

Echo

POLITICS SUCKS, BUT THERE'S NO ALTERNATIVE – YANIS VAROUFAKIS

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 40 #48 • May 6, 2026 • www.echo.net.au



The return of *Love for One Night*

Love for One Night is returning to the Eltham Hotel – back four years on for those who never forgot it – and for everyone else who missed out the first time.

Love for One Night unfolds across the Eltham Hotel's bar, beer garden and upstairs rooms, while audiences watch from a purpose-built seating bank in the carpark.

Conceived and directed by NORPA's Artistic Director Julian Louis (inset), *Love for One Night* transforms a country pub into a wonderland of the everyday. *Love for One Night* first premiered at the Eltham Hotel in September 2022, as the Northern Rivers community was still grappling with the aftermath of the devastating floods; an event that shattered so much of the region, including NORPA's own home at Lismore City.

It is now returning from 27 August to 12 September – book tickets early at www.norpa.org.au.

Photo Jeff 'Not Much Good In Bed, But Alright On The Floor' Dawson

Rate rise on table for Byron Shire

Paul Bibby

Byron Council is considering a significant increase in residential rates that could see local rate bills jump by more than 30 per cent over three years, as it tries to address its deteriorating financial position.

With Council staff warning of a 'risk of insolvency' unless action is taken, councillors last week gave a preliminary tick to draft budget documents that include a modelled Special Rate Variation (SRV).

These documents will now go on public exhibition, giving locals

the chance to have their say on the possibility of a major rate hike.

The proposed increase is one scenario modelled in Council's draft long-term financial plan. It involves annual rate increases of around 10 to 12 per cent over three years from 2027.

Council's financial outlook has become increasingly strained, with documents showing ongoing operating deficits and a steady decline in its unrestricted cash position.

Council's own modelling indicates unrestricted cash reserves in the general fund are expected

to fall to zero by mid-2027 without intervention.

The scale of the potential rate increase, and the financial context behind it, prompted concern from community representatives during last week's Council budget meeting.

Mullumbimby Residents Association convenor Dale Emerson told councillors the documents 'confirm... ongoing and significant operating deficits' and questioned whether enough work had been done to identify savings before

► Continued on page 5

Tragedy off Ballina coast

On Monday evening three people were confirmed dead, while four people have made it to shore after two vessels got into difficulties off the Ballina coast.

Emergency services were contacted about 6.15pm Monday, 4 May after a member of the public reported a yacht which appeared to be in difficulties off the South Ballina Breakwall. A crew from Marine Rescue NSW responded; however, their vessel rolled while crossing the Ballina coastal bar in heavy conditions.

Marine Rescue NSW with six

crew members responded. The body of two crew members, aged 78 and 62, were located. Four further crew members aged 55, 75 and two aged 61 made it to shore.

No flares or distress calls came from the yacht. One body, believed to be that of the sole person on the yacht, was found. The yacht sank.

The Echo understands Ballina Shire Citizen of the Year, Geoff Hutchison, was one of those who was seriously injured in the tragedy.

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

Tamara Smith opts out of next election

► p2

Big rate rise on table as Council finances slide

► p5

Liberal Party needs to go back to where it came from

► p12

The life of local dairy farmer

► p16

'Life beats down and crushes the soul, and art reminds you that you have one'

– Stella Adler

Arts feature ► p21



MANA Real Estate



Julie-Ann Manahan

MANA Founder | Selling Principal

36 years of excellence in real estate sales and marketing. Built on proven local, national and international results.

Local expertise and proven results.



YOUR BIKE SHOP IN BYRON BAY



SPECIALIST IN FAT-TYRE E-BIKES: SALES | SERVICE | HIRE

Shop: Fatboy, Dirodi & Ampd Bros E-Bikes. Stock is limited. Beat the fuel crisis, lock yours in today.

Repairs and service: full service from \$120

Hire: Ride the Northern Rivers Rail Trail or cruise around Byron Bay

Call or visit us: 0408 444 858

Mon - Fri | 9am - 5pm
Cnr Bayshore / Banksia Dr
betterbybike.com.au



REAL FARMERS, REAL FOOD



BYRON BAY
Thursdays 7-11am
Butler St Reserve



BANGALOW
Saturdays 7-11am
Piccabeen Park

Locals say public road should remain public access at Bayside, Brunswick

Aslan Shand

Byron Shire Council is currently seeking community feedback on the closure of part of 35 Bayside Way, Brunswick Heads – a former Crown road that locals say provides a link from Bayside to Simpsons Creek.

