

# Echo

'ALL GENERALISATIONS ARE FALSE, INCLUDING THIS ONE.' - MARK TWAIN

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 40 #44 • April 8, 2026 • www.echo.net.au

## Nothing blue about this lot!



Mullum Top Pub punters went off for Z-Star (top left).



Cheekier than any ten-year-old, Bruns Picture House cabaret just keeps getting better and cheekier: MC Brett Haylock; Caitlin Marion, bound for fame; the quite literally unbelievable, Raymond Crowe; the inimitable Amy May Rose; and the man perfectly named for Easter, Chris Chen.



Versace Boys brought more style than a barrel of monkeys to the Billi front bar, which may never pass a health and safety inspection ever again.



Bruns Pub had some of its biggest nights ever: Jimmy Barnes got up with the Living End; Bob Marley didn't get up with the Wailers; the only time JD could squeeze in he caught Brook Street. Photos Jeff 'Bad Bunny' Dawson

## Residents raise concerns over proposed 24-hour gym at Mullum Bowlo

Paul Bibby

Concerns are being raised by nearby residents over plans to transform Mullumbimby's former bowling club into a 24-hour gym, with issues ranging from noise and traffic to a lack of community consultation.

As previously reported, the historic Mullumbimby Ex-Services Bowling Club at 7 Jubilee Avenue is set to be redeveloped into a round-the-clock fitness centre operated by Town Fitness Pty Ltd, marking a significant shift in how the site will be used.

While the proposal retains one bowling green, the development would see the main clubhouse converted into a modern gym, including a large workout space, group fitness studio and recovery facilities. The gym would operate 24 hours a day, with staffed hours and group classes running from 6am to 7.30pm.

However, some residents living near the site say the move to a 24-hour operation could have unintended impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Noelle Maxwell, who lives

nearby, expressed concerns about how the facility might be used late at night.

### Noise and traffic concerns raised

'If you want to have a 24-hour gym you need staff it 24 hours,' she said.

Ms Maxwell said she was worried the site could become a late-night gathering point for young people, particularly outside of staffed hours.

She also raised concerns about potential noise from early morning and late-night group activities.

Ms Maxwell pointed to the possibility of gym classes with loud music, as well as outdoor 'boot-camp' style sessions, taking place at times that could disturb nearby residents.

Traffic was another key concern, particularly given the site's proximity to Mullumbimby High School.

Ms Maxwell said increased vehicle movements could create safety risks during already busy periods.

She noted that peak gym usage times may coincide with the morning school drop-off, increasing congestion in the area.

This was exacerbated by the

fact that the current proposal did not appear to include bike parking facilities.

In addition to operational concerns, Ms Maxwell expressed frustration about what she described as a lack of communication from the developer.

'No one ever got back to me to answer any of my questions,' she said.

'There's a lot of questions and if someone had come and answered them I might feel differently.'

While acknowledging that the development may go ahead, Ms

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## New play flips the lid on the teenage brain

Paul Bibby

Inside every adolescent brain, billions of neurons are firing and rewiring, shaping the intense and often overwhelming experience of being a teenager.

For ten local young people, that inner chaos has become the subject of performance in *Brainstorm*, a youth production coming to the Drill Hall Theatre in Mullumbimby on 10, 11, and 12 April.

The play invites audiences inside the teenage mind, drawing on real experiences of anxiety, identity, friendship, and family conflict.

Written by Emily Lim and Ned Glasier in collaboration with neuroscientists Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore and Dr Kate Mills, *Brainstorm* was designed to be adapted by young performers using their own stories.

### Youth voice

Under the direction of local director and actor Sally Davis, the cast has spent months reshaping the script through rehearsals and shared writing. The result is a deeply personal work that blends humour, vulnerability, and insight.

Ms Davis said the play had evolved into something closer to a collective memoir than a traditional production.

'These teenagers are navigating enormous internal changes, and as a community we often forget how intense that can feel,' she said.

'This play gives young people a voice and invites adults to better understand the complexity of the teenage brain.'

The production had humble beginnings.



*Brainstorm* is coming to you this weekend. Photo Jeff 'Brainfade' Dawson

Last year, *Brainstorm* was staged in the food hall at the Mullumbimby Showground after the group struggled to access a formal theatre space.

With donated lighting, a borrowed sound system, and rows of plastic chairs, the cast transformed the warehouse into a makeshift stage.

### Previously sold out

Despite the limitations, the response was overwhelming.

'We completely sold out. People were cramming in under the roller door to see it,' Ms Davis said.

Audiences responded with standing ovations, with many visibly moved by the honesty of the performances.

For the young cast, that reaction was significant. In a culture where teenagers are often dismissed, the production showed that their voices could resonate strongly when given space.

Central to the play is the idea that the teenage brain is wired for intensity, with emotional centres highly

active while decision-making regions are still developing.

This year's return season has brought new challenges. About eight weeks ago, Ms Davis became ill and feared the production might not go ahead. Instead, the cast stepped up.

'I said, "I don't think I can do the show," and the teenagers said, "We'll do it",' she said.

Since then, they have continued rehearsing independently, supported by Ms Davis when possible, determined to bring the production back to the community.

'What moves me most is seeing these young people stand up and say, "This is who we are... and we deserve to be understood, not judged",' she said.

### Tickets

*Brainstorm* will be performed at the Drill Hall Theatre on April 10 (7-8pm), April 11 (7-8pm) and April 12 (1-2pm).

For more information and to book your tickets visit the theatre's website: [www.drillhalltheatre.org.au](http://www.drillhalltheatre.org.au).

## Asren Pugh puts hand up for NSW Senate

Aslan Shand

Former Byron Shire councillor Asren Pugh has confirmed with *The Echo* that he will be seeking support to run on the Labor Party ticket for the NSW Senate (upper house) in the 2027 state election.

Pugh had served part of his second term as a councillor before resigning on 13 March this year saying that he had 'business and other projects' he needed to focus on and 'I cannot dedicate the time I think is required to the work of Council and representing the community effectively'.

Pugh resigned on the last day that would trigger a countback rather than a by-election and he is most likely to be replaced by Peter Doherty who ran fourth on his ticket and is president of



Former councillor Asren Pugh resigned to focus on 'business and other projects'. Photo Tree Faerie

the Byron Labor branch. The countback is to take place on Wednesday, 22 April.

### Ticket decided by delegates

'We (Labor) have a democratic process to go through in the Labor Party and the Labor ticket will be decided by delegates to the NSW State Labor Conference in July,' Pugh told *The Echo*.

'I will be asking delegates for their support to be part of the Labor ticket for the Legislative Council for the 2027 election. I will be putting myself forward as a regional candidate. We have not had a Labor MLC from the North Coast since Janelle Saffin was first elected into the Upper House in 1995.'

Pugh has previously run for the NSW state seat of Ballina but was unsuccessful.

## Public land for \$75m Wategos mansion

Aslan Shand

A Byron Shire Council (BSC) request for public feedback on a proposed lease of public land, part of a road reserve, to the owner of 27 Marine Parade, Wategos, was frustrated by a lack of information supplied to the public by BSC.

The BSC website stated, 'We are proposing a lease over the road reserve (118,9sqm,) to a private landowner for structural encroachments' with no further information on the lease.

The property has been listed for \$75 million by Sothebys Real Estate, is listed on Airbnb to rent at \$71,397 a week, and according to *The Sydney Morning Herald* is currently owned by 'planning and environmental lawyer Scott Stewart, a partner at AJ&Co Lawyers'.

Council staff were asked whether there was an agenda report on the potential lease or whether there was any further information on the proposal. Locals were told they would need a GIPA (Freedom of Information request) to get answers.

### Only temporary structures allowed

According to public documents, Condition 7 of the 2014 development application (DA) for the site required approval of the road reserve works prior to a construction certificate being approved by BSC. It also noted that a lease may be needed under the *Roads Act*. Previous similar DAs include a condition for a lease.

According to the *Roads Act* s157(3) 'Such a consent may not be given unless the roads

authority is satisfied that the proposed structure comprises a fence or a temporary structure of a kind that can easily be demolished or removed.'

The encroachment on approximately 6m x 20m of public land includes stairs to access the property, retaining walls that enclose the public land, and landscaping.

A 2011 road reserve lease for 29 Marine Parade was 'for a maximum term of five years', 'based on market rent', with 'annual rent reviews'.

On this basis a five-year lease to the landholder of 27 Marine Parade with the lease fee set to match the Valuer General's value in the vicinity (about \$27,700/square metre) offset over 20 years, would set an annual rent of \$165,000 plus CPI.




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# Hand on heart *The Echo* needs your help

Aslan Shand

**T**he *Echo* is a locally-owned, grassroots organisation that came from the community's need to have a voice. It has had a strong voice for the last 40 years and aims to continue providing free local news, articles, and entertainment for the next 40 years – but to do that, it needs your support.

The printed *Echo* is distributed free all over the Shire and beyond. Like *The Guardian*, there is no paywall on *The Echo* website, but unlike *The Guardian* we lack wealthy benefactors. So while the best way to support *The Echo* is by advertising, if you have no need to advertise we are asking for locals and everyone who loves *The Echo* to come on board and support *The Echo* with a donation ([www.echo.net.au/support-us](http://www.echo.net.au/support-us)).

## Why do we need your support?

*The Echo* provides a vital local service from supporting local community groups, not-for-profits, organisations like the Byron and Mullumbimby Community Centres, we write articles on local events like school fairs or local arts organisations and charities doing great work in the community. We also cover community concerns over developments, the environment, homelessness, keep a beady eye on your local council – *The Echo* is a place for discussion, ideas, and more.

Sometimes you will see these stories in our pages – but there are times when someone comes to us with an issue that, with a little help from *The Echo*, is resolved before it needs to be raised in a public forum.

From Australia to the US to the UK the world has seen the collapse of the newspaper industry, particularly in rural and regional areas.

As the internet and social media have taken key revenue streams from print papers like classifieds and other forms



of advertising Australia has seen more than 200 local, regional, and community newspapers close in the last ten years.

This is having direct impacts on communities who no longer have a place to raise their voices, to have their discussions, to tell their stories. Studies have shown that once a newspaper closes, there is an increased cost to the community and local government.

'When compared with national news, which is often conflict-driven and sensationalist, local media provides news pertinent to the local community and is linked to community cohesion,' according to the study *News Closures, Trust, and Community Attachment among Regional News Audiences: A Case Study of Australia*.

## Local news makes for strong communities

'A study of local news audiences found that community connection was a driver of local news consumption; the top reasons for consuming local news were to know what is going on in their local area (87 per cent) and understand how things may affect them (86 per cent).

'Typically, in areas where there have been local media closures, there is less news reporting on local government activities, courts, health, and education issues relevant to the community. This decline in news provision weakens the democratic system because local communities are devoid of critical information and there is less accountability.'

Similar studies in the US and UK have shown that when an area loses

its local newspaper the cost to the community is increased crime, increased cost of government, and a reduction in community engagement.

## A community that cares

The Byron Shire and Northern Rivers is a region known, to the chagrin of some, for its high level of community engagement, environmental action, critical analysis of local, state, federal and international politics and events. It is a community that cares deeply and *The Echo* is a key part of this.

It is an area that has been hit hard over many years from the Black Summer Fires, and Covid, to the devastating 2022 floods, to the current tough economic conditions. Things are not always easy, but *The Echo* is here to keep the voice and connection in our community strong. But to do that we need your support through advertising and financial support from the community.

Bringing the news, stories, analysis, and context of the news to you daily online and weekly through the physical paper does cost money. We have to pay our journalists, photographers, artists, printers, and distributors, just to name a few. To do that we need your support to keep going.

*The Echo* is owned and produced locally, so we are part of the local economy and the money we pay in wages, rent, etc remains in our community rather than profit being creamed off the top of the organisation and being funnelled elsewhere. The challenge is how do we continue to produce high-quality journalism, continue to employ locals, and produce an engaged and engaging physical and online newspaper that meets our community's needs in these tough times? It is every advert in, and donation to, *The Echo* which creates the space for the stories on community events, happenings, and concerns. We do it all with your support. So help us keep our community voice strong and support *The Echo* here:

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# Local children's book a breath of fresh air in troubled times

Paul Bibby

At a time of global conflict and division, a new children's book by Mullumbimby artist and author Madeline Hill is encouraging young readers to rediscover the value of small acts of kindness – starting with a simple letter.

Ms Hill's latest book, *Snail Mail*, tells the story of a gentle snail, Boris Brown, who delivers caring messages to friends, offering what the author describes as a reminder that connection and compassion can still flourish in uncertain times.

'The world is pretty crazy at the moment,' she says. 'It's time to slow down and remember we're all connected. We can choose to be kind, like Boris, and make the world a little bit sweeter for all.'

The rhyming picture book follows Boris as he travels from friend to friend delivering handwritten notes to a cast of animal characters, including a bunny, frog, dog, bee, and owl – each with their own personalities and challenges.

Ms Hill, known locally for her colourful artwork and distinctive illustration style, said the idea for the



Boris Brown is all about creating connection. Image supplied

book grew from a desire to focus on gratitude and care at a moment when many people feel increasingly disconnected.

'It's a book about kindness and expressing our care for friends,' she says.

'I think that's pretty important in the world at the moment when there's so much division – just putting gratitude and kindness at the forefront.'

The book also includes an interactive element, with small envelopes containing letters throughout the story and a blank letter tucked into a pocket at the back, encouraging children to write their own message to someone they care about.

Ms Hill said the character of Boris – a slow-moving

snail – was chosen deliberately as a counterpoint to modern life's pace.

'It's about slowing down,' she says, 'and taking the time to reach out.'

As communities continue to navigate global uncertainty alongside everyday local challenges, Ms Hill hopes the story will prompt conversations between children and families about empathy, communication, and connection.

Through the quiet journey of one small snail, *Snail Mail* delivers a message that resonates far beyond the page: even the smallest gestures can carry meaning in difficult times.

To get a copy of *Snail Mail* visit the author's webpage: [www.moonfacemaddy.com](http://www.moonfacemaddy.com).

## Byron drainage work will resume this week

Major drainage upgrade works recommenced in Byron Bay on Tuesday after a short Easter break.

Staff say flash flooding in the town centre last month is exactly the type of flooding the drainage project is aimed at minimising, with 40 culverts reportedly installed from the rail corridor into Jonson Street, and a water

main shifted.

Assets and Major Projects Manager Christopher Soulsby said last week contractors would reconstruct the iconic Rotary clock tower later this year.

The clock was temporarily decommissioned to make way for the drainage works.

The South Lawson Street Carpark was reopened over

the easter weekend providing pedestrian access in front of the laneway between Guzman Y Gomez and Byron Hot Bread Kitchen.

Staff say the construction area is to extend further south on Jonson Street this month to upgrade drainage in this section and the footpath on the eastern side of Jonson Street.

# Teedy bear fun had by all



Zahara, Sky, Sienna, and Charlie were amongst scores of kiddiwinks and hundreds of teddies who had big fun at the teddy bears' picnic, and while the children were delightfully well behaved, some of the teddies on the other hand... Photo 'Jefurry' Dawson

Nearly 200 people and just as many teddy bears descended on Mullumbimby Showground last Saturday for Spaghetti Circus's Teddy Bears' Picnic, a joyful celebration of circus, community and childhood that raised funds for the circus's beloved preschool program.

The day opened with a performance by Spaghetti Circus's emerging artist troupe, who wowed the

crowd with a showcase of their skills and creativity.

Children and their beloved bears took centre stage for a teddy bear parade, a treasure hunt, and colouring-in competition added extra colour and laughter to the afternoon, while in-house produced artisan gelato proved a runaway hit for the kids and parents.

The day was made possible with the support

of Spaghetti Circus and Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce.

'Days like this highlight why we do what we do,' said Spaghetti Circus Head of Circus School Petrina Hutchinson.

'To see so many people come together around circus, around their kids, around the community – it was just beautiful. And the smiling kids were absolutely extraordinary.'

## Firearms, ammo and drugs seized in Ewingsdale

Police say investigations are underway after firearms, ammunition, and suspected illegal drugs were seized during a compliance search in Ewingsdale.

About 9.45am on Wednesday, 1 April, officers from Northern Rivers Region Enforcement Squad (RES) assisted by the North Coast Domestic Violence High Risk Offenders Team (DVHROT) and the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, conducted a search of a property on Kennedy's Lane, Ewingsdale.

During the search, police allegedly located and seized three 22-litre containers containing iodine pellets, a jerrycan holding an unidentified liquid, and substances believed to be methylamphetamine.

'A crime scene was established, and about 8.30am on Thursday, 2 April, officers from RES with assistance from DVHROT, the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, and the Public Order and Riot Squad conducted a subsequent search of the property,'

said a police spokesperson.

During this search, police allegedly located and seized glassware believed to be used in the manufacture of methylamphetamine, four firearms including two rifles, a shotgun and a handgun, as well as ammunition, silencers, and chemicals believed to be drug-manufacturing precursors.

'All items were seized for forensic examination. No arrests have been made, and investigations continue under Strike Force Cratus,' said the spokesperson.

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## MullumMagic Toastmasters Club welcomes you!

Do you feel tongue-tied when speaking in public? Do you tend to ramble and have trouble getting to the point? Whether giving a work or school talk, a toast, or a eulogy, fighting the jitters and negative self-talk can be hard. Fear of speaking in public is common. Feelings range from mild nervousness to panic. Overcoming these fears can be difficult without help.

MullumMagic Toastmasters Club was formed in 2004 by a dedicated group determined that people around Mullumbimby should have the opportunity to learn public speaking. Founder Tony Purdy is well known for starting clubs all over the world. Over the club's 22-year history, hundreds of people have benefited from developing speaking and leadership skills. Previous members have gone on to facilitate workshops, create documentaries, host radio programs, and deliver dissertations.

### Meeting your challenges

Dale panicked and froze during a presentation at



L to R Neil Amber, Dale Fallon, and Celine Massa.  
Photo Jeff Dawson

work. Unable to speak, she fled the room. Someone later suggested to her, 'Why don't you join Toastmasters?' Dale says it helped her, when she joined the MullumMagic Toastmasters Club.

'The warm, friendly people at MullumMagic encouraged me. I wasn't forced to speak unless I wanted to. Now I am happy to speak,' she said.

Neil has been a member for 19 years. He has overcome his speaking challenges. Now he continues with the club to support newer members to overcome their fear of speaking.

