and blues. Warm, sultry and deeply connected, she has performed from Osaka to Granada to Berlin.

Closing the night, **The Seeding** offers something beyond music, protest and prayer, art and activism. Songs that crack you open and invite you to help weave a new world.

Feast on authentic Palestinian food from the kitchen, chai and sweets, and enjoy a fully licensed bar and elixirs.

Proceeds support Artists4Humankind, a non-profit arts initiative empowering Palestinian children living under illegal occupation through creative expression.

Friday, March 20 from 5.30pm at the Moller Pavilion, Bangalow.

BOURBON STREET
100 PROOF QUALITY ROCK 'N' ROLL

4:30PM
SUN 15 MAR

TRIBEACH

FREE ENTRY

1 BAY STREET, BYRON BAY

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

The Bride!

From **Maggie Gyllenhaal** (Academy Award-nominated writer/director of *The Lost Daughter*) and starring Academy Award-nominee **Jessie Buckley**, and Academy Award-winner **Christian Bale** comes *The Bride!* A bold, iconoclastic take on one of the world's most compelling stories.

Speaking from the afterlife, Mary Shelley says she has a story she wanted to tell after Frankenstein, but could not owing to her death. To tell it, she possesses Ida, a woman living in 1936 Chicago, who in her trance proceeds to discuss the criminal activities of mob boss Lupino. Lupino's henchmen, Clyde and James, discreetly kill her afterward.

Elsewhere in Chicago, a lonely Frankenstein's monster, 'Frank', (Bale) asks scientist Dr Cornelia Euphronius, (five-time Oscar-nominee **Annette Bening**) whose work on reanimation he has read, to create a companion for him after a century of loneliness. Euphronius and Frank choose Ida's corpse and successfully revive her, but she loses her memory in the process. Frank takes advantage of this and states that she is his bride and lost her memory in an accident, which she accepts.

Frank and the bride go to the cinema to see a movie featuring Frank's favorite actor, Ronnie Reed, and then go dancing at a club. As they leave, two men harass the bride and Frank retaliates by killing them. He tells the bride to leave him, but she decides to live life as a runaway with him.

What ensues is beyond what either of them imagined: murder, possession – a wild and radical cultural movement! And outlaw lovers in a wild and combustible romance.

The Bride! is screening at **Palace Cinemas**.
palacecinemas.com.au.

WEDNESDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GUY KACHEL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DEVU**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MILO GREEN + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **LEWIS GARNHAM**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO HUM JAZZ QUINTET**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**
- RAINBOW GIRLS, 6PM **PEARCES CREEK HALL**
- BLAH BAR, LISMORE, 7PM **ALPHABET POETS**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **CASEY FOGG**

THURSDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON MCGREGOR BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **RECORD BREAKERS, DJ QUENDO, DUELLING PIANO BAR, MUNGOS HIGH FI, ROOTS RECYCLED & 420 SOUND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM JAZZ QUINTET**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10.30AM **DEAN DOYLE WITH SOPHISTICATED + HEADLINERS CHORUS**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30AM **CELTIC THUNDER**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM **HAMMERS**

FRIDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHECKERED PAST**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JOSH LOVEGROVE + ERIN SHAY BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **GANAVYA**

- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **MISS RENEE SIMONE AND OLE FALCOR**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DANI QUAYLE MUSIC**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **PALMS TRAX, DJ INGRID, JAI PICCONE, MILLIE, DJ SALAMI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **WET FISH BAND, SARAH GRANT TRIO, DUELLING PIANO BAR, DEEPDOWN FT SIMON VUARAMBON**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **OLD MERVS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **ROB CARLTON**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **ALMA PROJECT**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **THE FUNNY GOATS BAND**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- HOTEL LISMORE 5.30PM **JAMIE SULLIVAN + DJ LAZY DOM**
- BLAH BAR, LISMORE, 6PM **BILLY CART + DAHLIA & NAZARÉ**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **WOLFIE**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **JB PATTERSON**
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 7.30PM **THE TEMPEST**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **JOE CONROY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **SI HOPMAN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE VILLAGE POEPLER EXPERIENCE**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **LIVING IN THE 70S**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 5PM **BAND X, DARYL BRAITHWAITE, 42BAND**
- COMMERCIAL HOTEL, KYOGLE, 8PM **MOSSY ROCKS**

SATURDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JESSE WHITNEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DJ TODD TERJE + DJ CRAZY P + LUEN**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **PRINNIE STEVENS**

- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **DJ PLEAD, ASHA FRANCO, 600 MOJO & NAHAAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4PM **DJ AFRODESIA + DJ DEEP PEPA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS, DJ OREN SELECTA, DUELLING PIANO BAR, 8PM MAD PROFESSOR**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **ADAM HARPAZ**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **ROUND MOUNTAIN GIRLS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **SAM BUCKINGHAM**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ VINYL DAN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6.30PM **CINDI AND THE DRUMS**
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, **JOE CONROY**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **PINK ZINC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **M. WARD & THE UNDERTAKERS**
- NORTHERN RIVERS CONSERVATORIUM, LISMORE, 10AM **RESTORED AT THE CON**
- HOTEL LISMORE 9.30PM **ROCHELLE LEES BAND**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **PHIL & TILLEY**
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 7.30PM **THE TEMPEST**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BROOKE SUPPLE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE FAB FOUR**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **RIVERSHED**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM **PSEUDO ECHO**

SUNDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SAM BUCKLEY DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **BOURBON STREET**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JORDY QUINN, DJ VINYL SUNDAYS FT MUTCRESPO, DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **KANE MUIR**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **RAW ORDIO W/ RACHEL BY THE STREAM**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **LACHLAN JACQUES**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT GREG LYON'S HIP OPERATION**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA **HARRY NICHOLS BAND**
- UKI MARKET 8AM **WILD MOUNTAIN WOMEN**
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 2PM **THE TEMPEST**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **SHORTY BROWN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7PM **THE X-MENTALS**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **LAURA DOOLAN + GREG BERRIMAN**

MONDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THOR PHILLIPS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LYRICA BLUE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LACHY DWYER, DJ DAVI BANGMA, DUELLING PIANO BAR**

TUESDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **ALLAH-LAS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 3PM **PINK ZINC DUO, FOUR PIECE CLOVERS, DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- HOTEL LISMORE 3PM **LUKE VASSELLA**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 4PM **BERRYMEN**

WEDNESDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JAMIE ASHFORTH DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KATIE WHITE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO, DJ OREN SELECTA, DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO HUM JAZZ QUINTET**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7.30PM **ARJ BARKER**

AFTERGLOW

A NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC WITH

Julie Hayes
Hannah Pearl
The Seeding
MC Mandy Nolan

Art Exhibition – Delicious Food – Bar – Special Guests

March 20th Doors Open 5:30pm
 Tickets \$35 / \$25 Concession
 Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
 THURSDAY MARCH 12
 TO WEDNESDAY MARCH 18

PROJECT HAIL MARY (M) GRAND PREVIEW
 Sat: 7:00PM

READY OR NOT 2: HERE I COME (M) FRIGHT NIGHT
 Wed: 8:30PM

ROYAL BALLET: WOOLF WORKS (ICT) SUN
 Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM

THE PIANO TEACHER (R) CUCT WALE
 Mon: 6:30PM

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

I SWEAR (MA15+) ADVANCE SCREENINGS
 Fri, Sat: 4:45PM, Sun: 4:30PM

ARC0 (PG) NFT
 Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:20AM, 1:50PM, 6:00PM, Sun: 11:20AM, 1:10PM, 6:30PM, Wed: 11:20AM, 2:15PM, 6:30PM

COLD STORAGE (MA15+) DAILY
 Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 4:10PM, 6:20PM, Sat: 3:30PM, 6:20PM, Mon: 3:30PM, 8:30PM

CRIME 101 (M) THURS, MON, TUES:
 1:45PM

EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT (PG) DAILY EXCEPT SAT, MON:
 11:00AM, 6:20PM, Sat: 11:00AM, Mon: 11:00AM, 4:10PM

FAMILY FILMS

GOAT (PG) DAILY:
 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 3:10PM, 5:20PM

ALL FILMS

ANEMONE (M) NFT DAILY:
 11:10AM, 1:15PM, 7:30PM

MARTY SUPREME (M) THURS, TUES, WED:
 4:30PM, Fri, Sat: 1:45PM

MIDWINTER BREAK (M) DAILY EXCEPT THURS, SUN:
 1:10PM, Thurs: 1:10PM, 6:00PM, Sun: 10:50AM

PEAKING BLINDERS: THE IMMORTAL MAN (MA15+) THURS, FRI, SAT, TUES:
 11:15AM, 3:20PM, 8:30PM, Sun, Wed: 1:50PM, 3:20PM, 8:30PM, Mon: 11:15AM, 3:20PM