The proposed closure is related to the ten-lot subdivision at 35 Bayside Way that has led to the developer footing the bill for the former Crown road to be transferred into Council ownership. It is currently classified as Council public road reserve.

Locals contacted *The Echo* saying that they saw this route as an important current and future access point to Simpsons Creek for the people of Bayside and the broader community.

‘There are only two access points left,’ Coda from Save Wallum told *The Echo*.

‘There is an access point at the eastern end of the Wallum development where you have to walk to end of the Crown road at Wallum. At that end Clarence security guards are discouraging people from going down there, implying that it is part of the Wallum development lot.’

Another local Holly Galbraith said, ‘Where I live on Omega Circuit, we used to have direct access



Bayside locals say the former road is one of the last two potential access points to Simpsons Creek and should remain open. Photo Jeff Dawson

to Simpsons Creek, but Clarence Property closed that over a year ago. In the original approval for Wallum a whole bunch of land was to be provided to the community, but in subsequent DAs that was removed.’

Keep public access?

Holly said that she had been in contact with Council, who had told her about, and provided maps of the Bayside access which they are currently seeking feedback on closing.

‘This is one of the last access routes to Simpsons Creek from Bayside.’

A spokesperson for Council told *The Echo*, ‘Council is

now seeking feedback on the future status and use of the road reserve, as outlined in the public notice. No decision has been made to close, dispose of, or sell the land.’

‘Regarding access to Simpsons Creek, Council is aware that residents currently use several informal access points in the broader Bayside/Simpsons Creek area. However, the creek is NOT accessible by this section of unconstructed road.’

‘One of the purposes of the road closure consultation process is to identify whether the land is required for current or future public access or road purposes, and any submission raising

concerns about access would be considered as part of that assessment.’

Currently a ‘private road’ sign is placed at the beginning of the road however, Council confirmed with *The Echo* that, ‘the road reserve remains public road and is currently not a private road.’

Your say

You can provide feedback until Friday, 8 May on whether you think this road should be closed or remain open to the public at: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Report-Requests-Feedback/Public-Notices/Proposed-road-closure-Bayside-Way-Brunswick-Heads.

Ballina MP Tamara Smith opts out of 2027 state election race

Aslan Shand

Member for Ballina, Tamara Smith, says she will not be contesting next year’s state election after holding the seat of Ballina for the past 11 years opening up the field to a range of new contestants from the Greens, Labor, and the National Party.

The local Greens MP said it was a difficult decision but she looked forward to more family time.

Ms Smith has won the past three state elections in the seat of Ballina for the Greens, taking over from the National Party when the conservative party’s popular long-serving member, Don Page, retired after serving for 27 years.

The Echo asked former federal Greens candidate for Richmond Mandy Nolan,

current Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, and Ballina councillor Kiri Dicker if they were considering running for preselection for the seat of Ballina for the 2027 election.

‘Tamara stepping down was unexpected and I have not had time to fully consider if I will run for preselection. But I appreciate her 12 years of service,’ Cr Ndiaye told *The Echo*.

Cr Dicker has said she will not be running for preselection.

Nolan to run

Mandy Nolan confirmed with *The Echo* that she will be running for Greens preselection for the state seat of Ballina. Ms Nolan acknowledged Ms Smith’s long-term commitment to her community of Ballina and Byron over the 11 years as their MP.

Former Byron Shire Labor councillor and past candidate for the seat of Ballina in 2019, Asren Pugh, has reconfirmed 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 and will not seek Labor preselection for the seat of Ballina.


The Echo has also sought comment from Ballina Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, who previously ran for preselection with the National Party for the 2015 election but was unsuccessful. She confirmed that she will speak to *The Echo* at a later date.

Ms Smith is credited for expanding the Ballina seat margin for the Greens at each of her three winning elections, and is the only Greens MP in NSW to have

been elected Chair of a Joint Standing Parliamentary Committee and currently serves as Chair of the NSW Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General.

‘It has been the privilege of my life to serve as the Member for Ballina and to dedicate myself to the betterment of our communities and the planet during that time,’ said Ms Smith.