'I've witnessed nervous new members excel and become effective speakers

in the safe, supportive, and non-judgemental environment of our club,' said Neil.

### Join up and build your confidence

MullumMagic Toastmasters Club believes in helping people to achieve their own speaking goals in a safe, secure, and encouraging way. Come and see the club in action. Guests are welcome to join in on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Presbyterian Church, 104 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. The next meeting is on 9 April. For information, contact Neil Amber on 0415 271 761.



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## Cape Byron Steiner visits NSW parliament

Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School HSC students recently visited NSW Parliament House in Sydney and met with their local Member for Ballina Tamara Smith.

Students visited the Legislative Assembly (lower house) Chamber to observe parliamentary debate unfold in real time and were able to discuss how laws are introduced, debated, and passed.

'I thought it was incredible to see it in person here,' Year 11 student Shlomi Safia said.

'Often politics feels like something that's really impersonal, but seeing it here happen with real people, people like Tamara Smith, was amazing. It made me feel like these things are actually happening by us, and for us.'

The visit formed part of Legal Studies and the



**Cape Byron Steiner School students with their local member Tamara Smith MP at NSW Parliament House.** Photo Parliament of NSW

Legislature, an education program run by NSW Parliament that supports the Stage 6 Legal Studies curriculum. The initiative is designed to give students a practical understanding of how the legislative process operates beyond the classroom.

The students also visited workshops and lectures at universities, museums, art galleries, science labs, religious and cultural sites, and

the Supreme Court during their Sydney visit.

'It is a really important bridge between conceptual study in the classroom and real world understanding of how their learning shapes society and the world,' said Head of School, Alix Johnson.

'Every year students return energised and inspired for their HSC studies.'

## Support John raising money for Byron's youth

This Saturday, 11 April, ultra-endurance runner John Salton (65 years young) will undertake a 24-hour non-stop run around the Cape Byron Lighthouse loop, beginning at sunrise, to raise funds for the Byron Youth Services (BYS).

John's run is the official launch of Run for Youth, a campaign dedicated to raising awareness and funds to support young Australians. BYS creates spaces and opportunities for young people to feel supported, build confidence, express creativity, and stay connected through a range of wellbeing programs and youth-led initiatives.

Following the death of his father from colon cancer at the age of 57 John began ultra-running in 2013.

'That experience became a turning point [for John], prompting him to reassess his health and lifestyle. Since then, he has completed multiple 50km, 100km and 100-mile



**John Salton is doing a 24-hour run this Saturday at Cape Byron Lighthouse.** Photo supplied

events, including the Alpine Challenge (DU 135), as well as a 2,019km 40-day endurance challenge,' said Christian Tancred from BYS.

### Personal challenge

John says that endurance running is not about competition, but responsibility, using personal challenge as a way to lead by example and contribute to something greater. The Cape Byron run is the first of a series of activations designed to build awareness,

community connection, and long-term impact.

John is preparing for a 5,080km run across Australia from west to east, scheduled for July 2026. This next phase will expand the campaign nationally, raising further funds and support for youth-focused initiatives across the country.

Everyone is invited to support John this Saturday during his run and find out more on his Instagram @johnsalton.run.

## National Circus Festival postponed to 2027

The seventh National Circus Festival presented by Spaghetti Circus has been postponed, and will now run in October 2027.

The National Circus Festival was due to happen this year with Spaghetti Circus saying that the decision to postpone was due to increasing cost pressures and shifts

in the funding landscape that are impacting regional arts organisations and festivals.

'Rather than deliver a reduced program, we've chosen to invest this time into strengthening the festival's future,' said Artistic Director, Alice Cadwell.

The 2027 festival will provide a week-long training

program from Sunday 26 to Thursday 30 September 2027, in the lead-up to the three-day festival that runs 1-3 October 2027.

Spaghetti Circus will continue to deliver performances, training opportunities, and community programs across the Northern Rivers throughout 2026.

## New gym to be located at Mullum Bowlo

► **Continued from page 1** Maxwell said she would prefer a more limited operating model.

'Personally, my preference would be that it wasn't 24 hours. But ultimately it comes down to the fact that

they need to take greater account of the amenity of local residents and traffic safety issues.' Planning documents submitted to Byron Shire Council state that measures such as security cameras, monitored alarms

and designated parking areas are required to reduce impacts on nearby homes.

The proposal is currently under consideration, with community feedback expected to form part of the assessment process.

The proposal is currently under consideration, with community feedback expected to form part of the assessment process.

## A Small SHIFT – I Will Survive

Seven local women from different decades of life spanning from their 20s to their 80s, will be sharing a seven-minute story on something they have survived, and raising money for the SHIFT Project.

The 'A Small SHIFT – I Will Survive' event will be taking place at the Byron Bay Golf Club on Wednesday, 22 April at 7pm.

'There is a kind of magic in hearing women from different stages of life speak openly and honestly beside one another. Their stories

come from different worlds, different eras, different turning points, and yet something runs through them all – the deep human act of enduring, adapting and continuing on anyway,' said host Mandy Nolan.

'You'll hear from a woman who has been a banker, a nurse and a brothel manager. Another who taught English to Burmese monks and now writes as an astrology columnist. Each woman brings her own history, in her own voice.

'Some stories will make

you laugh. Others may catch in your throat. All of them will leave you with something.

'This is the third event in the series that amplifies women's capacity not just to endure, but to thrive! This is the spirit at the heart of THE SHIFT Project Byron Bay, the not-for-profit that works after the crisis to build resilience that sustains safety and wellbeing for themselves, their kids and their family.'

Bookings: [shiftproject.org.au/whats-on/event](http://shiftproject.org.au/whats-on/event). Last time this event sold out in just over a week!

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News from across the North Coast online  
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**Man charged after failing to assist following a fatal crash at Tweed Heads**

NSW police say a man will face court after allegedly failing to assist following a fatal crash in Tweed Heads South. In a media statement they say, 'Just after 10.30pm on Monday 30 March, emergency services were called to the intersection of Heffron Street and Oxley Street, Tweed Heads South, following reports a sedan had rolled'.

**Popular Bungawalbin Creek restored near Lismore**

A restoration project aimed at reducing erosion and improving fish habitats at Bungawalbin Creek, south of Lismore, has been completed. Bungawalbin Creek is popular for kayaking and canoeing, and offers a 24-kilometre paddling trail with abundant birdlife and wildlife.

**1.1 million landlords with tax breaks**

New polling data from The Australia Institute and the Everybody's Home housing rights alliance shows most Aussie voters want reduced tax breaks for property investors and more money for social housing.

**Mallangenee Observatory at Richmond Range opens to the public**

A 'one-of-a-kind observatory that frames spectacular views of the constellations by night and the rolling green hills and mountain ranges of the Northern Rivers by day has opened to the public' in Mallangenee, near Casino.

**NSW government update on fuel supplies**

NSW Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin (Labor), says the NSW government is closely monitoring fuel distribution, including over the Easter period, to manage any localised shortages, particularly in regional communities.

**Raymond takes to the skies to celebrate 100**

**M**urwillumbah's Raymond Lindsay celebrated his 100th milestone with a big grin as he took flight in an aerochute over his home town recently.

Jan Smith told *The Echo*, 'Raymond George Lindsay was born in England on 18 March, 1926. He trained as a commando in WWII, and as a paratrooper, but the war ended before he saw action'.

'After the war, he was in the British police force for ten years. He married in this time and had three daughters.

'His second marriage to Judith has been for 55 years and they are still happily married.

**Leading a full life**

'Raymond arrived in Australia in the late 1950s and has had a very full life, working in the retail trade, in audiology, and running an organic goat farm.

'Raymond and Judith have lived in Murwillumbah for a long time, and Raymond has had many years of community service there, helping to establish and run the Murwillumbah Food Pantry, with which he is still



Raymond Lindsay, at 100 years young. Photo supplied

very involved, helping out every week.

'Raymond attributes his longevity to not drinking or smoking, eating healthy, staying free from stress and keeping active.

'He has had a week of celebrations and as he has always loved flying, we organised a special treat for him.

'Matt Fox from Tribal Flight was delighted to take Raymond for an early

morning flight in his Aerochute. We all met at Murwillumbah airstrip at 6.30am.

'As there was a heavy mist, we had to wait a bit, but eventually the sun broke through and Raymond was strapped in beside Matt.

'Judith and one of his daughters watched on and we all cheered as they roared down the strip and into the air.

'They had the most amazing flight towards Mt Warning and over Raymond's home.

He had the biggest grin when they landed, and he couldn't stop talking about it for hours.

'You would never know Raymond was 100! You are an inspiration to us all', Jan added.

**Lack of accountability found with 2022 flood grants**

Emergency grants to NSW Councils after the 2022 floods have come under scrutiny by the state's government oversight body.

And the verdict? The Office of Local Government (OLG), who administer the funds, were found to have not documented 'fraud controls, nor processes, to manage conflicts of interests',

as well as not documenting 'the reasons for all eligibility decisions'.

The findings were published in the NSW Audit Office's performance audit for 31 March.

Of note was that while mandatory requirements were met, 'The OLG and the Reconstruction Authority (RA) have not defined their

respective roles and responsibilities under the program'.

'This has limited accountability for some aspects of grants administration and impacted timely program delivery', the report says.

There was also 'no clear plan to finalise the program'.

■ To read the full report visit [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).

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# Aunty Rhoda Roberts and Jenny Dowell laid to rest in Lismore

Story & photo David Lowe

The service for former Lismore mayor, Jenny Dowell, was held at the Quad, between three institutions she loved, the Lismore Regional Gallery, Lismore Conservatorium and the Lismore Library.

The grassy area was full of mourners, many wearing Jenny's signature red.

As was the case with the ceremony for Aunty Rhoda, held later in the day on 31 March, Jenny designed her own funeral, including choosing the music. Both women died from cancer, with their families close by, in the region that they loved.

Dot Orchard, who led proceedings, said, 'Jenny was important and special to each one of you in different ways. She was very open with people she met, and very protective of them. But Jenny would also do it with kindness and grace, and dignity and the generosity of wanting to help people.'

Those in attendance included Jenny's family, local and state political representatives, and people



Mourners at the funeral of Aunty Rhoda Roberts.

who had come to know the former mayor of Lismore in many different ways over her time in the district.

## Aunty Rhoda

More than 1,000 people filled Lismore's St Carthage's Cathedral to overflowing as they said farewell to Widjabul Wia-bal woman from the Bundjalung Nation, Aunty Rhoda Roberts.

She had been a trailblazer in multiple fields, a descendant of the famous Roberts family of the Northern Rivers.

Born in 1959, the daughter and granddaughter of local pastors, Aunty Rhoda died of ovarian cancer last month.

She was one of the first

Aboriginal people to be regularly seen on Australian screens, as an actor and presenter, and went on to perform crucial cultural roles, including at the Sydney Olympics and the Sydney Opera House.

From 2021 until the time of her death, Aunty Rhoda was Elder in Residence at SBS.

This was just one of her many professional roles, which spanned the media and performing arts, from Lismore (including at the *Koori Mail*), to the rest of Australia and internationally.

■ Full obituaries for Rhoda Roberts and Jenny Dowell online at [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).

# Tweed charity helping to tackle period poverty

Two Tweed Heads women are making a global impact by supporting disadvantaged girls and women through menstrual health education and the distribution of period dignity kits.

Chupis Co-founder Celi Harper told *The Echo*, 'Chupis, is an all-women's charity and helps young women across Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, as well as in remote Indigenous communities in Australia.'

She says, 'In Africa, Chupis focuses on addressing period poverty by providing dignity kits - including reusable



Chupis co-founder Celi Harper. Photo supplied

pads, underwear, and soap - alongside essential menstrual health education.'

To get involved, volunteer, or support the cause

- especially in the lead-up to Menstrual Health Day on 28 May - visit [chupis.org](http://chupis.org).

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

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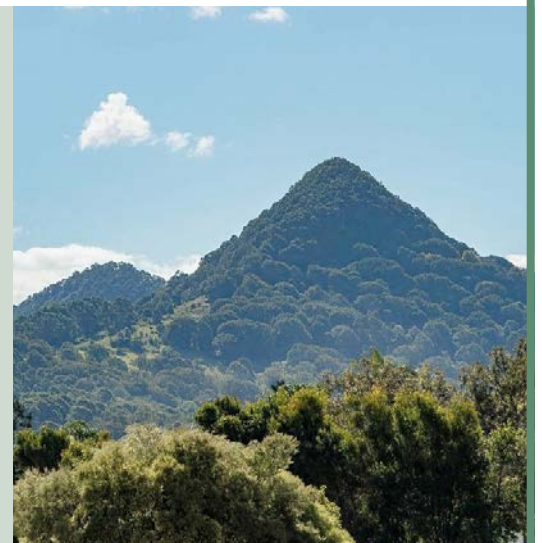
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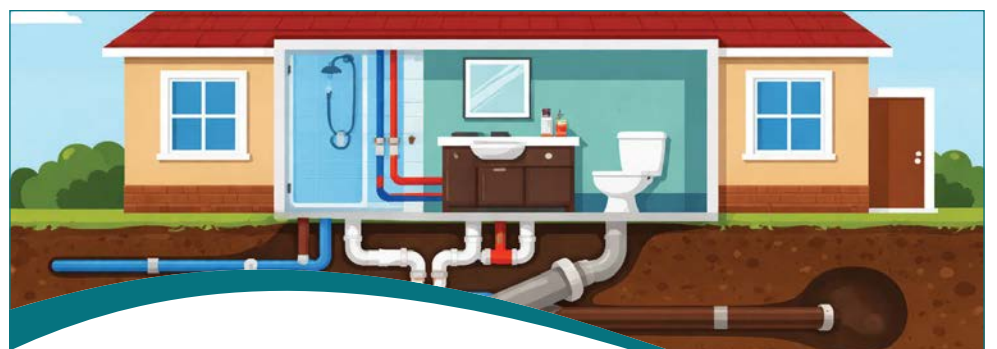
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Council's Development Servicing Plan for water and sewer charges is on exhibition.



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**The Byron Shire Echo**  
Volume 40 #44 • April 8, 2026

## Approving the uninsurable

Speaking at the Northern Rivers NSW Business Economic Breakfast recently, Alan Kohler AM noted that the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has questioned the continuing government practice of approving the construction of houses in flood zones – a practice that is creating an increasing number of homes and businesses in Australia that can't, or can't afford to, get insurance cover. The owners of flooded, but uninsured, properties often have little recourse but to seek government assistance, a burden on all taxpayers.

The devastating 2022 floods came at an estimated insurance cost of approximately \$6.4 billion in insured losses for South East Queensland and Northern NSW. As a result, every currently insured person or business in the area has seen their insurance go up significantly, with premiums sometimes doubling even tripling – that is if they can even get any.

It is estimated that more than one million homes will be in a 'high-risk area' by 2050. The ICA has repeatedly called for councils to stop approving houses on floodplains since the 2022 floods. Yet we continue to see earth trucked in to fill wetland areas for housing.

Some of these developments have historical approvals in place; some areas are listed in land release documents, and therefore there is a strong push from developers to ensure that these lands remain in these planned releases and remain available for future development.

The ICA said in their 2024-25 *Insurance Catastrophe Resilience Report* that 'the financial cost of insured extreme weather over the past five years is estimated to be around \$22.5 billion, a 67 per cent jump from the previous five-year period.' To deal with this they say the government needs to step forward with 'the creation of a \$30.15 billion, ten-year Flood Defence Fund 'to deliver new flood

defence infrastructure, strengthen or remove properties in harm's way, and future-proof existing flood mitigation infrastructure.' It is estimated that this fund would protect around 1.2 million properties.

But, as *The Echo* has repeatedly said, the NSW government needs to do more than this. It needs to step forward and look at planning approvals that have yet to be built, and planning documents that allow development in floodplains, and remove these sites from the potential future housing development market. In conjunction with the federal government and local governments, it needs to step up and reform land use practices across NSW (which are replicated across Australia). This reform is critical to reduce extreme weather risk.

It is not just the physical damage to property and loss of property that needs to be considered. As the ICA points out, it is also the 'real economic and productivity damage [that] runs much deeper with disrupted supply chains, closed businesses, cut-off workers, and agricultural land left unusable. This is not to mention the often-overlooked psychological toll these events have on people and communities, which are enduring.' These impacts are coupled with the ever-increasing cost of labour, materials and construction costs, that have risen between 30 and 40 per cent between 2020 and 2024.

'Too many homes are in the direct line of flood, fire, or are at risk from the sea, because at the time of planning and approval, not enough account was given to the extreme weather risk,' stated the ICA in the lead-up to the last federal election.

'The threshold of acceptable risk must change – considering not only the probability of extreme events but also their consequences. Building on floodplains must end.'

Aslan Shand, editor

## We need to exit this abusive relationship

■ Trigger warning: discussion of coercive control.

The whole world is experiencing what it's like to be the victim of a coercive control relationship. Even here in Byron Bay our lives are being psychologically shaped, and materially impacted by the dementing malignant narcissist and his sadistic sidekick, with a pattern of abuse all too familiar, particularly to women.

Coercive control is not confined to intimate partner relationships, it's the modus operandi of patriarchy itself. The phase we are in currently though is potentially the most dangerous.

The Perpetrator in Chief is losing his grip on power. He's throwing women loyal to him under the bus. Courts are saying no to his crazy plans, MAGAs are waking up, the Epstein files aren't going away, seats are flipping to Democrats, the ballroom/bunker isn't being built, key allies said no to his illegal war, which he appears to be losing.

Unless death finds him first, the statistics indicate he will continue to ratchet up violence and killing to compensate for his dwindling sense of power. Shocking war crimes have already been committed under his command, and major escalations have been threatened.

Trump and Netanyahu's power play has killed thousands of innocent people, ended rules-based order and alliances, put a wrecking ball though global financial systems, is depriving the world of vital resources and trade, seizing territory, singling out countries, isolating, threatening, intimidating, and harassing them, and making us question our choices, values, and freedoms so that ultimately, we even question ourselves.

This is not random chaos; this is how coercive control works.

For a while world leaders played along, hoping if they just kept their heads down and placated the insatiable megalomaniac with gold trinkets, they would dodge the direct impacts of his abuse. Wrong.