REMINDERS OF HIM (M) DAILY EXCEPT SAT, MON:
 1:40PM, 3:50PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM, Sat, Mon: 1:00PM, 3:50PM, 5:45PM, 7:30PM

SCREAM 7 (MA15+) DAILY EXCEPT MON, WED:
 8:30PM, Mon, Wed: 1:45PM

THE MOMENT (MA15+) DAILY EXCEPT MON, WED:
 1:45PM

PLAGUE (MA15+) NFT DAILY EXCEPT SUN, WED:
 3:50PM, 8:00PM, Sun, Wed: 4:20PM, 8:30PM

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (M) DAILY EXCEPT SAT, MON:
 11:00AM, 4:20PM, 5:45PM, 7:10PM, Sat: 10:50AM, 4:10PM, 5:45PM, 8:10PM, Mon: 10:50AM, 4:30PM, 5:45PM, 8:10PM

HOW TO MAKE A KILLING (M) THURS, FRI, SAT, TUES:
 11:15AM, 3:20PM, 8:30PM, Sun, Wed: 1:50PM, 3:20PM, 8:30PM, Mon: 11:15AM, 3:20PM

REMINDERS OF HIM (M) DAILY EXCEPT SAT, MON:
 1:40PM, 3:50PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM, Sat, Mon: 1:00PM, 3:50PM, 5:45PM, 7:30PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT (PG) GRAND PREVIEW
 Daily except Sat:
 10:10AM, Sat: 9:50AM

GOAT (PG) NFT THURS:
 10:00AM, 12:10PM, 5:15PM, Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:00AM, 12:10PM, 5:00PM, Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 12:10PM, 2:30PM

HOW TO MAKE A KILLING (M) THURS:
 3:00PM, Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:30PM, Sat, Sun: 4:45PM

PEAKYBLINDERS: THE IMMORTAL MAN (MA15+) DAILY EXCEPT SAT, SUN:
 2:40PM, 5:00PM, Sat, Sun: 5:00PM

PROJECT HAIL MARY (M) GRAND PREVIEW
 Sat: 7:00PM

REMINDERS OF HIM (M) DAILY EXCEPT SAT, SUN:
 12:15PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM, Sat: 11:50AM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM, Sun: 12:10PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM

SCREAM 7 (MA15+) DAILY EXCEPT SAT:
 7:30PM

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (M) DAILY EXCEPT THURS:
 2:15PM, 7:15PM, Thurs: 2:15PM, 7:30PM

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

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



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Volunteer with **Marine Rescue Cape Byron** and help save lives on the water

Find out more:
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ANIMAL LOVERS!!

Volunteer to make a real difference to neglected, abused & unwanted farmed animals. Regularly or occasionally. Help with animal care, building, admin, grant writing, transport.

volunteer@owlandpussycat.org.au



www.owlandpussycat.org.au

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HEALTH

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Supporting youth, adults and families.

'Navigate Life with Clarity'

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Clear subconscious sabotages.

Reprogram patterns and beliefs.

Restore vibrancy and

physical health. De-stress.

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0401 926 090

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Anne Goslett

(nee Mannix)



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

(02) 6685 5185

9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

FUNERAL NOTICES

LAURENCE CHARLES TULLOCH

Late of Mullumbimby.

Passed away Saturday

28th February 2026.

Aged 93 years.

Laurence was a former grazier.

Dearly loved Husband of Jill (dec).

Loving father and father-in-law

of Wendy & Bill & John & Sonya.

Grandfather of Dylan & Jake.

Loved brother of John (dec),

Gene (dec) & Joyce (dec).

We would like to thank the staff

of Coolamon Villa for their

compassionate care.

A private cremation will be held.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS

6684 6232

TREE SERVICES

LEAF IT TO US - Tree Care Specialists

Local, qualified, insured, free quotes.

Big to small we enjoy it all -

0402487213



20 years local experience

• 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding

• Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat

Fully insured • Free quotes

0427 347 380



• Arborist • 15" Wood

Chipper • Stump Grinder

• Fully Insured

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

6681 3140

Mobile 0417 698 227

WANTED

TREE FERNS

Any shape, size. Royalties paid.

Ongoing supply needed. 0414904396

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All makes & models.

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Secure. From \$22p/w. Ranging from

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66867011

WANTED TO RENT

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Male, full-time ecologist Ph 0432694687

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194,450km • Good condition.