‘The politics of diplomacy is the only way to deliver results as a member of a minor party, in a marginal seat, in a regional area. I am so grateful to our community, and I thank them for placing their trust in me and I believe we have shown that a Greens MP in a regional seat can deliver real results for their community,’ she said.



The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #48 • May 6, 2026
Established 1986 • 22,000 copies every week
www.echo.net.au

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

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



Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.
Disclaimer: The Echo is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of advertisers, letter writers, and opinion writers are not necessarily those of the owners or staff of this publication.
‘The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.’ – Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936
© 2026 Echo Publications Pty Ltd – ABN 86 004 000 239. Reg. by Aust. Post Pub. No. NBF9237

Community needs to respond to Mullum Hospital site DCP

Aslan Shand

Frustration was expressed at Monday night's public meeting, at the failure of the Mullumbimby Hospital site development control plan (DCP) to incorporate the significant and time-consuming community proposals and feedback that had been provided to Byron Shire Council (BSC).

The community had participated in a year-long project reference group and a further two-day workshop to inform BSC of what they wanted to achieve with this valuable, flood-free, community-fought-for, Council-owned land.

'This DCP reads like a developer's dream, a prime piece of land, right for private development and for a soft 20 per cent "not so affordable" housing,' Caroline Bass from the Mullumbimby Hospital Group (MHAG) told the meeting.

'If accepted, the DCP could result in yet another privately developed, high-cost, low-affordability estate. This would not meet the housing needs of our community.'

Not a ghetto or gated community

Ms Bass highlighted the history of the site, reminding the meeting that not only had this site been managed by the community for 125 years, but that MHAG had had an oral commitment from the former New South Wales Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard to remediate the site with state government money before the site was suddenly thrust into Council's hands and the local community was landed

with the \$6 million asbestos remediation bill.

'For the past ten years, community representatives have worked with Council to design a diverse, vibrant village suited to the site, not a ghetto, but a village housing seniors who wish to sell a family home and remain in their home town. Local families, older, single people, First Nations people, and key workers. A mix of housing to meet the needs of our local community who are shut out of the obscenely inflated housing market.'

Referring to the Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) meeting with Council on the DCP, Anando pointed out that the staff repeatedly rejected requests to increase affordable, social, and mixed housing saying, 'it would hamper efforts to sell the site.'

Expressing the community's frustration at the response she highlighted former town planner, Ian Pickles' comment in last week's *Echo* that, 'if just 3,000 square metres of this site was earmarked for public and social housing. That's only about ten per cent of the developable part of the site, it would enable perhaps over 50 social housing units.'

'We should be asking for the DCP to be rewritten to reflect what the community needs and deserves to have on its own land,' she told the meeting.

Councillor Elia Hauge and Mayor Sarah Ndiaye both recognised the need for a greater mix of housing on the site and said they are still working on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Homes NSW and should have further information on this

by the end of the month.

However, both councillors made it clear that the community needed to keep supplying feedback to support the position that they want for the site.

Transport

It became clear that a greater need to recognise that the site is in a rural regional location that lacks regular public transport, and that means reliance on cars. This has significant impacts on how the surrounding road network is upgraded with Cr Ndiaye acknowledging that the roads are already overloaded. Including increased parking on the site, however will also reduce the number of dwellings that can be provided.

Other areas raised as concerns were the lack of prescriptive measures, measures that the developer has to meet, in relation to efficient energy use, best practice construction techniques, protection of special vegetation, managing stormwater and maintaining tree canopy.

Make your views count

The call once again went out to the community to come together and get their comments on the DCP to Council by the new deadline, 27 May.

If you want help to understand and respond to the draft DCP contact MRA at mullumra@gmail.com for more information or contact one of your local councillors. You can put a direct response to the DCP in at: <https://yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/dcp-mullum-hospital>.

Vintage cart set to roll again in Bangalow



Oscar Haafkens gets ready for his first official race. Photo Jeff Dawson

Paul Bibby

A 50-year-old billycart with pram wheels and a fresh coat of purple and green paint will line up alongside a field of colourful contraptions when the Bangalow Billycart Derby returns on 17 May.

At the wheel will be 12-year-old Dunoon local Oscar Haafkens, preparing for his first run down the hill in a cart with a long and lively history.