If you're somebody who's ever wondered 'why did she stay in the relationship if she knew he



*'The Perpetrator in Chief is losing his grip on power. He's throwing women loyal to him under the bus. Courts are saying no to his crazy plans.'*

– Jo Immig

was abusive', this is exactly how it happens.

His constant social media posts, flip-flopping, and TACO (Trump Always Chickens Out) moments, with deadlines and declarations that 'all hell will break lose' if his demands are not met, are a strategy of attacking and retreating designed to hijack our nervous systems, keeping us off balance and making us doubt our instincts and judgment. It's exhausting.

Even the stock market is breathing in and out to his words, with some people making an obscene amount of money betting on his next moves, using insider information.

Australia's leaders appear to be slowly waking up to the fact that appeasing an abuser doesn't work. Despite sending over several extremely large cheques for AUKUS and being the first to offer support for the objectives of the Iran war, sending a reconnaissance aircraft, missiles, and personnel to the Middle East, it is not enough. It never will be. That's the whole point.

After some late-night rage posting about the lack of support for his war, Trump singled out Australia for punishment and placed 100 per cent tariffs on our pharmaceutical exports and is attacking our pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS), a cornerstone of Medicare and our national identity. Nothing says we're your besties more than sticking the boot in while the country is running out of petrol and fertiliser.

Like all victims of abuse, it is difficult to comprehend that someone you thought was your partner, who had your back, turns out to be the monster under the bed and your abuser. This is the invidious position Australia now finds itself, in a

permanently changed world order. We need to plan for our safe exit from this toxic relationship.

To add fuel to the fire, the whole world is running low on oil and other supplies since Iran placed restrictions on ships moving through the Strait of Hormuz after the US and Israel attacked them.

Australia has now joined more than 40 nations, led by the United Kingdom, to initiate diplomatic and economic efforts to open the Strait of Hormuz to free the flow of energy supplies and ensure safe maritime navigation.

Price shocks are rippling out through supply chains and increasing the cost of everything. Prime Minister Albanese addressed the nation and told us to prepare for difficult months ahead. Things could worsen if the war continues and escalates.

We are well placed in Byron Shire to meet many of the challenges ahead. There are fantastic ideas being shared on community notice boards and in established resilience networks for energy, transport and food production. We have sunlight, water, soil and so many community-minded, skilled, and creative people with the know-how to get things done.

There are already well-established local food production and distribution networks with farmers' markets, community gardens, honesty stalls, and seed and produce swaps. Let's get this really cranking and create the world we want with a vision for peace and equality, not coercion and war.

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



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**Blues renewed**

The end of the Blues Festival this year could be the beginning of something far greater than the yearly festival could ever be.

With the backing of the Shire and community, businesses and music lovers, 2027 could be the start of something like Tamworth is to country music.

From Brunswick Heads to Byron and Ballina, a blues music festival could be massive: BBB BluesMusic Festival 2027.

**Grant Callaghan**  
Avalon, Sydney

**Suffolk in the dark**

As a Suffolk Park resident, I was concerned to read in the 1 April, *Byron Shire Echo* (page 5), about the resignation of so many members of the Suffolk Park Progress Association. I am concerned that the president does not wish to publish their resignation letters, and would like to see them published.

**Julia Lowe**  
Suffolk Park

**Suffolk in the dark II**

This is Richard Mordaunt. I've lived in Suffolk Park for 30 years, and we've reached a critical moment for our community.

I want to know why so many highly respected members of the Suffolk Park (SPPA) committee - recently elected - have now resigned due to irreconcilable differences with the president and the committee's secretary.

Please publish their letters of resignation. Members have the right to be informed. It's important.

Thank you.

**Richard Mordaunt**  
Suffolk Park

**Suffolk in the dark III**

Alarm bells are ringing in the SPPA - six out of nine committee members have resigned in the first three months of the new committee, and the president of the SPPA, Mr



Everything is going swimmingly. Image Hans Lovejoy

Minahan, will not publish the resignation letters.

As a member of the SPPA, I believe I have a right to know what has caused a mass exodus of committee members, and Mr Minahan cannot simply hide behind his comment that 'the committee determined that the resignation correspondence is not a public document'.

Mr Minahan forgets that he heads a community association, and the community is entitled to know what is going on inside the committee - this association is not some fiefdom of which he thinks he is head.

Transparency is what is needed at this juncture, something which Mr Minahan is acutely lacking.

This cannot be a cover-up disguised as 'part of our governance and privacy obligations'.

The time for transparency is now, Mr Minahan.

**Bryan Raphael**  
Suffolk Park

**AI dangers**

It was timely to see a couple of articles on AI in last week's *Echo*. AI is in action in our Shire, and impacting us by stealth when used by the state government.

We may think it has nothing to do with us, but think again. A week ago, I received an infringement notice from the NSW government and fined for a passenger not wearing a seatbelt appropriately.

It cost \$423 and three demerit points, and there was no evidence provided.

I was the passenger, my husband was driving, but the car is registered in my name.

Now this came as a shock, as wearing seatbelts is second nature to us, and I knew I would not have been on the highway or road without a seatbelt on.

We went to the website and found the photos.

They are assessed by AI and AI couldn't see the belt across my body as both photos are overexposed black and white images lacking any detail.

In one photo, you can see the belt from the anchor point to my shoulder and across my lap, but across my body it fades into my clothes.

The other photo showed me with my hand up to my face covering the belt.

So we took more photos of me sitting in the car with my arm down and then up as in the highway photos and submitted an appeal.

I wore the same shirt to show that it is in the colour range, that in a poor black and white photo the belt and shirt would look the same.

Appealing isn't easy, and involves scrolling through the website with care to find the link and then involves a series of pages to work through.

Each page begins with a demand that you pay the fine NOW. The website timed out three times as I went through the process and involved

me having to create a PDF file with all the photos I was submitting as they couldn't be submitted one at a time.

It took seven days to issue the fine, and you are given 30 days to pay, before you incur further penalties, but I received an email to say it would take up to 42 days for the appeal to be reviewed.

Meanwhile, appeals against these AI decisions are clogging up our court systems. It is a small-scale robodebt that we can all be hit with.

As an aside, seat belts aren't actually designed for women, and can be dangerous for us.

The average crash dummy is based on a 5'10" 75kg flat-chested man. How do I know this? Google AI told me so.

**Morag Wilson**  
Mullumbimby Creek

**In defence of MPs**

Mr Badami's contention (*Echo*, 1 April) that members of parliament who aren't holding cabinet positions at the moment are spending time at the tax-payer funded trough, and are seemingly ambitionless and reaping the perks and lurks of office, would indicate that he could benefit from some time-observing and learning from the daily life of any federal politician.

He may find a background that explains the accelerated ageing that most of them experience.

He might discover that these people take part in representing their constituents in issues that never make the headlines. It could become apparent to him that there is an enormous amount of work done that is not on display at question time.

These are constantly being addressed by the members and their parliamentary and electoral office staffs without being sung to the rooftops, whether they be Liberal, National, Labor, independent, Green or One Nation.

The idea that a Parliamentarian who is not bearing a ministerial role is not working implies that a teacher who is

▶ Continued on page 13

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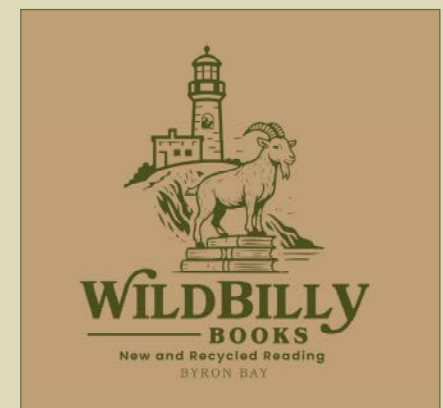
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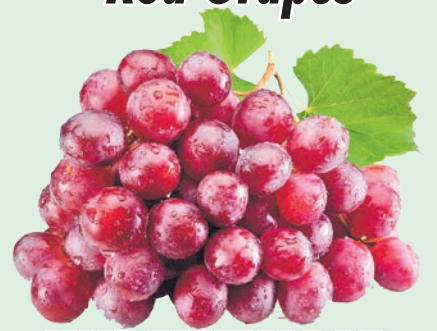
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► **Continued from page 11**  
not a head teacher or principal is not working, or that a nurse who is not a nurse unit manager or a director of nursing is not working.

Politicians suffer enough misguided, ill-informed criticism from people who have no idea about just what their job entails. It would be helpful if journalists occasionally engaged in educating their public about the reality of public life.

**Tony Brown**  
Suffolk Park

during the winter months, when one has to rush home to close the shed, top up the bird baths and other essential outside chores before darkness falls.

The Canadians don't even mind delivering their children to school in the dark, just so they can enjoy more daylight at the end of the day. Thank God that some people in North America have good sense.

I am duly encouraged.

**Bronwyn Sindel**  
Mullumbimby

I look forward to a time when Trump has gone, and the USA can pick up the threads of democracy and restore order.

After such a salutary lesson in what not to do and what kind of candidate not to vote for, there is an opportunity to end the US epidemic of corruption and greed and truly Make America Great. (Good luck with that!)

**Mike Balsom**  
Upper Wilson's Creek

### April 1 gag

Regarding the article titled: 'First Bluesfest, now the lighthouse – gone!' (April 1).

So to be clear, Council is considering bulldozing Mount Chincogan because developers are sigting [sic] the peak heights in a bid to build?

Which is the reason they have decided to bulldoze the Byron Lighthouse, a major landmark and tourist destination for the Northern Rivers and Byron Shire?

Developers will just start sigting [sic] the air space between safety regulations. This is ridiculous! In what way is millions in tourist revenue and local iconography felicitous? Is bulldozing natural geography worth this?

This is a terribly written article, no argument, no substance.

Was it edited by Council?

**Juanita Anum**  
Mullumbimby born

### Crushed e-bikes

I totally disagree with the state NSW government to crush these beautifully made e-bikes taken from these children.

For goodness sake, give them away or re-sell them. What a huge waste to crush them.

Also Jillian Spring from Billinudgel – I totally agree with you regarding daylight saving.

**Margot Hays**  
Bangalow

### Daylight savings time

Reading Jillian Spring's letter of disgust (*Echo*, 1 April) with regard to the ridiculous practice of daylight savings time, I recalled the conversation I heard on Radio National earlier this week with a Canadian who informed listeners that some provinces in Canada keep daylight savings time all year round.

Now that's my kinda people. Why, you might ask?

Because daylight savings time gives one more daylight time at the end of the day – and this is especially helpful

### What an Injustice

How can it be that the ACT (Canberra) decriminalised the possession of up to 50g of cannabis and two plants per person (max four per household) in 2020, while everywhere else, the other 26 million Australians are criminals! Is this just so our politician kids are not getting in trouble with the law and facing a downward spiral after being busted and in court?

Isn't that discrimination, where is the fair go?

While the Blues died in Byron Bay, the 34th Nimbin Mardigrass festival will be on 1-3 May, fighting for justice for medicinal and recreational users, as well as meeting great people, learning and having a lot of fun! Thanks to your stupid laws!

**Chibo Mertineit**  
Lillian Rock

### No Trump fan

After visiting the USA in the 1920s, Oscar Wilde commented: 'America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilisation in between.'

They certainly have a barbaric president.

He is the most uncivilised human being imaginable – like The Joker and Jubba the Hut rolled into one, grotesque mutation.

He behaves like a gangster or mafia Don. He pathologically lies all the time. He is abusive, petulant and childish, insecure and vengeful.

Yet, he is the most powerful man on Earth! The way he speaks about the victims of his and Bibi's confected war is utterly appalling.

But he has his Congress and senators mesmerised with his brutal abuse of power. They seem dumbstruck and frozen like a deer in the headlights.

Their enabling has made them all accomplices in this mad war that has already cost the entire world trillions of dollars, caused endless misery and destruction and brought out all our collective fears.

### Palantir and Coles

In February 2024, Coles signed a three-year contract with US defence and surveillance giant Palantir.

The company was co-founded by Peter Thiel – a man who wrote in 2009 that freedom and democracy are 'no longer compatible', partly blaming women's suffrage for this outcome.

Palantir has been heavily involved in Israel's ongoing war crimes, and crimes against humanity: the genocide in Gaza and the US-Israeli war on Iran has been widely condemned by international law experts as a violation of the UN Charter.

Additionally there was aerial spraying of glyphosate – the herbicide marketed as Roundup – over farmland in southern Lebanon at concentrations up to 30 times normal levels – this was confirmed by UNIFIL and documented by Lebanese government laboratories, and described by human rights monitors as a potential war crime.

Israel's deliberate destruction of Gaza's water and sewage infrastructure caused deprivation of water access to 2.3 million people, as documented by Human Rights Watch and the UN.

Palantir has also received over \$287 million in contracts from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with its tools used in deportations, workplace raids and family separations.

I contacted Coles about their Palantir partnership breaching their own code of ethics, but they did not consider war crimes or crimes against humanity to be an ethical concern.

The major Norwegian asset manager Storebrand apparently disagrees – it divested from Palantir, stating it had 'excluded Palantir Technologies Inc. from our investments owing to its sales of products and services to Israel for use in occupied Palestinian territories' (*Reuters*, 26 October, 2024.)

► **Continued on page 14**

## Morning Melodies

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WITH  
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FRIDAY 10 APRIL

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Rock, Blues, Funk, Soul,  
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SEATS HERE

► **Continued from page 13**

I will no longer shop at Coles or any store owned by the Coles Group, and hope that anyone who does not support war crimes, crimes against humanity, or the deliberate poisoning of civilian farmland and water supplies may consider doing the same.

**Alison Leonard**  
Mullumbimby

**Disappearing lighthouse**

Tongue in cheek! (*Echo*, 1 April). Surely it's not to make room for a 'you know who' tower. That would fill your letters pages!

**Peter Walters**  
Ballina

**Right of reply**

In reply to John Donnelan (*Echo* letters, 1 April).

My right of reply: Jo Faith 'confirmed racist'. Universal questions? Can't be much fun? Or is it?

**Jo Faith**  
Newtown

**Bike trail at the cost of rail**

We ask if a bike trail by itself is really the best thing for the Byron Shire?

Surely, looking to a more sustainable future, we need to really assess what the people need, not just a nice

occasional recreational path, when there is such a strong need for public transport for so many in our region.

The article was close to being a 'paid advert' for the rail trail in Byron Shire as money is being requested from the public to support their cause.

The proposed train service will not require public funding nor will it request ongoing maintenance costs through rate contributions.

The community has never actually been asked by the Northern Rivers Rail Trail whether they want a bike path alone.

Northern Rivers Rail Ltd (NRRL) has carried out several surveys and found that the majority of the community want trains back for public transport, and to not lose that potential when we have so little usable public transport in our region.

Not everyone will benefit from a rail trail as the article boasts. A bike path is seen as a recreational activity and due to our climatic conditions is not going to assist those with disabilities or those that need regular transport between major town centres.

Transport options in the Byron Shire are fragmented, leading to problems, e.g.

**Male stripper causes a stir**



'I nearly had a stroke', said one fan, 'But I couldn't quite reach.'

car dependency and social isolation. Rail is reliable, creating a certainty that encourages local business to invest in the long-term future of the precinct.

It will create stakeholder synergy by transparent communication with local residents to ensure developments reflect actual community needs.

**Phil Mackenzie**,  
NRRL Chairperson

**Fuel sovereignty**

All fuel measures listed by Labor are completely useless if there is no fuel. Labor should tell us where and when we will get fuel. Unless we drill for oil and process it ourselves, Australia will lose its sovereignty.

**James Wright**  
Tharbogang

**America's friend**

'It may be dangerous to be America's enemy, but to be America's friend is fatal'. This quip, attributed to Henry Kissinger (well-known American diplomat, bureaucrat and alleged war criminal) almost 60 years ago, came to mind as I read David Lowe's timely article, 'Who should decide when Australia goes to war' (*The Echo*, 1 April).

The fact that the Albanese government was the first, and one of the few governments around the world to publicly and enthusiastically support the illegal US/Israeli war in Iran shocked and angered me. When will we ever learn?

Since the 1960s, we have actively supported American wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and

thoroughly integrated Australia into the American war machine through spending hundreds of billions of dollars on military exercises, armaments, joint military and intelligence bases and the AUKUS pact.

So, we shouldn't be surprised that we have once again proven to be a vassal of the US, according to world-renowned economist Professor Jeffrey Sachs.

Albanese's recent address to the nation was full of vacuous chatter on confronting challenges 'the Australian way' and a denial that Australia was directly involved in the American/Israeli war in Iran. Yet his government supported it and has done nothing to stop it. It has not spoken out about the fundamental illegality and injustice of this war, and bears some responsibility for the social and economic tsunami it has unleashed.

**Tony Christy**  
Suffolk Park

**Global shift**

The end of cheap fossil fuel energy is here now, at least for the next few years.

The world is about to change: the balloon has burst. We built a world based on cheap fossil fuel energy, assuming we could always

get all we wanted, while trying to gradually move to natural clean solar power.

Fossil fuel means fertiliser and food, transport of goods and people, and Australia is now in one of the worst positions of any nation.

Logic suggests there will be problems next year in our country, problems that we haven't seen in the last 100 years.

Economic decline and financial crisis are by products of an irreparable, broken energy system. Tourism without aviation fuel; small business deliveries without diesel; free public transport – a warning, not a gift.

America is currently assisting Ukraine with the targeting and destruction of Russian oil refineries: just when we need that fuel. It will take years to rebuild mid-east oil refineries and will likely result in the biggest global famine in recorded history.

If Iran didn't have nukes before, they'll probably have them pretty soon: Russia's Medvedev says, sadly: 'a nuclear confrontation now appears inevitable'.