Child seat attachments

Rego June 2026

Contact 0481 092 342

POSITIONS VACANT

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0414 675 150

matt@gandh.com.au

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Steiner School has the following

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Temporary part-time

hours offered based on

experience.

Applications will be considered

as received.

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details on how to apply, visit

our website.

shearwater.nsw.edu.au/work-at-shearwater

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- Illustrator

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www.thinkblinkdesign.com



COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH FREE

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come one come all and join us in a meal or just a chat.

Takeaway most welcome: COVID safe rules apply.

Frozen takeaway meals now available.

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina
Presbyterian Hall



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

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The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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- Grease trap servicing
- Oily Liquids
- Portable toilet hire
- 24 hour service

6687 2880

PETS

PET SITTER AVAILABLE

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

CRICKET



Cricket is a kitten who is waiting to jump into a loving family. He's a sweet & fluffy tabby boy who loves affection. Playful, cuddly and cutest of all, are his incredible whiskers! So jump to it folks, Cricket is waiting for you!

To meet Cricket & our other cat & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley St, Mullumbimby.

OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm | Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542
Like us on Facebook!

AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222

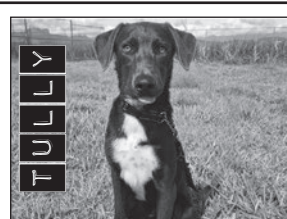


Who gives a Cluck?

Adopt a Rooster.

This is Leonardo. Rescued in early Feb after being dumped at Stotts Island nature reserve with 3 other little mates. Cute little guys. Smaller than ISA. Is a standard Bantam. Just wants to have some girlfriends to care for.

Here's the link to adopt him (#57).
www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/
whogivesacluck.org | @whogivesacluck



Tully is a 8 month old, Border Collie/Kelpie X. He is a bright, energetic young boy who is eager to learn and explore the world around him. He would be best suited to an active family who can provide structure, stimulation, and consistent guidance. M/C #991003002920225
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.
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MMF + MFF
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SOCIAL ESCORTS

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

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE	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	24:33 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

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

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.

Sexy Menopause

In celebration of International Women's Day, join us at Byron Bay Library for the event, Sexy Menopause, with author Lisa Fitzpatrick. A powerful and enlightening women's health talk focused on menopause. Ahead of her new book *Sexy Menopause*, Lisa reframes aging as an awakening and a time to step into your sensual, soulful

and sovereign power. Thursday 19 March at 3.30pm. Bookings online www.rtrl.nsw.gov or 6685 8540.

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.



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@bru3a.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.pbmedia.org/outreachhub. Contact hello@pbmedia.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.

Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au, website: www.byronrespite.com.au.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE	000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay	131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads	6629 7510
Mullumbimby	6629 7570
Byron Bay	6685 9499
Bangalow	6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding... 132 500	
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue.....	6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER.....	6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL.....	6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS.....	6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby)	6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line.....	1800 656 463
LIFELINE	131 114
MENSLINE.....	1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours	1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics	1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily.....	6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE.....	6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information	6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)	6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS.....	6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE	6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service... 6628 1898	

The Echo's Market Guide

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

MONTHLY MARKETS:

1st SATURDAY:
Brunswick Heads Markets - 8am-2pm
1st SUNDAY:
Byron Community Market - 8am-3pm
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm
2nd SUNDAY:
The Channon Craft Market - 9am-3pm
Chillingham Markets - 8am-1pm
Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets - 8am-2pm
Tabulam Community Market - 9am-1pm
3rd SATURDAY:
Mullumbimby Community Market - 8am-2pm
Murwillumbah Makers & Finders - 9am-2pm
Salt Beach Markets, 5th Kingscliff/Casuarina - 8am-1pm
3rd SUNDAY:
Federal Village Market - 8am-2pm
Uki Buttery Bazaar Market - 8am-2pm
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm
Lismore City Bowl Markets - 9am-1pm
4th SATURDAY:
Kyogle Bazaar - 9am-2pm
Last SATURDAY:
Evans Head Rotary Market - 8am-1pm
4th SUNDAY:
Bangalow Market - 8am-2.30pm
Nimbin Markets - 9am-3pm
Murwillumbah Showground Market - 8am-1pm
4th SUNDAY (in a 5-Sunday month):
Coolangatta Arts & Crafts Markets - 8am-2pm
5th SUNDAY:
Nimbin Markets - 8.30am-3pm