'This cart is a 50-year-old billycart, built in the early 1970s,' Oscar said.

'It was used for many years by my mum's old work colleague... The cart is built out of pram wheels and an electrical board, painted purple and green.'

The cart's story stretches back to suburban Canberra, where it was originally cobbled together from salvaged parts.

Oscar's mother, Sarah

Cope, said its creator – an electrician known as 'Swampy' – built it from tip finds and off-cuts.

'They found two pram wheels that still had an axle... and because his dad was an electrician, he used all the off-cuts from the electrical boards,' she said.

After decades in storage, the cart found new life during Covid lockdowns, when Ms Cope spotted it online and knew it would appeal to her then seven-year-old.

First official race

Now, after years of driveway runs, it is finally heading to what is believed to be its first official race.

'Honestly, with this, pretty much it's don't turn too violently, or it'll flip me off,' Oscar said.

Now in its fourth decade, the annual derby draws thousands of people to the main street of Bangalow,

turning the village into a day-long mix of speed, spectacle, and silliness.

Fun day out for all the family

Racers compete across a range of categories, from traditional billycarts to wildly imaginative novelty entries, alongside junior divisions and the crowd-favourite 'anything goes' designs.

Off the track, there's live music, food stalls, kids' activities and plenty of roadside cheering. For event details and tickets, visit bangalowbillycart.com.au.

As for Oscar, nerves are a very understandable part of the build-up.

'Nervous,' he admitted when asked how he's feeling about race day.

But with a one-of-a-kind cart and a supportive crowd of locals lining the street, he will be in great company.

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

TAMARA SMITH MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

t: 02 6686 7522

f: Tamara Smith MP

w: tamarasmith.org.au

e: ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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

Coorabell Hall: safety risk through TfNSW inaction

Anthony Stante

Coorabell Hall is not just a building. Under the leadership of Adele, and with the help of our local volunteers, it has become a thriving community hub – hosting food, film, art, musical events, and social gatherings. It is one of the few local places where people come together to connect and enjoy each other's company.

The 80km/h posted speed is very often exceeded by impatient drivers outside our hall. Cars are travelling at speeds exceeding 100km/h. These speeds were recently recorded by Byron Shire Council (BSC). At the same time, pedestrians, families, and elderly residents are needing to walk on the roadway. This is a significant safety concern especially at night because parking overflows onto grassy shoulders – shoulders that are not maintained by BSC in a fit-for-purpose condition.

This issue has been raised with Council repeatedly by concerned community members. It has been raised recently through TIAC (Transport and Infrastructure



Cars parking on the roadside for a recent event at Coorabell Hall. Photo supplied

Advisory Committee). It has been the subject of several on-site meetings with TfNSW (Transport for NSW) and BSC's Road Safety Officer as recently as December 2025.

So why hasn't anything been done? The answer leads directly to TfNSW's [The Echo has chosen not to publish the name of the official]. TfNSW holds the legislative authority to change speed zones on all public roads. TfNSW has declined to act. Refusing until offsite parking is addressed to even to undertake the basic speed study required to justify a speed reduction.

Parking is a long-term issue. It requires land,

funding, design, and delivery. It could take years. A speed reduction is an immediate safety control. It can be adjusted quickly, at minimal cost, with immediate impact. Choosing not to act on speed because parking isn't resolved is not a technical decision. It is a policy failure at a state level putting our community, who love our hall, at risk of injury.

Although the hall is no longer managed by Council but by the community, Council is not without responsibility. Well-intentioned Councillors Hauge and Dods have met with the hall administration to facilitate a potential solution to the

parking, which, if successful, will take one to two years to deliver. Through TIAC, Council officers have been requested to prepare a parking, signage, and speed zone options paper to go to BSC. Unfortunately, a lengthy process, but a light at the end of a very dangerous, dark tunnel.

The likelihood of a pedestrian being killed rises dramatically with speed: a person struck at 80km/h is several times more likely to die than at 60km/h. It determines survivability. The current position effectively says this: until the community solves a complex parking problem, a known safety risk will remain unmanaged. That is not how duty of care works.

Pressure is being applied to reduce events and limit activity. That is the implicit message and it's unacceptable. This amazing local facility is being placed under pressure, with frustrated, hard-working volunteers conceding that it might just be easier to shut the hall down and walk away.