**Peter Olson**  
Goonengerry

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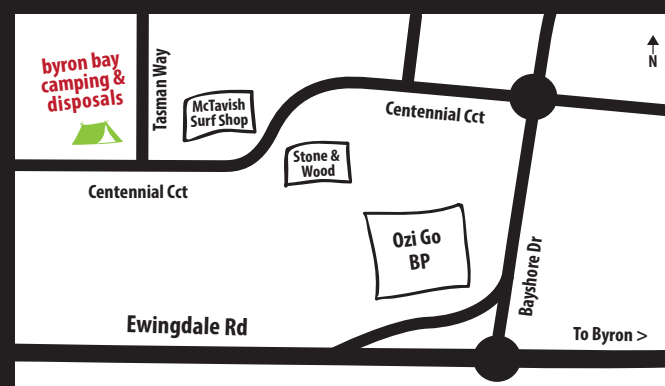
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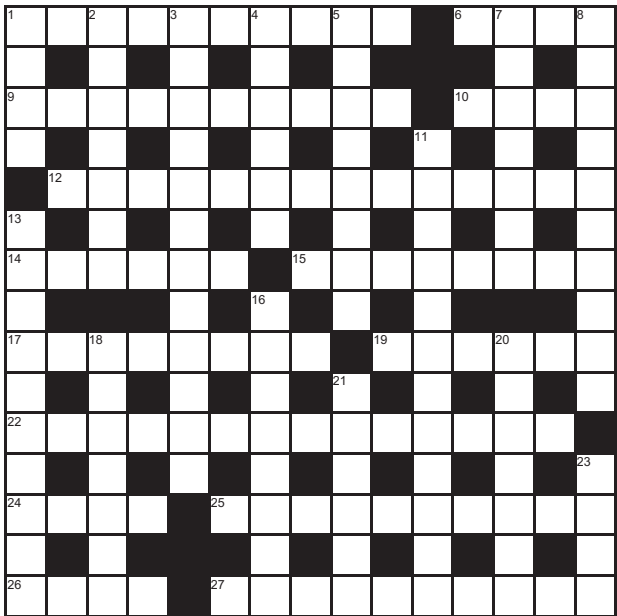
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### Cryptic Clues

#### ACROSS

- Father of three with swirling mist; if a scoundrel, it could be his last refuge (10)
- Cat to back up mother (4)
- Spoiled boy surrounds fertiliser and savage dog, but he performs public service (10)
- Monster swaps right for left, an evil look (4)
- Part of headband with plump chook; a symbol of ancient Greece (6,2,6)
- It's contradictory to put the press in charge (6)
- Baillieu is an idiot, or vice versa - that helped! (8)
- It's a bird, look out! (8)
- Member turns back at one for dessert (6)
- Dire chapel - fool stupidly seeks straight answers here (6,2,6)
- Toy bird (4)
- Outsiders are enemies about right to embrace rule (10)
- The thread of a story (4)
- Unforgiving radical came up short and made fewer loans (10)

#### DOWN

- Privates lose energy, go to boozers (4)
- Carry on about confused rep - could be explosive (7)
- Popular fruit bitten off, one message says its unsuitable (12)
- Parasite queens reportedly essential to politicians (6)
- Nemo, perhaps, or one of his echinoderm mates (8)
- Peacekeeper man about turn is soothing (7)
- Endangered lake loses nitrogen, becomes an African port (10)
- Use flint and steel - surprise! (6,1,5)
- Does he ride the airwaves on a flying saucer? (4,6)
- Unsteady moon takes colour with constant frequency (8)
- Outline queen's royal permit (7)
- Confused health note for very fit person (7)
- Stick publicity in this place (6)
- Islands manuscript of doctrines (4)

■ Crossword circa 2008

### Quick Clues

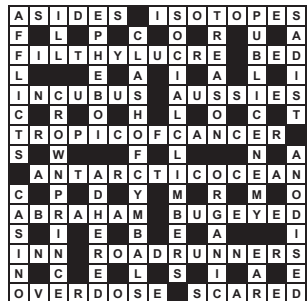
#### ACROSS

- Love of country (10)
- Panther or jaguar (4)
- Public servant (10)
- Leer lasciviously (4)
- The Parthenon, for instance (6,2,6)
- Sarcastic, satirical (6)
- Aided, helped (8)
- Australian parrot (8)
- Italian ice creams (6)
- Ancient Greek prophet, the Pythoness (6,2,6)
- Flying toy (4)
- Those from other countries (10)
- Spun fibre (4)
- Without mercy or cessation (10)

#### DOWN

- Hotels (4)
- Submarine's weapon (7)
- Unsuitable, not fit for the job at hand (12)
- Heart, courage (6)
- Echinoderm asteroides (8)
- Soothing ointment (7)
- Egyptian port city (10)
- Expression of surprise; literally, produce a flame (6,1,5)
- Radio comper of a music show (4,6)
- Single note (8)
- Map, treaty (7)
- One trained for track and field (7)
- Stick to (6)
- Doctrines (suffix) (4)

#### Last week's solution #11



## Fast Fascism and the Radical Kindness Solution



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

### Be kind.

Two simple words. Profound in their simplicity.

I have been thinking about kindness a lot lately. The sharp edges of a world where fast fashion and fast fascism are imploding is not a space where kindness abounds. Kindness is on its knees begging at your feet, but I don't see her. I'm too angry to care. There is yelling. Finger-pointing. Blame. Anger. Violence. Coercion. Alienation. Othering.

Can something as simple as kindness be a solution to the anger and hate that seems to be infecting our private and public spaces? Making us anxious, depressed and hopeless. Will it stop us hoarding wealth? Stop us killing each other? Stop us taking what is not ours? Stop us taking the last tree? Does the giving and receiving of kindness change who we are? How we live? And the choices that we make?

I googled kindness.

As suspected, it is the quality of friendliness. Being considerate and generous via voluntary acts for the benefit of others without reward. It's a genuine desire to improve another person's wellbeing. Kindness involves mercy. Decency. Forgiveness. It involves seeing the pain or discomfort of others and not seeing it as separate to you, but part of something you can change. Sometimes not with solutions, but with presence. Learning kindness that stands beside and reaches across is different to the kindness I learnt as a child which reaches down.

I have always felt the pain of others. I thought everyone did. That sadness in someone's eyes, the despair of slumped shoulders, the voice cracking on a word, has always reached deep inside to my humanity. Some days I can't unsee it. The woman sleeping on the street outside a city department store, the boy who came out of his car window in front of me on the highway and took his life, the koala-forest tagged for logging. It hurts. Yet none of that has anything to do with me. Or does it?

That stir, that call to action, to witness, to listen, to hold presence, is my



## Hate is a contagion. A virus that is more deadly than any pandemic. And kindness. Well, it occurred to me, that it's the cure.

experience of spirituality. It's painful to feel the pain of others. But I remind myself it is more painful to be in that pain. Kindness is about bearing witness. It's about courage. And it's about fragility. And it's about action.

I find myself drawn into the binary, using my moral compass to trace the lines that contain my values. I too rage at those on the outside of those lines, and I feel the moral rot. The spiritual decomposition that comes with hate. Even when I'm certain I'm right. Hate is a contagion. A virus that is more deadly than any pandemic. And kindness. Well, it occurred to me, that it's the cure.

Not ideology. Not leaders. Not money. But kindness. Kindness is our camel in the moral desert. And capitalism, this illusionary place of plenty, is the desert.

There are four pillars of kindness. Kindness to others, to self, to animals and to the earth. It's the most deeply

sensible foundation for living. To care for self, for those you love, for broader community, to protect and care for your environment is the foundation of most religions. Yet those who espouse the wisdom from their holy books seem so far removed from the kindness on those pages.

Sometimes it's hard to be kind. People can be revolting. But sometimes, as hard as it is, I remind myself that it is them who need kindness most of all.

So kill them, not with guns, or bombs or nukes. But, with kindness.

Radical kindness.

■ 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

Best thing about this five-planets-in-Aries week? Its courageous, creative, can-do attitude. Worst? It can be impatient, irritable, insensitive. Most successful approach? Calm, kindness, respect ...



ARIES THE RAM

**ARIES:** As the confidence-boosting connection of the great Saturn/Neptune reset in Aries continues redefining your personal purpose in the world, and Mars joins the current quartet of planets in your sign, old habits and identities recede as your life script invites you to go ahead and fall in love with a brand new you.

**TAURUS:** With five planets in the zodiac's speediest and most impulsive sign pushing for action, you can thank your lucky stars that peace-loving Venus, your prima planet, is currently taking it slow and steady in no-rush Taurus. Your sensible aesthetic is all about savouring this week's sensory joys.

**GEMINI:** The positive benefits of this week's fiery aspects igniting your air sign can bring inspirations, insights and eureka moments, with the less beneficial side not thinking things through carefully enough. So give yourself time to run the numbers, and consider long-term consequences before acting on big decisions.

**CANCER:** While expansive Jupiter in your sign might appear to be magnifying current security concerns, on the upside it also stimulates ideas, attracts support and offers lucky Cancerians opportunities to meet these challenges. This week asks are you willing to release something you've been holding onto and move forward?

**LEO:** A little forgiveness could go a long way this week towards turning what you might have thought weakness into a source of strength. How exactly? If you can treat yourself like the artwork in progress that you are, then you're highly likely to inspire others to do the same.

**VRIGO:** As observed by Virgo writer D. H. Lawrence, the zodiac is well worth flirting with - especially given this week's wildly provocative energetics. So go ahead, have a fling with unusual offers or unexpected propositions; while you mightn't accept, they could still open up your thinking to new horizons.

**LIBRA:** Yes, this week's energy is probably more forceful than you're comfortable with, so how can astrology help you navigate these intense frequencies? By staying grounded with your guiding planet Venus in her most practical placement, and considering what mediating peace-making you could offer current trouble spots.

**SCORPIO:** While this week's energy is self-sufficient, don't take this to mean going it alone, because your communities, groups and networks are what keep you fired and inspired. Interactions may get a little prickly, but if handled diplomatically, clashes can actually be the catalyst for air-clearing breakthroughs.

**SAGITTARIUS:** This week's bright alignments could make anything and anyone look alluring and inviting. But substance, endurance and practicality matter, and fortunately for you impulsive archers, Saturn's on hand to keep those eager hooves anchored on terra firma until late April's steadier and more sensible influences settle in.

**CAPRICORN:** As this week's celestial momentum powers through red tape, any obstacles presenting now are likely to be course corrections in disguise, so say what needs to be said firmly, clearly and kindly. Make incremental progress your ally by using your superpower of kindling new beginnings without causing undue disruption.

**AQUARIUS:** This week's serious celestial heat firing your air sign ignites impetuous reactions, incites trailblazing life changes and invites you to do what it takes to start life anew in the face of widespread and ongoing changes. And the upcoming weekend moon in Aquarius declares: let the adventure begin ...

**PISCES:** Among other significant planetary shifts, Mars leaving Pisces to align with your influencer Neptune, in the sign of crossing new frontiers into a bigger picture, connects you with a larger perspective than your personal to-do list, helping you ride this week's high tides with confidence and aplomb.

# Northern Rivers football off to a great start

Ross Kendall

The Northern Rivers Football Club is off to a high performance start to the season after winning all of its senior men's games in the Queensland's south coast fourth-grade league.

The senior men put in a superb all-round display that saw them produce a commanding 6-1 victory against Nerang in their first away game of the season. It backed up their first game at the Cavanbah Centre where they beat Magic United (based in Carrara) 4-3.

According to the club's match report: 'From the outset, in their away game, Northern Rivers played with real intent, creating early chances and controlling possession well, while moving Nerang around the pitch with confidence and purpose. That sustained pressure gradually took its toll, with the hosts beginning to tire as the game wore on, and the boys were ruthless in taking advantage.'

'Having identified a few areas for improvement at the break, the players responded



A Northern Rivers Football Club player controls possession in the face of the opposition. Photo supplied

exactly as asked in the second half, putting those adjustments into practice to deliver a dominant performance after the interval. It was a very pleasing team display and one that sends a strong message, coming against one of last

year's grand finalists in the competition.'

Tom Pitman was named player of the match.

The Northern Rivers U23 side is also undefeated after two games.

In game one they beat Magic United 5-1 before

beating Nerang 4-1 on the Saturday before Easter.

'Against opposition they were expected to overcome, the Northern Rivers made life difficult for themselves in the opening period, giving the ball away too often in midfield and allowing Nerang back into the contest to make it 1-1 at the break,' the match report said.

'A half-time reset, focused on improving passing angles and offering better movement ahead of the ball, proved decisive. The response after the interval was excellent, with the team taking control, producing some real quality in the final third, and finishing strongly to secure all three points.'

Finley Black was outstanding and deservedly took Player of the Match for his relentless runs in behind and intelligent movement causing problems for the Nerang defence.

Ethan Zikhron also impressed, capping off a fine performance with his first hat-trick in Northern Rivers colours.

The Northern Rivers women's side has secured one win from three games.

# Ari wins silver on Gold Coast



Ari Gorman won a silver medal in the under 17 category for point sparring. Photo supplied

Fourteen-year-old Ari Gorman won a silver and bronze medal in the first round of the AMAC Gold Coast Martial Arts Championships.

'Ari has been training with Jin Wu Koon Karate for over three years. He recently took a short break, returning refreshed and competing successfully in the first round of the AMAC Gold Coast Martial Arts tournament,' said his

instructor Richard Light.

## Medal winner

'Ari won a silver medal in the under 17 category for point sparring and took on the challenge of competing in the adults/open category to win a bronze medal. It was a successful day for Ari who is looking forward to round two, and the chance to qualify for the Queensland titles.'

# Help lawn bowls make it to the 2032 Brisbane Olympics

Bowls Australia is bringing Bowls for Brisbane – The Long Roll to Ocean Shores Country Club on Thursday, 7 May as part of a national campaign to include lawn bowls in the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

'Bowls Australia, in partnership with World Bowls, Bowls NSW and Bowls Queensland, is delivering Bowls for Brisbane – The Long Roll, an interstate showcase event travelling from Sydney to Brisbane across 32 clubs and more than 1,000 kilometres,' said Bowls Australia's Samantha Curtis.

'At each stop along the journey, a round of a single match is played, with an "Australia" team competing against a "Rest of the World" team, before the final result is decided in Brisbane. The event highlights the diversity, community impact and global appeal of lawn bowls.'

The Long Roll will visit Ocean Shores Country Club on Thursday, 7 May, from 10am to 12 noon where they will host a round of the match and engage with members and the local community.

To find out more visit: [www.bowls.com.au](http://www.bowls.com.au).

**HOST CLUBS**

Balmain	Ocean Shores
Leichhardt	Club Tweed
Marrickville	Coolangatta
Cabramatta	Tugun
St Johns	Burleigh Heads
Pennant Hills	Mermaid Beach
Bateau Bay	Southport
Lowlands	Musgrave
Raymond Terrace	Club Helensvale
Miller Park	Broadbeach
North Haven	Beenleigh
Port City	Salisbury
Sawtell	Red Hill
Park Beach	Camp Hill
Yamba	Mt Gravatt
Cherry Street Sports Club	Windsor

Join the fun at Ocean Shores and help make lawn bowls an Olympic sport. Photo supplied

**Send The Echo your sport stories!**

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

**Echo**

**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](mailto:sport@echo.net.au).

# Good Taste

## Culinary Spotlight

### BILLINUDGEL



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Thursday/Friday open from 4pm to late  
Happy Hour 4pm to 5.30pm  
Saturday 12 to 2.30pm, 5pm to late  
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8/10 Wilfred St, Billinudgel  
www.rosefinas.place

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

### BYRON BAY



#### Main Street

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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details @mainstreet\_burgerbar

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



#### Three Blue Ducks

Located at The Farm  
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Open  
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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



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Open:  
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@rocabyronbay  
www.rocabyronbay.com.au

#### Latin fusion all-day dining

Come and try our new summer menu. Savour our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche & oysters, or elevate your night with the Roca dining experience. Pair it all with a classic Pisco Sour or our best-selling Hot Like Papi cocktail.

**JUST OPENED:** Roca Cabana – our brand new pool bar in the heart of Byron Bay. Follow us to find out more: @roca.cabana



#### Forest Byron Bay

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

Rainforest views, farm-to-table dining, and a menu showcasing the best of Northern Rivers produce.

Forest Byron Bay offers fresh, seasonal dishes and crafted cocktails. Join the Crystalbrook Crowd (it's free) and save 10% on all food and drinks. From Tuesday to Saturday, indulge in Golden Hour from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.



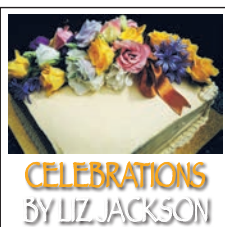
#### NO BONES

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.

### CATERING



#### Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com  
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

Find more tasty morsels at  
**Echo.net.au**

# The Good Life

## Holiday day trips

If your idea of the perfect day trip involves visiting a few distilleries and breweries, try these to start with:

**Wandana Brewery, Mullumbimby:** see story facing page. It's a great down-to-earth place, popular with the locals, and away from the tourist crowds with a great range of beers. See wandanabrewingco.com.au.



**Stone & Wood Brewery, Byron Bay:** in the Arts & Industry Estate, five minutes bike ride from Byron CBD. It has 31 brewing tanks, a canteen serving up delicious plates every day and a leafy beer garden. You can bring the dog, and even your friends and family if they're well behaved. As they have both their core range, and also a rotating series of pilot batch beers brewed on-site, it's an opportunity to try new creations and innovations exclusive to the Byron Bay tasting room. See stoneandwood.com.au.



**Husk Rum:** the home of Australian cultivated rum (not like Bundy) and also the home of Ink Gin, Husk Rum is in the Tweed area. You can visit the expansive lawns and indoor/outdoor tables at the distillery, eat there and sample the produce. See huskdistillers.com.



**Cape Byron Distillery:** the home of both Brookie's Gin and a wonderful range of high-quality whiskies, as well as a surprising number of unique other spirits (like the macadamia nut liqueur or the Davidson Plum infused Slow Gin). It's located just outside Byron near St Helena, you can take a guided tour of the rainforest, a guided tasting, or just drink cocktails on the balcony overlooking the magnificent regenerated landscape (it used to be barren, treeless farmland before the current owners took it over). You should book for the tours at this time of year. See capebyrondistillery.com.



## Wandana Brewery is Mullumbimby's local brewery, and it's become something of a local institution



The taproom and beer garden sit on the edge of open paddocks with views of the rolling hinterland mountains – and one of the only spots in the area where you can catch a stunning sunset from an outdoor beer garden. Shade sails keep things comfortable on hot days, and a large indoor seated area takes care of the rainy ones. Hungry? No problem. Permanent food truck 'Sunset Eats' serves up gourmet burgers, nachos, and weekly specials.

The beer is the heart of it. Wandana crafts small-batch brews on-site – and more often than not the equipment is in production, which is a nice touch for anyone curious about the process. Alongside core range favourites like the 'Mullum Madness', there's always a selection of pilot

brews on tap: unique, limited beers you won't find anywhere else. Can't decide between the 15 beer styles? Tasting paddles are available, so there's no need to choose.