SEASONAL MARKETS:

Quarterly:
Byron Beachside Market - Jan, Easter, July and Sept
FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:
Each TUESDAY:
New Brighton Farmers Market - 8am-11am
Lismore Organic Market - 7.30am-10.30am
Each WEDNESDAY:
Murwillumbah Farmers Market - 7am-11am
Nimbin Farmers Market - 3pm-6pm
Newrybar Hall Twilight Market - 3pm-7.30pm
Each THURSDAY:
Byron Bay Farmers Market - 7am-11am
Lismore Produce Market - 3pm-6pm
Each FRIDAY:
Mullumbimby Farmers Market - 7am-11am
Evans Head Farmers Market - 2.30pm-6.30pm
Each SATURDAY:
Bangalow Farmers Market - 7am-11am
Durabah Rd Farmers Mkt (Tropical Fruit World) 8am-11am
Uki Farmers Market - 8am-1pm
Lismore Farmers Market - 7.30am-11.30am
Byron Twilight Market (Oct to Apr) 4pm-9pm
Each SUNDAY:
Ballina Farmers & Producers Mkt - 7am-11am

Markets may change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch to advise us of any changes.



ELLA

Ella is bursting with love and affection. Her friendly demeanour will immediately capture your heart, and her sweet nature will ensure she fits right in with any family dynamic. Her love for belly rubs is legendary, and she's always ready to nuzzle up to receive her new favourite pastime. She thrives in a social environment, great with children and enjoys their vibrant energy. If you're thinking about welcoming a lively, affectionate dog into your home, Ella could be the perfect addition to your family.

Re-homing #R251 00 00 60

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

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

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



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ACCOUNTANTS & BOOKKEEPERS

BYRON BOOKKEEPING BAS, Payroll, AR/AP, Xero, QB, MYOB.....0415 639548
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A tranquil retreat just minutes from Tweed Coast's beaches, shops and key amenities:

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■ Auction onsite on Saturday, 21 March at 1.30pm

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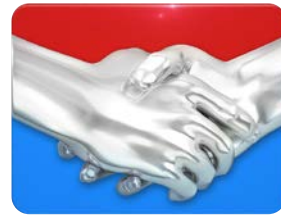
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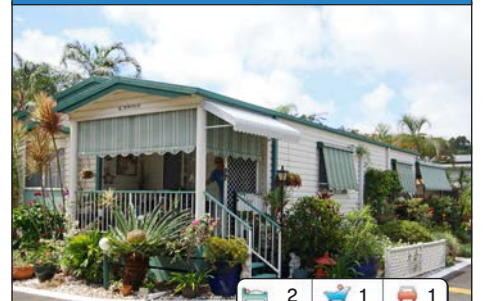
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- 7/105 Golden Four Drive, Bilinga. Sat 9.30-10am QLD Time
- 1/42-44 Thomson St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7/20 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 11.15-11.45am QLD Time
- 2046/20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 2101/20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 16/19 Ivory Cres, Tweed Heads. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 14 Tyrone Terrace, Banora Point. Sat 12.30-1pm

First National Byron Bay

- 23/22 Bay Street, Byron Bay. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 4/6 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 3.30-4pm
- 50 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 10 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Thurs 11.30am-12pm
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Thurs 12.30-1pm
- 178 Tyagarah Road, Myocum. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 4/6 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Thurs 3.30-4pm
- 103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11.30am
- 25/33-35 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 50 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 7/27 Kalemajere Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 142 Phoenix Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 9.30-10am
- 1/6 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30-10am
- 2/33 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 22 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 29/6-8 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 20 Taylors Lane, Ewingsdale. Sat 10-10.30am

- 19 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/113 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 8 Cassia Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30-11am
- 517 Friday Hut Road, Brooklet. Sat 10.30-11am
- 7/37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 20 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Botanic Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 35A Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 234A Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 56 Ruskin Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 22/9 Easy Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 2/66 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 20 Bilin Road, Myocum. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 93 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 1/113A Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 1675 Dunoon Road, Dunoon. Sat 1.45-2.15pm
- 119 Hunters Hill Road, Corndale. Sat 2.30-3pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 4 Seaward Street, Lennox Head. Sat 9.30-10am
- 16 Sand Street, Skenners Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 12 Clare Street, Alstonville. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/6-8 Norlyn Avenue, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 15 Killarney Crescent, Lennox Head. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 83 Tanamera Drive, Alstonville. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 16 Sartories Road, Pimlico. Sat 11-11.30am
- 18 Brunswick Street, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 275 Signata Road, Pimlico. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 19 Dalmacia Drive, Wollongbar. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 507 Ballina Road, Goonellabah. Sat 1.15-1.45pm