Yet the solution is straightforward: TfNSW

undertakes the speed study, evidence is assessed, and speed is reduced to 60km/h to reflect actual conditions.

The only missing ingredient is action. What level of risk is acceptable? Because right now, the answer appears to be: higher than it should be.

If that doesn't change soon, the next question will be much harder to answer: Why was nothing done when the danger was so obvious?

■ Anthony Stante is a TIAC Member, road safety advocate, and Coorabell resident.

Max to the MAX

The Max to the MAX tour is coming to the East Coast starting this Friday, 8 May at Stone & Wood.

For all those lovers of cabaret, burlesque, theatrical comedy, drag and breathtaking, heartfelt contemporary dance Max to the MAX is for you – it is Max McAuley unleashed. Created and performed by Max, this work is a shining example of disability-led dance practice: heartfelt, hilarious and full of joy.

After two successful performances at Brunswick Picture House in 2024, with the support of Che Pritchard, Max has remounted his show and introduced some exciting new characters.

Following his fun show



Max is on his regional NSW tour so don't miss the fun. Photo supplied

this Friday at Stone & Wood you can catch Max at Ballina RSL Club on Friday, 5 June and then at Flamingos Live in Newcastle on Friday, 26 June.

BFF 2026 **Bangalow Film Festival**

JUNE 11-21

WORLD CLASS FILMS

SMALL TOWN CHARM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

bangalowfilmfestival.com.au

LINK THE PLACES WE LOVE

Help us finish the Northern Rivers Rail Trail

Let's connect the remaining 74km to support local businesses and create opportunities for generations to come. We can't do it without you.

Add your name!

northernriversrailtrail.com.au/SUPPORT

One of Australia's most elusive predators visits NRW

One of Australia's most elusive native predators, and a species listed as threatened in NSW and endangered nationally, was brought to Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital (NRWH), where the veterinary team stepped in to assess the unexpected patient.

When WIRES rescuer Emma Laird had received the call about an animal trapped in a chicken coop in Pimlico and cornered by the resident dog, she assumed it would be a wild cat. To her surprise, it was something far more

extraordinary – a spotted-tailed quoll.

'I was absolutely perplexed when we received the call that a spotted-tailed quoll was on its way to the hospital,' said NRW General Manager Bronte Potts.

'I have been working with wildlife for 19 years and had never treated a quoll until now.'

Lead vet Dr Chantal Whitten said, 'This was a very special patient for us. He was a healthy young male in great condition, which was a very positive outcome.'



A spotted-tailed quoll.
Photo supplied

Spotted-tailed quolls are Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial on the

mainland, but their populations have declined dramatically due to habitat loss, fragmentation, rodenticide exposure and competition from introduced predators such as cats and foxes.

The rescue is particularly significant because spotted-tailed quolls are rarely seen, even in areas where they still exist. Local National Parks staff were reportedly shocked and thrilled to hear that a healthy quoll had been found in the region, with very few sightings recorded in recent decades.

Big rate rise on table as Council finances slide

► Continued from page 1 asking ratepayers to contribute more.

He described the proposed SRV as a 'three year, permanent rate increase' that would significantly boost Council revenue, while noting that even with the increase, Council's own modelling shows it 'will not... represent a complete or standalone solution'.

Former mayor Jan Barham also spoke against the proposal, warning that 'your community is already

suffering from cost-of-living pressures... you should not be adding additional pressure', and calling on Council to defer any decision until further work on cost savings and reprioritisation is undertaken.

During the debate on the Council floor, councillors moved to hose down concern about the proposed rate rise, stressing that the SRV remains a scenario rather than a decision.

Greens councillor Elia Hauge said the inclusion

of the SRV in the long-term financial plan did not mean it would be adopted.

'Just because it is included... it does not mean that we are adopting it,' she said, adding that 'extensive community engagement... has to happen before we adopt an SRV'.

General Manager Mark Arnold echoed that position, telling the meeting that 'nothing in today's recommendation means that there is an SRV case being advanced', and describing

the plan as a way of testing financial options rather than setting a course of action.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said any future decision on a rate rise would need to carefully balance Council's financial pressures with the impact on the community, particularly its most vulnerable members.

Any SRV would also require approval from the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) before it could be implemented.

Mortgage Choice

Expert mortgage support, whatever your needs.

Call Adam on 0403 619 593 today.