Wandana is also venturing into distilling spirits, and a growing cocktail list sits alongside wines, cider, and non-alcoholic options – making it a genuinely welcoming spot for non-beer drinkers too.

Beyond the drinks, Wandana has built a reputation as a community hub. Regular events – from Reggae Sound System nights to Record Fairs and DJ sets – keep things lively, while the relaxed, inclusive vibe runs through everything. Kids are well catered for with a dedicated playroom, and as one of the few fully dog-friendly venues in the area, your four-legged



friends are welcome to hang out with you. There's even an EV charger on-site if you need a top-up while you visit.

It's a place the locals go to escape the crowds – well worth a visit.

**Opening hours:**  
Taproom and food truck:  
Thursday to Sunday  
from 12:30pm.  
Takeaway beers and growler fills: weekdays from 10:00am and during taproom hours.



Come early to catch the worm at New Brighton Farmers Market. Photo: Sarah Wood Photography

### Allie Godfrey

The New Brighton Farmers Market is now starting earlier – at 7am every Tuesday!

After strong community demand, the earlier opening means those heading off for an early start can still take the time to access fresh, locally-grown, nutritious food without the rush.

Set by the river, and just moments from the beach, this much-loved local market is the perfect way to ease into your morning. With around 35 stalls, it's bursting with fresh, locally-grown produce including vegetables, fruit, flowers and olives, plus artisan bread, sourdough, flaky pastries and a dedicated gluten-free stall.

You'll also find an incredible range of quality goods – meats, cheeses, eggs, mushrooms, honey and fresh seafood – alongside hemp oils, freshly-made pasta, sauces, ready-made meals, and seedlings to take home. It's a true one-stop shop for

your weekly essentials, all sourced from passionate local producers.

Breakfast is a highlight, with buttery pastries, French crêpes, great coffee, warming porridge, and fresh juices all on offer. A crowd favourite is Nomadic Kitchen, known for its rustic, share-style breakfasts that change weekly depending on what's fresh and in season.

Beyond the food, the market has a welcoming, community feel. Live music from local musicians creates a relaxed atmosphere, while a dedicated kids' area with craft activities keeps the little ones entertained.

The earlier start makes it easier than ever to drop in, stock up and still get on with your day – while supporting local growers and sustainable food choices.

After all, the early bird catches the worm.

New Brighton Farmers Market is open every Tuesday from 7am to 11am.



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



# eat drink

Autumn issue  
OUT NOW



A celebration of the amazing food, drinks, and delights of the Northern Rivers.  
FREE for you to take

Read it online here

## [ROSEFINA'S]

MEXICAN

Dine in ~ Takeaway ~ Licensed

Dinner: Thurs-Mon  
Lunch: Fri-Sat-Sun  
Happy Hour: Mon-Thurs-Fri, 4-6pm  
@rosefinas\_

Bookings 0416 707 000 • rosefinas.place  
8/10 Wilfred St, Billinudgel



# Filter Off

beauty  
style  
fashion  
grooming



## 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](http://templeofthesun.com.au)



## Hemp Culture

Bringing together sustainability, beauty, and conscious living. The team offers hemp-based clothing, botanical products, and ritual-friendly items crafted with natural materials and mindful care. Many pieces are locally made, supporting earth-aligned practices. From journals to candles, each item encourages reflection and intention. Choosing Hemp Culture means embracing thoughtful, sustainable living for yourself, community, and planet.

40 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby  
@hempculture\_au  
[hempculture.com.au](http://hempculture.com.au)



## 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](http://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



## 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 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](http://shopzocalo.com.au)  
@shopzocalo



## Stewart's Menswear

Stewart's Menswear is shining a light on Kingston Grange Bamboo this autumn, celebrating 20 years of bamboo clothing in their store. Having stocked the range since the beginning, Sue and Gerard say it remains a customer favourite thanks to its soft feel, breathable comfort and suitability to the Northern Rivers climate. This month's new arrivals include fresh options like Sage (plain), Asanoha (geometric print) and Ngalyipi Jukurrpa, a bright addition to the Bamboo Dreaming range. There's also a special nod to Kingston Grange's 20-year milestone, with the re-release of Khaki Fern, their original print. Customers can call in to see the new prints or explore Stewart's Menswear online store.

52 Burringbar St Mullumbimby  
02 6684 2148  
[stewartsmenswear.com.au](http://stewartsmenswear.com.au)

# SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

## BALLOON ALOFT

Happy Easter holidays are made happier when childhood dreams, aloft in a hot air balloon, come true! Escape the busy town this week by enjoying a magic adventure in the hinterland, flying above what you love in the Northern Rivers.

For kids, couples and friends alike, flights are enjoyed by everyone. Friendly staff and professional pilots will guide you through a sunrise morning of fun and wonder.

Every flight includes a delicious breakfast afterwards at Three Blue Ducks restaurant, where you can also enjoy a tour around The Farm.

Book the autumn special online at [www.balloonaloft.com](http://www.balloonaloft.com).

## SPAGHETTI CIRCUS

Come and enjoy one, two or three days of circus fun with Spaghetti Circus. Holiday workshops will be held on Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 April at Spaghetti's premises at Mullumbimby Showground. Children can pick their own circus adventure! Classes include tightrope, big tramp and mini tramp, German wheel, tissu and trapeze, acro balance, circus games, hula hoops, juggling, and much more.

Half-day sessions for children aged 4-6-years run from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and full-day sessions for 7-14-years run from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Early drop-off is available from 8.30am each day at an additional cost. Active & Creative Kids vouchers accepted. Bookings essential and places are limited.

Book now at [www.spaghetticircus.com](http://www.spaghetticircus.com)

## BETTER BY BIKE

Making Byron adventures easy and fun! Based at Murwillumbah Railway Station, it's the perfect starting point for your Northern Rivers Rail Trail ride, or enjoy convenient pickup from your accommodation. Choose from premium e-bikes, fat-tyre e-bikes, and family-friendly options like tow-behind bikes, child seats, and chariots.

Every hire includes essentials: comfy gel seats, puncture-proof tyres, helmets, tunnel lights, locks, and waterproof panniers. With full trail support and genuine local tips, your ride will be smooth, safe, and stress-free. Backed by hundreds of 5-star reviews and Gold at the NSW Tourism Awards 2025, you're in great hands. Delivery to Byron Bay and the Tweed Coast available. Open daily.

0408 444 858  
[betterbybike.com.au](http://betterbybike.com.au)

## AIDEN SCHOFIELD - MAGICIAN

Magician Aiden Schofield is bringing his high-energy, interactive show *Trivial Trickery* to the Northern Rivers this April!

Bring the whole family together for an extraordinary live experience, where you will be treated to stunning visual magic and unbelievable surprises.

Blending sleight of hand, illusions, and never-before-seen routines, join Aiden for a night that promises to leave you astonished and amazed.

Byron Bay – 13 April

Lismore – 14 April

Brunswick Heads – 15 April

Tickets from [aidenschofieldmagic.com](http://aidenschofieldmagic.com)



**AIDEN SCHOFIELD**  
 APRIL 13 • BYRON BAY  
 BYRON THEATRE  
 APRIL 14 • LISMORE  
 STAR COURT THEATRE  
 APRIL 15 • BRUNSWICK HEADS  
 BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE  
 TRIVIAL TRICKERY  
 TICKETS • AIDENSCHOFIELDMAGIC.COM

## HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

TUE 14 ★ WED 15 ★ THU 16 APRIL



HALF-DAY  
4-6 years  
 FULL-DAY  
7-14 years  
 BOOK NOW - PLACES ARE LIMITED  
[www.spaghetticircus.com](http://www.spaghetticircus.com)  
 MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND



## RAIL TRAIL E-BIKE ADVENTURE!

- Family & pet friendly: E-bikes, kids bikes & attachments
- Two convenient start points: Murwillumbah or Mooball
- Pick-up service: from any Byron or Tweed Coast accom!

BOOK NOW  
[betterbybike.com.au](http://betterbybike.com.au)  
 0408 444 858



Come Fly with us  
 DAILY SUNRISE BALLOON FLIGHTS

AUTUMN SPECIAL  
**\$50 OFF**  
 Book online

Includes breakfast at Three Blue Ducks restaurant - The Farm  
[www.balloonaloft.com](http://www.balloonaloft.com) | 1300 723 279 | @balloonaloftbyronbay

# THE SCOOP

## DISCOVER TERM 2 AT BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE: SKILLS, CREATIVITY AND HANDS-ON LEARNING

Term 2 is officially live at Byron Community College, with a dynamic mix of nationally-recognised training and creative, community-led courses now open for booking. Learners can build practical skills with industry essentials like RSA\*, Barista Training\* and White Card\*, or explore Regenerative Agriculture\* out at The Farm for a hands-on learning experience. There is also the opportunity to step into wellness with Intro to Swedish Massage\* or get creative with Intro to Floristry\*. Alongside these, a diverse range of general interest courses are on offer, from French and Spanish language classes to piano and keyboard, tarot and beekeeping. Whether people are looking to upskill, change direction or try something new, there is something for everyone this term.

\* Fee free and subsidised places available if eligible.

[byroncollege.org.au](http://byroncollege.org.au)  
02 6684 3374  
Cnr Gordon & Burringbar Streets Mullumbimby



## ORD MINNETT - TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

Sometimes clarity starts with a simple conversation. Ord Minnett's advisers are available for a no-obligation chat about your finances — whether you're planning as a family, preparing for retirement, or looking to preserve and structure your wealth.

With superannuation changes coming into effect from 1 July, now is a good time to understand what they mean for you. Jake Blumberg and Sam La Cava can walk you through the key updates and discuss strategies tailored to your goals.

Reach out to Jake or Sam for a casual conversation and explore the right approach for your next chapter.

**Contact your local Private Wealth Advisers**  
Jake Blumberg 02 8216 6359, [jblumberg@ords.com.au](mailto:jblumberg@ords.com.au)  
or Sam La Cava 02 8216, [slacava@ords.com.au](mailto:slacava@ords.com.au)  
Ord Minnett Limited ABN 86 002 733 048, AFS  
Licence Number 237121. Terms and conditions are here: [ords.com.au/legal/terms-and-conditions](http://ords.com.au/legal/terms-and-conditions)



## 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](mailto:apincombe@viridianadvisory.com.au)  
[viridianadvisory.com.au](http://viridianadvisory.com.au)



## FEEL AT HOME WITH AVALON: COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR THE NORTHERN RIVERS

As the Avalon community grows, so does the need for care that's not just professional, but personal. Avalon Home Care is meeting that need with warmth, integrity and a deep commitment to the local community.

Supporting NDIS and My Aged Care participants, Avalon Home Care has listened to what clients want. Consistent carers, reliability, good communication and flexibility, are all important.

Avalon provide flexible in-home care services including personal care, domestic support, yard maintenance, transport, home maintenance, respite support, live-in and 24/7 care and companionship.

Blending clinical excellence with heartfelt connection, and local knowledge with genuine compassion, every visit is a step toward a better life where people feel safe, supported and truly at home.

To learn more, visit [avalonhc.com.au](http://avalonhc.com.au)  
or call 0403 082 141



## COMMUNITY PLANTS 1,600 NATIVE TREES AT GOONENGERRY

More than 40 volunteers gathered at Cromwell Farms in Goonengerry for a community tree-planting day organised by the Gondwana Rainforest Trust, resulting in 1,600 native trees being planted in just a few hours.

By 11:30am, every sapling was in the ground, marking a meaningful step in restoring the Big Scrub Rainforest. The morning brought together families, first-time planters and experienced volunteers, all working side by side with a shared purpose. Children eagerly joined in, adding energy and enthusiasm to the effort.

A memorable moment saw a young child carefully planting a sapling alongside his father, symbolising the lasting impact of the day. The initiative demonstrates how community-led action can regenerate vital habitat and support biodiversity for generations to come.

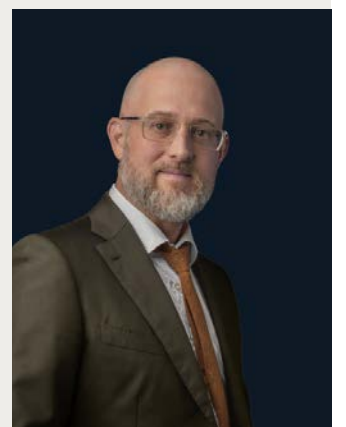
Ranger Erin 0403 127 544  
[erin@gondwanarainforesttrust.org](mailto:erin@gondwanarainforesttrust.org)



## 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  
[dcalaw.com.au](http://dcalaw.com.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.



**WildBilly Books: 11 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay  
50m down from the Surf Club**

**BrunsBooks: 9 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads  
on Fingal Street opposite the school**

**0493 355 719**

**beachsidebookshops.com.au**



# THE SCOOP

## HERE'S HOW TO FEED YOUR FAMILY THROUGH A CRISIS

In times of uncertainty, it helps to return to simple, steady preparation in the pantry. At Food Culture, we provide simple, nourishing staples to support times of both crisis and celebration.

Feeding a family of four for one month might include 20kg of staple carbs (rice, oats, flour, pasta), 10kg of legumes (lentils, beans, chickpeas), 4l of quality fats (olive oil, coconut oil, ghee), 1kg of salt and 1kg of nutrient-dense extras like dried fruit, spices and herbs. Don't forget the little joys, tea, cacao and chocolate can help nervous system regulation. Hardy vegetables like potatoes and pumpkin stretch meals, eggs add protein and energy, fresh herbs bring vitamins, vitality, joy.

Times can feel scary, let's see food as security, food as our culture.



**Food Culture Bulk and Wholefoods**  
**Opening hours: 9-6 weekdays, 9-5 Saturday, 10-4 Sunday**  
**Ocean Shores Village Shopping Centre,**  
**22A Rajah Rd, Ocean Shores**  
**02 6680 1122**  
**shop@foodculturebulkfoods.com.au**  
**www.instagram.com/foodculturebulkfoods/**



## FUTURE ECHOES RETURNS: AMPLIFYING YOUNG VOICES THROUGH MUSIC AND CULTURE

Future Echoes returns, continuing its powerful work supporting Aboriginal young people to express their voice through music, storytelling and culture.

Led by artist and mentor Blake Rhodes, the free program is open to Aboriginal young people aged 14-21, offering hands-on workshops in songwriting, music production and storytelling. Participants explore beats, lyrics and composition while creating original music that blends culture with contemporary sound.

Building on past success, Future Echoes creates a space for connection, creativity, and cultural strength in a three-day experience learning new skills, and leaving with a deeper understanding of how music can reflect culture and community. Whether you're just starting out or looking to grow your skills, there is something for everyone.

Running Tuesday to Thursday, 7-9 April. Registrations are available via the Conservatorium website: <https://nrcc.edu.au/>

**Contact details: Northern Rivers Conservatorium**  
**152 Keen St, Lismore**  
**02 6621 2266**



## 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.

**13 19 87**  
**newcastlepermanent.com.au**



*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 ap-propriateness having regard to these matters and the product Terms and Condi-tions, available on request from any branch, [newcastlepermanent.com.au](http://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.*

## 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**



# Seven



## Eclectic Selection

### What's on this week



Jock Barnes is a professional surfer, musician and songwriter who has collected a world of inspiration to create original lyrical content, and original reworkings of his musical influences of acoustic blues, rock and pop, with a blend of covers and his own original tunes.

**Friday from 6pm at the Suffolk Park Hotel. Free show.**



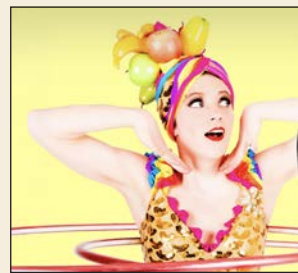
Step into the magic of the cult fantasy classic and celebrate the 40th anniversary of *Labyrinth* with a special one-night-only screening. Blending breathtaking production design, extraordinary practical effects, and the magical artistry of hundreds of Henson puppeteers and craftspeople, *Labyrinth* has become one of the most beloved fantasy films of all time.

**Saturday at 4pm at the Byron Theatre. Tickets from \$16.85 at byroncentre.com.au.**



A prince of the pub, Mr Henry Wagons is back with a new solo tour, full to the brim with more tunes and tall tales from the road less travelled. Mr Wagons always paves his own pathway to your door, and is keen to sing some of your favourite songs whilst sharing a story or seven.

**Saturday from 7pm at the Eltham Hotel. Tickets \$33.69 from moshtix.com.au.**



music will have you captivated and grooving along.

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



Bruce Butler aka Goodrich has history in the music business that stems from his early days, attending local gigs as a spectator at his local haunt, the Royal Antler Hotel in Narrabeen, which at the time was one of the most influential live rock venues in the country.

**Sunday from 4pm at The Beachy, Byron Bay. Free show.**



Don't let the grown-ups have all the fun! The all-ages circus show *Lil' Cheeky* is back for one date, celebrating ten years bold! If it's too hot or too wet outside, and you can't get the kids to put down the devices – let us entertain you!

**Sunday 2pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$20 from brunswickpicturehouse.com.**



Six-time ARIA award-winner and proud Yolngu artist Baker Boy today announces his long-awaited return to the national stage, with a run of headline tour dates – the tour follows the announcement of *Djandjay*, Baker Boy's fearless and emotionally expansive second album.

**Sunday from 7.30pm at the Coolangatta Hotel. Tickets \$59.90 from oztix.com.au.**

Ballina Blues Club presents the Billy K Blues Band, a dynamic group that brings a soulful blend of blues, R&B, rock, and soul blues to every performance. Their energy and passion for



## A dancefloor that gives back

**Nudge Nudge Wink Wink** hits the Shed at the **Billinudgel Hotel** on Saturday bringing together quality dance music, a full dancefloor and a community that knows how to show up and make a night of it.

From late afternoon into evening, April's gathering unfolds with intention. The early hours invite connection, the music builds with care, and by nightfall the Shed settles into its signature rhythm. It is less about peak moments and more about the full journey, where people arrive, connect, and lose themselves in the music together.

Since 2015, Cunning Stunts has donated more than \$450,000 to 42 local organisations, a reminder that this dancefloor has always been about more than just the music.

April's Nudge Wink brings together a mix of guest DJs and resident selectors who know how to lift a room from the outset.