MANA RE

- 1/16 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1/21A Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 23 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.30am
- 33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.30am
- 14 Mitchell Street, Uki. Sat 10.30-11am
- 32 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- Lot 20, 2981 Kyogle Road, Kunghur (aka 14 Sisters Court, Kung-hur). Sat 11.30am-12pm

Raine & Horne Jet

- 629 Tumbulgum Road, Tyalgah. Sat 9-9.30am
- 7 Peter Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 45 Fernvale Road, Fernvale. Sat 10.30-11.30am
- 2981 Kyogle Road, Kunghur. Sat 10.30-1pm
- 18 Flinders Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30-1.30pm

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- 98 Greenvale Court, Burringbar. Wed 5.15-6pm
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- 40 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
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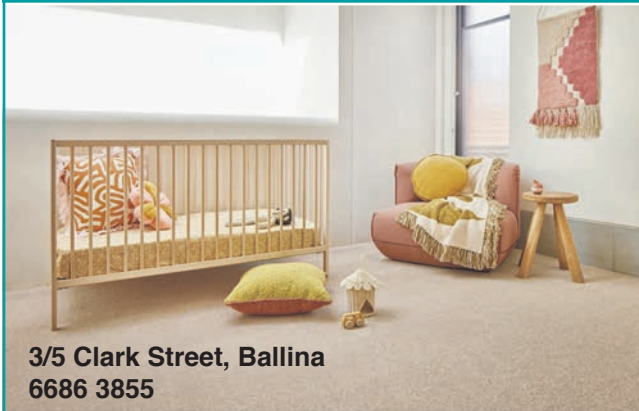


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Congrats Byron Bay Boardriders Club, who came second at the Australian Boardriders Battle grand final, held in Burleigh Heads last weekend. They were so, so, close to claiming victory – see full report on page 18.



The Byron Seniors Celebration 2026 – Live Life in Colour, will take place on Thursday, 12 March from 10am to 2pm at the Byron Community Cabin. Organisers say, 'This joyful community event celebrates the creativity, connection and spirit of Byron's seniors, with a vibrant program including theatre, tai chi, storytelling, hula dance and a shared community lunch'.

In her latest Youtube video, Constitutional legal scholar, Anne Twomey, says Qld's rushed new hate speech laws are constitutionally risky, over-broad, and a poor way to deal with genuine antisemitism and extremism. She says the Qld laws make it a crime to use such slogans as 'from the river to the sea' and 'globalise the intifada' if using them to harass, menace or offend. Penalties of up to two years' jail for displaying, or reciting them, to harass or offend, apply.

Here's a mind-bending quote from antiquity: 'The weak are always anxious for justice and equality. The strong pay no heed to either.' – Aristotle

The peak body for Landcare groups on the Richmond River are calling for the NSW government to establish a Richmond River Commissioner. As most know, our rivers and creeks are in very poor health, not only from years of intensive farming,

but from road base being washed into them from unsealed roads, which are maintained by councils.

The Guardian reports, 'Another free speech row at a literary festival has erupted, with Adelaide University abruptly cancelling a high-profile event featuring UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese'. The popup literary festival emerged after the cancelled Adelaide Writers Week.

It's a bit odd that in communist China, they publicly execute child rapists but in the US they can all be uber-wealthy and untouchable. And do it all in plain sight. Did the QAnon conspiracy theorists get one thing right?

While Trump and Netanyahu continue with their 'heads on a pike' foreign policy, misinformation on their invasion, and just about everything else, is spreading wider and faster than an Iranian Fattah

hypersonic missile. Just a friendly reminder that *The Echo* is a locally-owned independent newspaper that has been around 40 years!

FYI – NSW Premier Chris Minns has finally confirmed that laws that punish medicinal cannabis patients (who drive) will be reviewed.

Sam Refshauge has been welcomed into the role of Plan C managing director. Founder and board chair, Jean Renouf, said in a statement, 'Through partnerships, training programs, research, advocacy and grassroots initiatives, Plan C has supported communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, while building stronger local networks and leadership'. For more info visit planc.org.au. Pictured holding up Sam are (from left) Jen, Jean, Rena and Carly. Photo supplied

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