UK house legend DJ **Phil Perry** closes the night, bringing decades of dancefloor experience and a seamless blend of acid, tribal and soulful house. Opening the night, DJ **Lisa** sets the tone with a warm, uplifting set drawn from years behind the decks.

Cunning Stunts resident DJs **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen** sit at the heart of the night, bringing their instinct for the room and the sound that defines the Nudge Nudge Wink Wink dancefloor. **Brunswick Picture House** add their signature moments of surprise, weaving colour, theatre and unexpected joy throughout the evening.

Proceeds from the March and April events will support Women Up North, a specialist domestic and family violence service working across the Northern Rivers.

**Nudge Nudge Wink Wink is on Saturday, from 4pm at The Shed at the Billinudgel Hotel. This event is expected to sell out. Missed out? Check Tixel for the only safe resale options – no scalpers here!**

**You can still support Women Up North by making a donation via the ticket link: [bit.ly/Tickets\\_Nudge\\_April11](https://bit.ly/Tickets_Nudge_April11)**



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

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**THENORTHERN.COM.AU**  
 @thenorthernbyronbay

<b>THUR 9 APR</b>	Front Bar: Izzy Day 6pm, Vinyl DJ Quendo 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: <b>JEROME WILLIAMS BAND FREE ENTRY</b>
<b>FRI 10 APR</b>	Front Bar: Quest Duo 7pm, DJ Jamie Lowe 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: <b>PLAYLUNCH</b>
<b>SAT 11 APR</b>	Front Bar: Record Breakers 7pm, Kane Muir 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: <b>ZAC &amp; FAZZ   FREE ENTRY</b>
<b>SUN 12 APR</b>	Front Bar: Dizzy J (Piano Bar Guy) 5pm, DJ Andrea Jones 8.15pm, Duelling Piano Bar 9pm <b>SIPPIN' SUNDAYS \$15 COCKTAILS</b>
<b>MON 13 APR</b>	Front Bar: Jerome Williams 6pm, DJ My Happy Place 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
<b>TUES 14 APR</b>	Front Bar: Marshal Okell 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm DJ Alice Q 9.15pm
<b>WED 15 APR</b>	Front Bar: JR Higgins 6pm, Duelling Piano Bar 9pm DJ Renee Simone 9.15pm



**SELLING FAST**  
**FRIDAY PLAYLUNCH**



**SIPPIN' SUNDAYS**



## It's about Amelia and a peacock

After a sold-out show in 2025, Barcelona-based, Australian comedian **Amelia Jane Hunter** returns to **Brunswick Picture House** to unleash comedy, kink and chaos.

Award-winning, wickedly original and seriously funny.

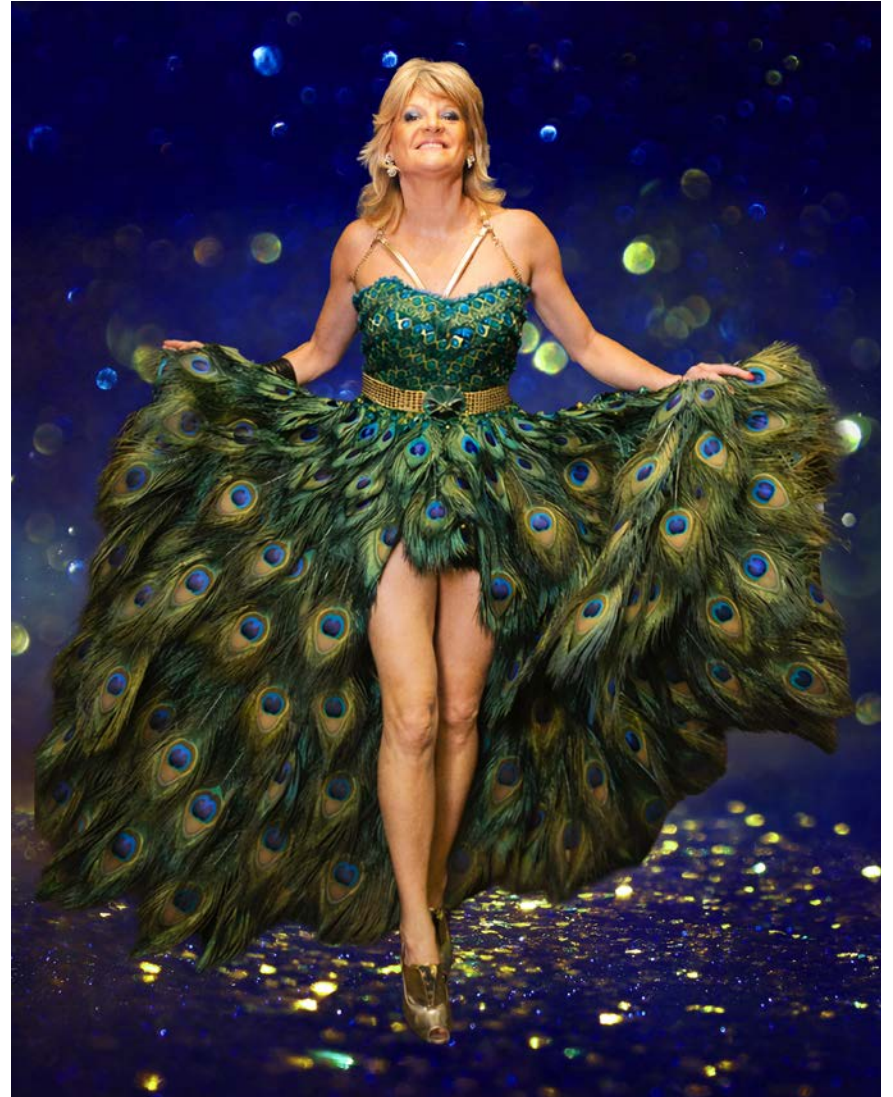
'Horny Peacock' is a comedy cabaret inspired by the adventures of a 50-year-old woman chasing the perfect lighting and sausage condiment. Touring extensively; finding and funding perverted love, true crime and culinary frights, this is one woman's quest to reignite the power, purpose and politics of love.

'This is a tour-de-force of defiant attitude, a clarion cry to be proud of who you are, and not be confined by convention.' *Chortle UK*.

Horny Peacock isn't just a comedy show, it's a full-body experience: part confessional, part call-to-arms. Like a rockstar revolutionary, armed with jaw dropping stories and heart pounding insights; Amelia doesn't just perform, she detonates.

Funny, unapologetic, a sensual cyclone of fabulous, philosophy and fearless feminism. She's chasing freedom, and she wants you to chase it with her, to experiment, question, and love out loud. Isn't that the legacy worth leaving behind? The scent of a Horny Peacock who danced up a storm.

'A stunning performer with presence and panache, a vulnerable, revelatory performance.' *Time Out UK*.



Winner of Thessaloniki Fringe Festival 2024, Melbourne International Comedy Festival Awards, Sydney Comedy Festival Directors Prize, and Edinburgh Fringe Total Theatre Award, Amelia is thrilled to return with a show about the joys of corrupting, kink and compassion.

See more at [www.amelijanehunter.com](http://www.amelijanehunter.com)

**Horny Peacock is on Thursday, April 23, at 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets: [brunswickpicturehouse.com](http://brunswickpicturehouse.com)**

## Murbah Youth Fest is back!

The award-winning **Murbah Youth Fest** (named 2025 Community Event of the Year in the Tweed Shire) is back for its fourth year – bigger, busier, and with more young people involved than ever.

As part of National Youth Week, Murwillumbah Community Centre and Tweed Shire Council have once again teamed up to deliver this full day of music, creativity and connection. The event is proudly supported by Murwillumbah Services Club, the main sponsor, along with generous contributions from Elders Real Estate, Lions Club, Crystal Castle and other local businesses.

This year's festival will take place on **Sunday, 19 April at Knox Park, from 10am to 4pm**. The program includes a Battle of the Bands, a talent quest, a creative market, and the return of the Cosplay Contest.

The day will begin with an Acknowledgement of Country led by local Aboriginal young people from Kids Caring for Country, followed by an official opening from Deputy Mayor Reece Byrnes.

A key part of the festival is the **Youth Action Group**, formed in 2023 following the floods. The group meets regularly to help plan and shape the event, making sure it reflects what local young people actually want. This year, they've helped bring back crowd favourites like bubble soccer – always a hit with younger participants and just as entertaining for spectators.

The Youth Action Group will also run a chill-out space on the day, while Headspace Tweed will host a photo booth for festivalgoers to capture the moment. A range of interactive stalls will be run by local organisations including The Family Centre, Mission Australia, Lifeline/Gamble Aware and RiverTracks, offering activities alongside information and support for young people.

New this year, Totem Skateboarding will deliver a community activation featuring demos, workshops, mentoring and a skate jam.

Murbah Youth Fest continues to provide a space where young people can build confidence, learn new skills, connect with others and contribute to their community. It's a day that celebrates the energy, creativity and voice of young people across the Northern Rivers.

Special satellite Q&A with Director Kasimir Burgess in conversation with Darius Devas  
7pm Fri 17 April - The Drill Hall, Mullumbimby

Tickets at [humantix.com/iron-winter](http://humantix.com/iron-winter)

**nudge nudge Wink wink**  
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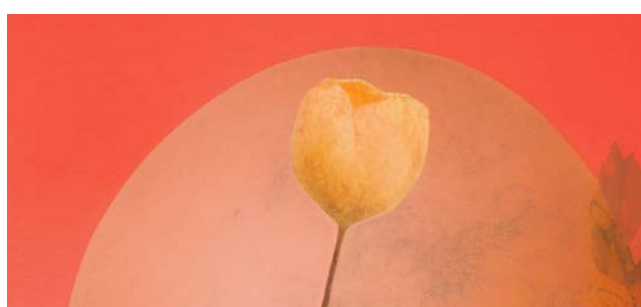
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SATURDAY APR 11 / 4-11PM / The Billinudgel Hotel

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## A POCKETFUL OF SURPRISES FROM NEWTON FAULKNER

### INTERVIEW

Newton Faulkner's latest chapter in his career is his most authentic yet. He is finally relishing in being exactly who he wants to be. A natural-born artist, he has belonged in the room from day one.

He has also adapted to a constantly changing musical landscape; from his debut, to his 2009 sophomore effort *Rebuilt by Humans*, his second UK #1 album *Write It on Your Skin*, then *Studio Zoo* and beyond,

Faulkner has never rested on his laurels and always strived for more.

However, that door he first entered – where control over his own music, the highs and lows of fame and critical categorisation all came at a cost – is now a remnant of the past. The door he walks through now is the one that was made for him. This is not just a re-introduction. It is a fresh start.

Seven caught up with Faulkner to talk about his trip to Australia and his new record, *Octopus*.

**Where are you? And what's the weather like?**

I'm in London, East London, and it's midnight or something, the sun's gone to bed, and I've just finished dinner – but it was super windy today. I didn't realise how windy it was until I tried to throw a ball for a dog and it came back and hit me in the face. I was like, oh, it's pretty windy!

**You're prepping for the trip here?**

Yes! I can't wait. It's been a really long time, I have some new gear. There's loads of, loads of incredibly fun toys for me to play with, and I've got someone building me something. Which is going to be very interesting.

**Oh tell me! What it is?**

Well, I built something. It's the second thing I've ever built in my life. I built two things. I've built a wooden squirrel when I was nine, then I built a pair of MIDI shoes – lens caps and Velcro as a proper hack job, but it did two whole tours, an entire festival season. So I've been expanding the idea and dealing with someone that actually knows how to build things, and they have a, like a proper prototype ready to go soon.

**How long since you've been to Australia?**

A good few years. I can't wait to come back. It was the first place where things kind of kicked off. I'll never forget the first time I came, because it was that moment where I kind of flew out, and I was at baggage reclaim and doing all that stuff. It's the furthest I'd ever been from home in my entire life and immediately someone was like, 'hang on, you're Newton Faulkner!' It was amazing.

**This record feels to me like you've covered just about every possible style of music – was that intentional?**

Yes, well the one thing that I tried not to do was cover ground that I'd covered before, and there were so many options for things that I love, and have loved all my life, that I've never really done because, for some reason, and I'm still not quite sure where it came from, really, I didn't feel like I was 'allowed'. So I was like, 'okay, so this stuff goes well, this stuff doesn't go well. I'll park that stuff for a bit', and a bit of like, chasing my own tail and trying to retread ground that went better than the ground I hadn't done.

I asked myself, 'what do I really want to do? What am I excited about?' And that really was the kind of turning point for me with the album.

**Has the reality matched the vision you had when you started?**

I think it's actually kind of surpassed it. I was never really motivated by anything other than the work. I mean, I remember this really clearly, because when things first kicked off, when the first album did what it did, which no one expected it to do, least of all me, there was a lot going on. And I remember being in a really fancy hotel room and going into the bathroom and looking at myself in the mirror and thinking, 'okay, we need to have a chat.' There's a lot going on. I'm pretty sure that 80 to 95 per cent of it is total bullshit.

So we need to tread carefully. We need to work out what we actually want.

Yeah, so what do we want? Because if we just want to be like a kind of household name, it's doable, but it's a very different agenda. And I was like, 'Well, what do I love doing? It's like, well, I love the work. Yep, I love trying to get better at my job. Yeah. I've really held to that, and I still sit and practise scales. I have singing lessons. I like reading books on music theory. I'm watching endless tutorials on how to use compressors. I just love it. I love every aspect of it.'

I've got to the stage where I can have an idea and be like, 'ah, it'd be really cool to do something that sounded like this,' and I can sit in a room on my own and get to that point.

**Do you have an earworm at the moment?**

Okay, it's the strangest thing. Yes, it usually is. I introduced my two-year-old to a piece of music, and I basically needed him to sit still for nine minutes. And I was like, right? What's approximately that length that will catch him off guard, and he'll get really intrigued – now it's just going round and round.

**What's inspiring you to get out of bed and write music?**

I've been writing three days a week, solidly, and if I haven't been writing, I'm producing the stuff that I've been writing. And I get up at five o'clock every morning, and the thing that I did at five o'clock this morning was start doing research into the science behind what makes something a hook or not a hook. Yeah, to try and right, get scientifically into what makes something catchy or not catchy, which I don't, it's not like my main motivation if I'm writing for myself, in some ways, it's like part of it, but for me, it's never been enough to get me out of the bed in the morning, just as like a concept, just on its own, but chucking in working for other people, and the combination of working with other people, suddenly, I actually really feel the need to understand it more, if that's even possible. So science is getting me out of bed. Science has always got me out of bed. My dad gets me the same present every year, for over a decade – a subscription to the *New Scientist*.

**Newton Faulkner is playing *The Backroom* at The Northern on Friday, 24 April – tickets: [www.moshtix.com.au](http://www.moshtix.com.au).**

## AMPLIFY YOUR VOLUNTEER IMPACT

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

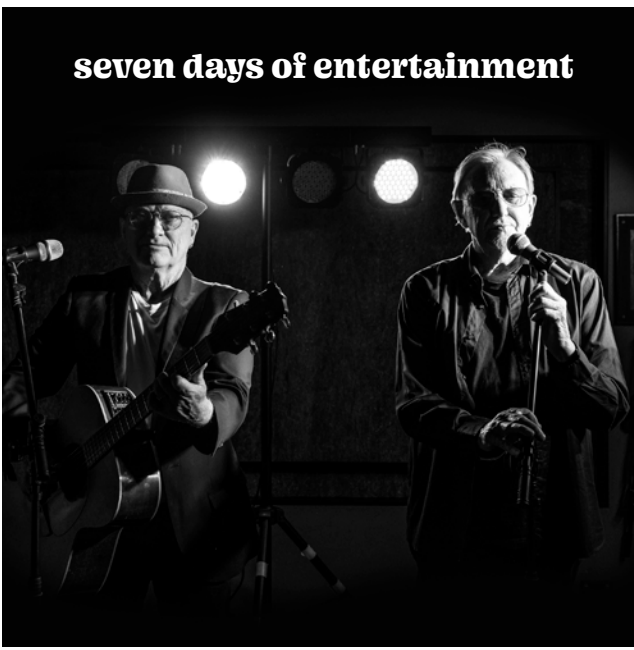
Whether you can help us with some admin, fundraising, production or design we'd love you to join us. Tech know-how and tradie skills most welcome!

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



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

seven days of entertainment



## The Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel

The Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel is a beautifully crafted, live celebration of the music, harmonies and stories of the most iconic folk duo of all time.

Starring **Mark Shelley** and **Peter O'Regan**, this acoustic performance captures the unmistakable vocal blend and musical intimacy that made Simon & Garfunkel legendary.

Mrs Robinson... Homeward Bound... The Sound of Silence... Scarborough Fair... The Boxer... Bridge Over Troubled Water... Feelin' Groovy... El Condor Pasa... I am a Rock... Kathy's Song... Cecilia... and many more.

Paul Simon's incomparable songs captured the '60s – the questions, hopes, and social musings. Timeless then, timeless now, his music continues to resonate, echoing across generations.

He is certainly one of the great songwriters of contemporary music, from the '60s to this day, producing an array of brilliant and eclectic offerings. Like memory set to song – gentle, honest and impossibly beautiful.

Mark Shelley and Peter O'Regan have been touring and performing for decades in many different forms and guises – theatre shows, original offerings, cruises, TV, venues, session work. Joining them on stage is the inimitable bass player **Christopher Soulos** and the masterful keys of **Noel Elmowy**.

The quartet's individual musical experiences and stories of life on the road are endless. Now, after being friends and admiring each other's work for years, it is a pleasure for them to join forces to present 'The Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel'.

'I grew up listening to these songs and in fact taught myself how to play guitar from them. Their sound is a part of my musical fabric and the pleasure we have in presenting and performing these wonderful songs is immense. It is also a delight to meet people after the shows; to hear the memories and what the songs mean to them,' says Shelley.

**Byron Theatre, Friday 17 April at 7.30pm. Tickets from [byroncentre.com.au](http://byroncentre.com.au).**

# GIG GUIDE

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

### WEDNESDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATT COLLINS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**
- SERPENTINE GALLERY, LISMORE, 5.30PM **B-DOUBLE & ROY**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **MAPLE GLIDER**

### THURSDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JESSE WHITNEY TRIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DOJO RISE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **IZZY DAY + JEROME WILLIAMS BAND + DJ QUENDO + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **BILL JACOBI**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **TEN YEARS BOLD - CHEEKY CABARET**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM **LANE PITTMAN + BILLY VINCENT & BEAU SHEARER**

### FRIDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JORDAN MAC + PNAU**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **QUEST DUO 7PM, DJ JAMIE LOWE 10.15PM, DUELLING PIANO BAR 8PM, BACKROOM: PLAYLUNCH**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **BLACK RABBIT GEORGE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ ALICE Q**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JACK HARLON & THE DEAD CROWS, THE FEM GREMS & THE GRANNIE SMYTHS**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **JORDAN MAC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **TEN YEARS BOLD - CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ ISHWARA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **PISTOL WHIP**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **PUSH**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7.30PM **THE JACKS**
- HOTEL LISMORE 5.30PM **DJ YOLAN & DJ KAZ**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **WOLFIE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSLIFF, 5.30PM **FELICITY KIRCHER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 7PM **FUN FRIDAY - AN EVENING WITH DR BAZ, THE SHOWROOM 8PM SOUTHERN SONS**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **ROCKIN' THE 70S**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM **MAC THE KNIFE**

### SATURDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE FUNNY GOATS BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **DAVE QUENDO**
- BYRON THEATRE 4PM **LABYRINTH 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SCREENING**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **RECORD BREAKERS 7PM, KANE MUIR 10.15PM, DUELLING PIANO BAR 8PM, ZAC & FAZZ**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM **DJ QUENDO + DANI QUAYLE MUSIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **LAZY GHOST**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **TEN YEARS BOLD - CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ VINYL DAN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK - FT DJS PHIL PERRY, LISA, DALE STEPHEN, LORD SUT + BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE LIVE**

- LENNOX HOTEL 5PM **MESSY FUZZ**
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, 6PM **JAY & LYNDEY**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **BEN WHITING**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **HENRY WAGONS**
- HOTEL LISMORE 9.30PM **ALL GONE BAND**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **CHRISC**
- KINGSLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **LEE ANN JOY**
- KINGSLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM **FINOJET**
- SALTBAR, KINGSLIFF, 5.30PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **BRIT BEAT MANIA**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM **REBECCA O'CONNOR**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM **BOOF HEADS**

### SUNDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **NATHAN KAYE DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4PM **GOODRICH + MISS MONIQUE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **DIZZY J (PIANO BAR GUY) 5PM, DJ ANDREA JONES 8.15PM, DUELLING PIANO BAR 9PM**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **DAVID MCCREDIE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **LIL' CHEEKY, 6PM TEN YEARS BOLD - CHEEKY CABARET**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **BEN WHITING**
- TINTENBAR HALL 3.30PM **GREG & JASON, PETER & WENDY, LEE KINGSTON, MARTY BREEN, AWESOME VOICES**
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM **INO PIO**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT BILLY K BLUES BAND**

- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **LISA HUNT**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **BRAD HOLMES + CORY HARGREAVES**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7PM **DRUM TAO**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 6PM **JACK HARLON & THE DEAD CROW**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7.30PM **BAKER BOY**

### MONDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **YAZMINDI**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **AIDEN SCHOFIELD**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **JEROME WILLIAMS 6PM, DJ MY HAPPY PLACE 9.15PM, DUELLING PIANO BAR 9PM**

### TUESDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DEVU**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **MARSHAL OKELL 6PM, DJ ALICE Q 9.15PM, DUELLING PIANO BAR 9PM**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **RAFA**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **THE ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK STORY**

### WEDNESDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THOR PHILLIPS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **JR HIGGINS 6PM, DJ RENEE SIMONE 9.15PM, DUELLING PIANO BAR 9PM**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **AIDEN SCHOFIELD**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- HOTEL LISMORE 5.30PM **LILLI SHEEN + DJ SPEX**

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



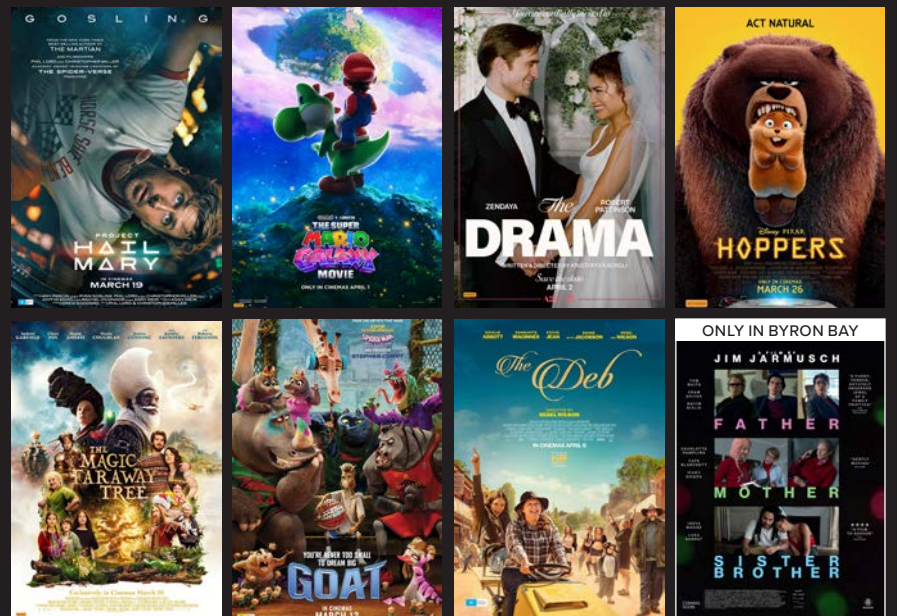
It will appear in the paper, the online gig guide and on Bay FM  
email [gigs@echo.net.au](mailto:gigs@echo.net.au) with the details

PALACE CINEMAS  
BYRON BAY · BALLINA FAIR

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FOR BOOKINGS AND SESSION TIMES [PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU](http://PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU) 6686 9600 BALLINA FAIR · 6680 8555 BYRON BAY

# 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](http://www.echo.net.au/classified-ads)

# Echo

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

### NOW RECRUITING

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

Find out more: [mrns.com.au/join](http://mrns.com.au/join)



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### WHERE TO GET THE ECHO

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



**BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL**

## ROAD CLOSURES

### NOTICE PROPOSED ROAD CLOSING UNDER SECTION 38B ROADS ACT 1993

In pursuance of the provisions of the *Roads Act 1993*, notice is hereby given that Byron Shire Council proposes to close the following Council public road listed in Schedule 1.

#### Schedule 1:

- Part of 35 Bayside Way, Brunswick Heads Lot 8 DP1261870

Upon closure of the road, the land will vest in Council as Operational Land.

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to the General Manager Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482, within twenty-eight days of the date of this advertisement. Please note that under the provisions of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, such submissions may be referred to third-parties for consideration.

Once the submission period is completed, Byron Shire Council will consider all duly made submissions before deciding whether to continue with the road closure proposal.

**Council Ref: #E2026/33862**

**Enquiries: Tracy Armstrong**

**Telephone: 02 6626 7000**

This document will be available on Council's website at

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice).

**Submissions Close: Friday May 8, 2026**

## AGMs

### FEDERAL COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM

16 April, 7pm at Federal Hall.  
All welcome.

## HEALTH

### KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages.  
Reprogram patterns and beliefs.

Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress.

0403125506

**SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.**

### Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby  
0401 926 090

### Body Based Psychotherapy Somatic Practice

Julie Wells  
Anne Goslett (nee Mannix)

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

(02) 6685 5185  
9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

### HYPNOSIS & EFT

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

### HYPNOSIS & NLP

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

## TREE SERVICES

**LEAF IT TO US - Tree Care Specialists**

Local, qualified, insured, free quotes.

Big to small we enjoy it all -

0402487213

## HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

- 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
- Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat

Fully insured • Free quotes  
**0427 347 380**

## SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

- Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder
- Fully Insured

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas  
**6681 3140**  
Mobile 0417 698 227

## TRADEWORK

## Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental

The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

**6687 2880**

## WANTED

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

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

## GARAGE SALES

**DECEASED ESTATE** garage sale Saturday 11/4/26 from 7.30am at 3 Ann St Mullumbimby. Undercover. Additional items added from Easter weekend.

## Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

**0408 210 772**



## BUSINESS FOR SALE

**HEALTHY** home-based fruit juice 'sole trader' business; two parts sold together. 1: Very well established vibrant social market trailer fruit/veg stall (weekends). 2: Popular wholesale fruit juice ice-pop manufacturer & distributorship with exclusive local organic orchard supply (weekdays). Both parts have growth potential and/or the stability of 'cottage industry' economic resilience. ~\$80K. Ph 0431284741

## TO LET

### LOCAL REMOVAL

& backloads to Brisbane. Friendly, with 10 years local exp. 0409917646

**BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS**  
Secure. From \$22p/w. Ranging from 10-44 m3. Across 3 locations. 66867011

## TO LEASE

**OFFICE/WORKSPACE** 42sqm \$402pw Billinudgel. Ph Lifestyle Group 66851206

## POSITIONS VACANT

**AVAILABLE:** Shift in Erotic Massage Studio 18+. Weekends only, daytime hours. Prefer experience, but can train the right applicant. Tweed area 0418185791

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

**TAXI DRIVERS WANTED**  
Flexible work hours - perfect 2nd income  
Email operations@byronbaytaxi.com

## CLEANER WANTED

Cleaner 8 hours per week, modern house Mullumbimby Creek  
Suit person/duo who work to high standard.  
**Text Caroline 0417 474 235**

## WORK WANTED

**REPUTABLE CLEANER AVAILABLE**  
If you're time-poor or just tired and need a hand around your home, call me for: a one-off clean; weekly; fortnightly; or just when you need it. I will make your home sparkle while you relax. I have been servicing the Byron Shire and surrounding areas since 2023. I bring all of my own products and gear and I'm fully insured. References available. My hourly rate is \$55. Too good to be true?  
Give me a call or txt Tina on 0400015939

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

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



## 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](mailto:volunteer@owlandpussycat.org.au)



[www.owlandpussycat.org.au](http://www.owlandpussycat.org.au)



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre  
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Kitchen Hands -
- Retail Assistants -
- Drivers and Co-driver -
- Community Support Assistants -

MDNC is in need of dedicated volunteers to be part of a big loving family.  
All skill sets welcome.

**Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator Mon-Fri 6684 1286**



## TUITION

## Adobe Tutoring Experienced Professional Tutor

- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

[contact@thinkblinkdesign.com](mailto:contact@thinkblinkdesign.com)  
[www.thinkblinkdesign.com](http://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.



## BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday Tirza!  
May it be filled with  
adventure and joy.  
Love, The Echo Crew



**BEAN**  
Bean is a charming 9-month-old tabby with striking stripes and a big personality. He's a cuddly, curious explorer who adores human company. After playtime, he'll happily curl up on your lap. Gentle and affectionate, Bean thrives on attention and interactive fun. He's searching for a loving home and will reward it with endless entertainment and loyal companionship. Meet Bean and bring extra joy into your life today.  
Rehoming Number R25100060  
NRAS Northern Rivers Animal Services  
T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au  
W: www.nras.org.au

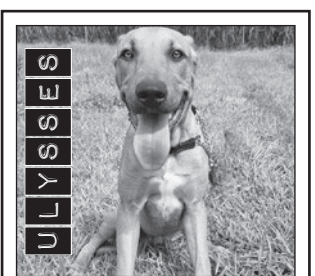


Happy 21st our favourite Lucy-Boots!

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



**TEVI**  
Tevi is a handsome tabby boy who is still searching for his special person. Tevi is definitely looking for a home where he has the opportunity to form a close bond with someone. He's full of love & waiting to share it with you but not with other cats. He wants you all to himself!  
To meet Tevi & our other cats & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.  
**OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm**  
**Thurs 3-5pm**  
**Sat 10am-12 noon**  
**Call AWL on 0436 845 542**  
Like us on Facebook!  
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation  
Number: R25100222



**ULYSSES**  
Ulysses is a 6 month old, Staffy X. He has grown into a beautifully natured, well-socialised, young dog. He would suit a family where someone is home often, as he thrives on company and enjoys being part of daily life.  
M/C # 991003002920223  
Location: Murwillumbah  
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128  
Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/  
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.  
ABN 83 126 970 338



**WALTER**  
Meet 'uber affectionate' Walter! At just 9 months old he's very active, playful, and adores human company! Loves to cuddle up in your arms, and will follow you everywhere just to be with you and spread his LOVE! Walter is also very handsome, with a sleek leopard like coat. He's hanging to get out of the shelter and into a fun loving home. Would be great with kids! Desexed, wormed, vaccinated and microchipped.  
DOB approx July '25  
To view Walter or any other cat's give us a call. See our FB and Instagram!

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



**#55**  
**Who gives a Cluck?**  
**Adopt a Rooster.**  
Phoenix was rescued in early Feb after being dumped at Stotts Island nature reserve with his other rooboy friend #56. Bigger boys, both are good natured and friendly. Wormed, lice mite treated. Please adopt a rescued rooboy.  
Here's the link to adopt him (#55).  
www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/  
whogivesacluck.org | @whogivesacluck



**Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)**  
**ARCHIE**  
Meet Archie, Heeler x Staffy x Greyhound / Male 2 years / Desexed Archie is a sweet soul who adores humans and is looking for a buddy that will look after him forever. He's a cuddler and happy to chill alongside you. He gets on well with other dogs and knows all the obedience basics. Archie needs a secure fenced area, ok with older kids, no cats or livestock  
**Call Julia on 0458 461 935 or apply via byrondogrescue.org**  
MC: 991003002588255

**ONLY ADULTS**  
Need proper erotic relaxation?  
**Tantric Massage**  
Men, Women, Couples. Ph 0480779325  
**BALLINA EXCLUSIVE**  
34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late.  
In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted  
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

**KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP**  
Large variety of toys and lingerie  
6/6 Tasman Way, A&I Est, Byron Bay  
66856330

## 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)
8	W	5:59 17:36	21:30 11:24	11:49 1.06	06:39 0.68 17:21 0.59
9	TH	6:00 17:35	22:24 12:14	00:42 1.48 12:48 1.00	07:47 0.71 18:15 0.67
10	F	6:01 17:33	23:22 12:59	01:49 1.43 14:18 0.99	09:05 0.70 19:37 0.71
11	SA	6:01 17:32	0:21 13:40	04:14 1.48 15:48 1.04	10:12 0.65 21:09 0.70
12	SU	6:02 17:31	0:21 14:16	04:14 1.48 16:51 1.15	11:01 0.58 22:21 0.64
13	M	6:02 17:30	1:20 14:50	05:08 1.54 17:40 1.27	11:41 0.49 23:19 0.55
14	TU	6:03 17:29	2:20 15:21	05:54 1.60 18:25 1.41	12:15 0.40
15	W	6:03 17:28	3:21 15:52	06:36 1.64 19:07 1.56	00:09 0.47 12:49 0.32
16	TH	6:04 17:27	4:23 16:25	07:17 1.64 19:49 1.69	00:57 0.39 13:23 0.25
17	F	6:04 17:26	5:28 16:59	07:58 1.61 20:32 1.80	01:45 0.34 13:57 0.21
18	SA	6:05 17:25	6:36 17:39	08:40 1.53 21:16 1.88	02:34 0.32 14:33 0.20
19	SU	6:06 17:24	7:47 18:25	09:24 1.43 22:02 1.91	03:27 0.34 15:11 0.23
20	M	6:06 17:23	9:00 19:18	10:10 1.32 22:52 1.89	04:24 0.38 15:52 0.29
21	TU	6:07 17:22	10:11 20:20	11:01 1.20 23:45 1.83	05:28 0.44 16:38 0.38
22	W	6:07 17:21	11:15 21:27	12:03 1.11	06:37 0.50 17:33 0.48

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

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

## SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

## The Echo's Market Guide

Find it online: [www.echo.net.au/market-guide](http://www.echo.net.au/market-guide)

- MONTHLY MARKETS:**
- 1st SAT:** Brunswick Heads Markets - 8am-2pm
  - 1st SUN:** Byron Community Market - 8am-3pm  
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm
  - 2nd SUN:** The Channon Craft Market - 9am-3pm  
Chillingham Markets - 8am-1pm  
Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets - 8am-2pm  
Tabulam Community Market - 9am-1pm
  - 3rd SAT:** Mullumbimby Community Market - 8am-2pm  
Murwillumbah Makers & Finders Market - 9am-2pm  
Salt Beach Markets, South Kingscliff/Casuarina - 8am-1pm
  - 3rd SUN:** Federal Village Market - 8am-2pm  
Uki Buttery Bazaar Market - 8am-2pm  
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm  
Lismore City Bowlo Markets - 9am-1pm
  - 3rd SUN (Dec & Jan):** Byron Community Market - 8am-3pm
  - 4th SAT:** Kyogle Bazaar - 9am-2pm
  - Last SAT:** Evans Head Rotary Market - 8am-1pm
  - 4th SUN:** Bangalow Market - 8am-2.30pm  
Nimbin Markets - 9am-3pm  
Murwillumbah Showground Market - 8am-1pm
  - 4th SUN (in a 5-Sunday month):** Coolangatta Arts & Crafts - 8am-2pm
  - 5th SUN:** Nimbin Markets - 8.30am-3pm
- Seasonal:** Byron Beachside Market - four times a year: Wed 7th Jan 2026, Easter Friday, Sat 11th July and Sat 26th Sept

## FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:

- Each TUE:** New Brighton Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Lismore Organic Market - 7.30am-10.30am
- Each WED:** Murwillumbah Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Nimbin Farmers Market - 3pm-6pm  
Newrybar Hall Twilight Market - 3pm-7.30pm
- Each THU:** Byron Bay Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Lismore Produce Market - 3pm-6pm
- Each FRI:** Mullumbimby Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Evans Head Farmers Market - 2.30pm-6.30pm
- Each SAT:** Bangalow Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Duranbah Road Farmers Market (Tropical Fruit World) 8am-11am  
Uki Farmers Market - 8am-1pm  
Lismore Farmers Market - 7.30am-11.30am  
Byron Twilight Market (October to April) 4pm-9pm
- Each SUN:** Ballina Farmers & Producers Market - 7am-11am

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

## On The Horizon

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

### BV VIEW Club

Brunswick Valley VIEW Club has author Sally Warriner as guest speaker at its luncheon on 9 April. She is the author of *Not Just the Wife of the General Manager*. The venue is Brunswick Heads Bowling Club. All are welcome to attend. Numbers are needed for catering purposes. Phone 0412 246 310. Our club supports eight disadvantaged students in The Smith Family's Learning for Life program. VIEW stands for Voice, Interests and Education of Women. For more information call Rita on 0424 852 679.

### Mullumbimby CWA

Homemade Anzac biscuits will be on sale at our stall on 24 April in front of Stewart's Menswear in Mullumbimby's main street. The ladies will be selling the delicious biscuits from 9am. The branch meeting is on the second Wednesday of each month at 10am. Come and join us. For more information, call secretary Jenny on 66847 282 or contact her on cwamullumbimby@gmail.com.

### AIRFNCB meets April 10

The next meeting of the Australian Independent Retirees will be held a week later than usual due to the Easter holiday period. This meeting will be held on Friday, 10 April at the Ballina RSL Club, commencing at 10am. Doors will open at 9.30am for meet, greet and chat before the meeting commences, which will conclude around 10.30am for morning tea, followed by our guest speaker, Emma Walsh, who is Senior Financial Planner from WCA Financial Planners. When all this business has concluded, a table has been booked for us to partake of lunch, at our own cost, in the Boardwalk restaurant, in the RSL. Everyone is welcome to enjoy lunch and fun and friendship. All enquiries to the President, Mrs Jill Huxley, on 6686 8958.

### Gods Must Be Crazy screens

On Wednesday, 15 April, the 1980 (original) film, *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, will be shown from 7pm at the The Mullumbimby Drill Hall Theatre. Most of us have seen the film when it was first released, and perhaps since, but this is a classic that is timeless and very funny. It also introduced us all to the hunter/gatherers, the roving bushmen of the Kalahari Desert and this little known region and way of life. For further information please contact drillhallfilmsociety@gmail.com. Guests are always welcome and the doors, bar, and kitchen are open from 6.30pm.

## 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.

### Vollies needed for toy library

Byron Shire toy library is looking for volunteers to help run the library. We have two sites, Suffolk Park and Ocean Shores. It's an easy, fun way to spend a morning. You are required to do a two or three hour shift every week or every two weeks. If interested please contact Pippy Wardell; byronbayseniors@gmail.com.

### A few hands can make a big difference!

On Monday and Friday mornings, a

### 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.

### Voluntary assisted dying book

Writer Char Weeks, a regular visitor to Byron Bay for more than 36 years, is seeking to speak with local people who have experienced the loss of a loved one through voluntary assisted dying. She is currently writing a book tentatively titled *When Someone You Love Chooses Voluntary Assisted Dying*, which explores the experiences of families and friends who find themselves living alongside that decision. The book takes a careful, balanced approach and focuses on the lived experiences of those close to the person at the centre of the decision. Conversations can take place in person or via Zoom. Anyone interested in reading the book synopsis, or willing to speak confidentially about their experience, is warmly invited to get in touch. Contact charweeks036@gmail.com.

### Byron Seniors Club Canva workshops

Discover the power of design with Canva. This beginner-friendly workshop will guide you through the essentials of the free version of Canva - including creating your first project. You'll gain confidence in navigating Canva's tools and features while exploring what you can create and share. You'll also have the chance to connect with your community, share ideas and feel inspired in a relaxed, supportive space. When: Friday 24 April from 10am to 1pm, Where: Byron Community Centre, 69 Jonson Street. Cost: free for Club Members - bookings essential seniorsbyroncentre.com.au.

## Regular As Clockwork

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### Seniors

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

## ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

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



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### ACCOUNTANTS & BOOKKEEPERS

**BYRON BOOKKEEPING** BAS, Payroll, AR/AP, Xero, QB, MYOB.....0415 639548  
**BOOKKEEPER** Reg BAS provider, payroll, A/P, A/R, Xero & MYOB. Local, reliable. ....0410 206627  
**BLOOMING BOOKKEEPING** and BAS Agent..... Ph Leah 0434 121077

### ACUPUNCTURE

**ACUPUNCTURE CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE** M Collis.....0490 022183

### AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

**Mullumbimby Refrigeration & Airconditioning Services**  
 - Sales - Installation - Repairs  
 - All Commercial Refrigeration  
 - Residential & Commercial Airconditioning  
 - Coolroom Design & Construction  
 - Freezer Rooms

45 Manns Road, Mullumbimby **6684 2783**  
 Lic: 299433C ARC: AU40492

**COOLMAN AIR CONDITIONING** 36+ years exp. Lic 178464C AU30147 .....0422 291433  
**ARTISAN AIR** Airconditioning and refrigeration. .... 66809394

### ARCHITECTS

**OCEANARC ARCHITECTS** Reg. 6042 [www.oceanarc.com.au](http://www.oceanarc.com.au) .....0412 251392

### AUTOMOTIVE

**WE PAY FOR UNWANTED CARS**  
**\$50-\$1500**  
 Free metal drop off  
 Locally owned **6684 5296**

### ABSOLUTELY FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

**CASH ON THE SPOT GUARANTEE**  
**\$50 - \$1000**  
 WE BUY UNWANTED CARS, UTES & VANS  
**PHONE 0466 113 333** 24/7  
 EMAIL: [enquires@adrians.com.au](mailto:enquires@adrians.com.au)

### BARBER SHOPS

**PENSIONERS/KIDS FROM \$25 - ADULTS FROM \$30:** 6 Brunswick Tce Mullum.....0421 679015

### BLINDS, AWNINGS, CURTAINS, SHUTTERS

**BYRON BAY**  
**BlindDESIGN**  
 BLINDS SHUTTERS AWNINGS CURTAINS

LOCAL **Luxaflex**  
 SHOWCASE DEALER SHOWROOM

**6680 8862**  
**FREE MEASURE QUOTE**  
 ON OUR COMPLETE RANGE OF INTERIOR & EXTERIOR WINDOW TREATMENTS

1/84 Centennial Circuit Byron Bay  
 SPECIALISTS IN HOME AUTOMATION  
[www.blinddesignbyronbay.com.au](http://www.blinddesignbyronbay.com.au)

### BRICKLAYING

**BRICK/BLOCK LAYING** Contractors. Lic 291958C. Phone Mark .....0409 444268

### BUILDING TRADES

**DEPT OF FAIR TRADING:** A licence is required for all residential building work where the reasonable market cost of the work to be done (labour and materials) exceeds \$5000 (including GST).

**B&B Timbers**  
 66867911  
 110 Teven Road, Ballina  
*New logo - Same quality & service*  
**Structural - Landscaping**  
**Fencing - Composite Decking**  
**Hardwood - Pine - Hardware**  
[sales@bbtimbers.com.au](mailto:sales@bbtimbers.com.au) [www.bbtimbers.com.au](http://www.bbtimbers.com.au)

**BUILDER - JOHN MCGAURAN** Personalised Service. 20 yrs exp. Lic 170208C .....0415 793242  
**HAVEN BUILDING** All aspects of building. Lic 326616C.....0432 565060  
**FABRICA JOINERY** Quality kitchens/timber doors/windows. Lic 244652C ..... 66808162  
**CARPENTER / JOINER** 30 years experience. Prompt efficient service. Fully insured. Other licensed trades avail, incl plastering/painting etc. 24/7 Emergency 4WD call-out avail. Lic 43794C .....0423 500693  
**BUILDER** Extensions, maintenance, new homes, insurance, landscaping Lic19953Q..... 0403 458177  
**SEA LION BUILDERS:** All Building Works / Maintenance Lic #243734C ..... Ph 0407 351720  
**VIDLER BUILT** decks, extensions, bathrooms, kitchens, timber fencing Lic 304237C.....0413 502281

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# Construction milestones at Banyan Hill drive strong first quarter sales

*Stage 10 and 11 completion and Hilltop Park delivery by mid-year underpin buyer confidence at Ballina's emerging lifestyle address*

Momentum continues to build at Banyan Hill as major construction milestones across the estate align with a strong first quarter of sales, reinforcing buyer confidence in one of the Northern Rivers' most-anticipated new residential communities.

Construction of Stages 10 and 11 is now well advanced and on track for completion by mid-year, marking a significant step forward in the delivery of the master-planned community. At the same time, works are progressing on Banyan Hill's landmark Hilltop Park, which is also scheduled for completion mid-year and will form the elevated green heart of the estate.

Positioned at one of the highest points within the community, Hilltop Park has been designed to offer landscaped recreation spaces, sweeping outlooks and a strong sense of arrival – cementing its role as a defining feature of Banyan Hill's premium positioning.



Construction of Banyan Hill's landmark Hilltop Park is progressing, with completion targeted for mid-year.

This visible on-site progress has translated directly into market momentum. Across the first quarter, Banyan Hill has recorded 23 homesite sales, generating approximately \$13.2 million in revenue, signalling a clear uplift in buyer activity and renewed confidence in the new home market.

Sarah Cobb, Sales Manager, said the pace of construction and

certainty around delivery timelines are playing a key role in buyer decision making.

'As buyers see stages nearing completion and Hilltop Park really taking shape, confidence in the project accelerates,' Ms Cobb said. 'We're seeing a decisive shift back toward the off the plan house-and-land market. In many cases, buyers are securing brand new homesites

at a discount of more than \$100,000 compared with established homes in comparable catchments.'

'That value gap, combined with price certainty, contemporary design and future amenity, has become too compelling to ignore. The strength of first quarter sales reflects buyers acting decisively as construction progress makes the opportunity increasingly tangible.'

To further support buyers entering the market, Banyan Hill is currently offering the opportunity to secure a homesite with a \$10,000 deposit, providing an accessible pathway into the market as construction continues to advance across the estate.

With elevated homesites, coastal proximity and amenity now visibly emerging on site, Banyan Hill continues to strengthen its reputation as one of the Northern Rivers' most compelling lifestyle communities – well positioned to benefit from sustained population growth and ongoing housing demand across the region.

■ For enquiries or to secure remaining homesites, visit [banyanhill.com.au](http://banyanhill.com.au), or contact Sarah Cobb on 1300 326 197.

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1041 BANGALOW ROAD, BEXHILL



Price Guide: \$1,150,000 - \$1,250,000

Open: Sat 11th April, 9:00am-9:30am

6 bedrooms 3 bathrooms 2 car spaces 1.11ha

An idyllic country property with easy access to towns and the coast



5 KOALA CLOSE, EWINGSDALE

### Elevated Ewingsdale Estate with Pool, Privacy, Sanctuary Potential & Future Upside

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4162M<sup>2</sup>

- Elevated home positioned to maximise privacy and allow for future expansion or secondary dwelling (STCA)
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4 beds 2 living zones 3 bathrooms 2 cars

829M<sup>2</sup>

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530M<sup>2</sup>

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2656M<sup>2</sup>

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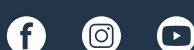
ON-SITE AUCTION  
OPEN | Sat 18th April 11:30am - 12pm



Helen Huntly-Barratt  
0412 332 232

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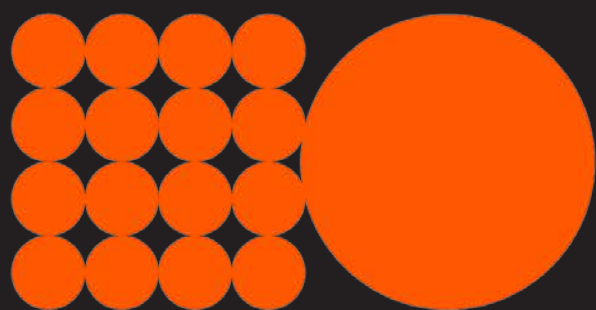
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# Sunrise to Sunset

10-12 Kanandah Court, Ocean Shores

Perched high above the coastline on a magnificent north-facing 1,912m<sup>2</sup> parcel, this exceptional residence captures sweeping sunrise-to-sunset views across the Pacific Ocean, championship golf course and hinterland, delivering one of the most compelling lifestyle positions in Ocean Shores. Surrounded by beautifully established gardens and mature greenery, the home enjoys a rare sense of privacy and elevation while remaining moments from beaches, cafés and village amenities.

Designed to embrace its spectacular setting, the home opens effortlessly to an expansive outdoor entertaining area where a stunning pool overlooks the ocean, creating an extraordinary backdrop for everyday living. Inside, the residence offers generous proportions and character throughout, highlighted by parquetry timber floors, light-filled living spaces and a unique fully timber cigar sitting room, adding warmth and personality to the home. Accommodation is equally impressive, with five bedrooms and three bathrooms, including a spectacular upstairs master retreat that captures panoramic north-facing views across the ocean, coastline, golf course and hinterland.

Large windows throughout the home ensure many rooms share the same breathtaking outlook, filling the interiors with natural light and coastal breezes throughout the day. Set amongst beautifully landscaped gardens and expansive lawns, the grounds offer space, privacy and flexibility rarely



Jordan Byrnes  
Sales Agent  
0475 309 530

Kelsey Ible  
Sales Agent  
0468 913 503

found in this tightly held coastal enclave. Perfectly positioned beside the Ocean Shores Championship Golf Course, and only minutes to Brunswick Heads, pristine beaches and village conveniences, this is a home that effortlessly combines scale, outlook and lifestyle.

Opportunities of this calibre in Ocean Shores are exceptionally rare.

### Key Features

- North-facing 2,000m<sup>2</sup> block
- Sunrise to sunset views across ocean, golf course and hinterland
- 5 bedrooms | 3 bathrooms
- Elevated position overlooking championship golf course
- Stunning pool with ocean views
- Expansive outdoor entertaining terrace
- Beautifully established landscaped gardens
- Parquetry timber flooring in living spaces
- Unique fully timber cigar sitting room
- Spectacular upstairs master retreat with panoramic views
- Private, elevated coastal setting
- Minutes to beaches, Brunswick Heads and village amenities

Expressions Of Interest Closing 13th April 2026

# Lifestyle.

**5 BED 3 BATH 4 CAR 1912 SQM**

**SOLD**



SOLD: 23 Helen Street, South Golden Beach  
Street Record – Price Confidential



SOLD: 47 Elizabeth Avenue, South Golden Beach  
\$1,395,000



SOLD: 2/11 Booyun Street Brunswick Heads  
Complex Record – \$1,150,000



SOLD: 5/11 Booyun Street Brunswick Heads  
Complex Record – \$930,000



SOLD: 5/7 Fingal Street Brunswick Heads  
\$1,250,000



SOLD: 5 Coral Court Brunswick Heads  
Street Record – \$1,211,000



SOLD: 35 Pimble Valley Road, Crabbes Creek  
\$1,630,000





**AUCTION THIS WEEK**  
**"Eden" at Coorabell**  
 • A truly gifted parcel of Byron's amazing hinterland with Coorabell Creek frontage  
 • Over 100 acres of rolling green slopes, productive orchards and original rainforest groves  
 • Your choice of several elevated homesites with panoramic outlooks

Auction Sat 11 April  
 Time 2.30pm  
**Greg Price**  
 0412 871 500  
 greg.price@raywhite.com

View By appointment  
**Liam Annesley**  
 0417 780 795  
 lannesley@byronbayrea.com.au

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**AUCTION THIS WEEK**  
**"The Stockade" at Eureka**  
 • Over 130 Acres of prime red soil country on the edge of Eureka Plateau  
 • The tastefully renovated residence features cathedral ceilings, and bright, airy open plan living spaces  
 • Huge list of farm infrastructure - a great beginning

3 🚗 2 🏠 2 🚗  
 Auction Sat 11 April  
 Time 9.30am  
**Greg Price**  
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**AUCTION THIS WEEK**  
**"Loose Goose Farm" at Eureka**  
 • Over 90 acres of Byron's best plateau country, blessed with frost-free, gently sloping red soil paddocks galore  
 • Panoramic views across the Coppers Creek valley to Minyon Falls and beyond  
 • Established and productive orchard provides excellent cash flow

Auction Sat 11 April  
 Time 10.30am  
**Greg Price**  
 0412 871 500  
 greg.price@raywhite.com

View By appointment  
**Liam Annesley**  
 0417 780 795  
 lannesley@byronbayrea.com.au

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## AGENTS



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Michael Balson has sent out 'A HUGE THANKS' to the road workers for fixing Wilsons Creek Road. 'It saves years of time, tyres and shock absorbers and adds value to our lives and properties, way beyond the \$170 million plus that it cost Australian taxpayers to repair. We residents are forever grateful.'

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
 In remote northeast Tasmania at Kennaook, Cape Grim, the Baseline Air Pollution Station is at the forefront of helping us understand clean air and the changes we have seen over the past 50 years. 'We have seen an ongoing increase in CO<sub>2</sub> over the last 50 years from human-induced activities,' said CSIRO Senior Principal Research Scientist Dr Melita Keywood. 'However, we have also seen a decrease in the pollutant black carbon and ozone-depleting substances like CFC-11, showing us that international efforts to reduce pollution, like the Montreal Protocol, can be effective.' Here's hoping for the future.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
 Trump Warns Iran To Accept His Ultimatum Or Face Wrath Of Next Ultimatum - *The Onion*.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
 Another house bites the dust in Wategos, as a 1964 two-storey, four bedroom, two bathroom shack with three parking spaces is set to become rubble under yet another mansion. Demolition of the house at 4 Brownell Drive, Byron Bay is proposed to make way for the construction of 'a three-level dwelling including basement storage, undercroft parking, upper level swimming pool, removal



Petrol prices weren't worrying some people at the launch of Foxy Luu's regular Thursday pop-up at Coorabell Hall. Photo Jeff 'Dawspower' Dawson

of three (3) native trees' at a mere estimated costs of \$4,016,846 (DA 10.2026.86.1). Another fabulous example of local, affordable housing in Byron Shire.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
 In an amusing twist, Family First have decided to question One Nation's commitment to repressive family values after discovering their new South Australian MP Jason Virgo had apparently committed the very grave sin of previously supporting same sex marriage 'along with reported associations with radical political causes'. Get back to the kitchen all ye women! (Not Pauline of course...)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■  
 The new GoodFish app ([www.goodfish.org.au](http://www.goodfish.org.au)) is helping people avoid eating unsustainable seafood. With the app you can check your options in seconds using their simple traffic light system, whether you're at the supermarket, fishmonger or

ordering off a menu. A simple swap to a sustainable seafood option can help protect threatened species, reduce

habitat damage and support fisheries that will be there for generations to come.

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