Adam Gadowski

m 0403 619 593
e adam.gadowski@mortgagechoice.com.au
w MortgageChoice.com.au/adam.gadowski

Mortgage Choice Pty Ltd ACN 009 161 979 (Australian Credit Licence 382869) and Smartline Operations Pty Ltd ACN 086 467 727 (Australian Credit Licence 385325) are owned by REA Group Ltd. Your broker will advise whether they are a credit representative of Mortgage Choice or Smartline.

MULLUM FARMERS MARKET
EVERY FRIDAY 7AM-11AM
DELICIOUS MAGAZINE'S NO 1 FARMERS MARKET

CELEBRATING 50+ YEARS WITH 50% OFF

EST 1972

TROPICAL FRUIT WORLD

We wanted to celebrate our Birthday by offering our local community 50% off ALL Farm Tours for the entire month of May

BOOK HERE & USE CODE LOCALS50 AT CHECKOUT

Byron Bay Fire and Rescue Open Day



Acting Deputy Captain Perry Bartholomew and Retained Firefighter Brock Eastlake will be on hand to provide a range of information throughout the day on fire safety for all ages. Photo Jeff Dawson

Byrong Bay residents and visitors are invited to attend a community Open Day for the Byron Bay Fire Station on Saturday, 9 May, held in the park opposite the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay.

Firefighters will be on hand to share vital home fire safety advice and raise awareness about the growing risks associated with lithium batteries.

'You will be able to tour a working fire truck, get

up close with specialist emergency equipment, and watch live demonstrations showcasing how crews respond to real-life incidents,' said a spokesperson for Byron Bay Fire & Rescue NSW.

Firefighters will also be available to answer questions about fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and the important role they play in keeping the community safe.

The Open Day is free and a chance to connect with local firefighters and gain

practical safety knowledge.

Become a firefighter

In addition, Fire & Rescue NSW will be promoting upcoming recruitment opportunities for the Byron Bay station, encouraging those interested in a challenging and rewarding career to learn more about joining the service. Following the open day recruitment information nights will be held at the Byron Bay Fire Station on 19 May and 11 June at 6pm.

Find out more about Airbnb and short-term rentals

This Friday, 8 May, Murray Cox and Professor Nicole Gurrán will be discussing 'Inside Airbnb: International evidence on short-term rentals, housing markets and regulation' at the Mullumbimby Council Chambers from 6pm to 7pm.

Murray Cox is the founder and coordinator of Inside Airbnb. Nicole Gurrán is a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at The University of Sydney. The presentation and discussion will give the Byron Shire community a chance to hear

from them about the impacts short-term rentals have on the housing market.

People interested in attending can register now on Council's website: www.byron.nsw.gov.au by going to the What's On section. Seats are limited.

Roads, drainage and waste top Byron spending plans

Paul Bibby

Roads, drainage and waste infrastructure are set to take up a big share of Byron Shire Council's spending in the year ahead, with the draft 2026/27 budget showing a clear focus on maintaining existing services rather than rolling out new projects.

A large portion of the budget is directed towards road renewals and stormwater works, areas that have come under pressure in recent years, particularly following flooding and ongoing concerns about the condition of local roads.

Council is also continuing to invest in the Byron Resource Recovery Centre, including works linked to leachate management and upgrades to improve how the facility operates and meets environmental standards.

Another example is

funding for stormwater quality improvement devices, aimed at reducing litter and pollutants entering waterways as part of broader drainage upgrades.

Elsewhere, spending is spread across a range of day-to-day services and infrastructure. This includes maintenance and upgrades to parks, playgrounds, beach access points, and public amenities, as well as ongoing work on streetscapes and open spaces.

There is also money set aside for managing Council-owned properties and maintaining community facilities, along with smaller scale projects across the shire.

Tight budget limits

But the budget also makes it clear that Council is working within tight financial limits.

Much of the spending is focused on maintaining what is already in place, rather

than building new facilities. There are few major new projects flagged, and in some areas the emphasis is on keeping services running rather than expanding them.

Rate rise predicted

That reflects the broader financial position outlined in Council's long-term plans, which point to ongoing operating deficits and limited room to move (see page 1).

As part of that longer-term picture, Council is also considering the possibility of a special rate variation from 2027, which could see rates rise above the current cap to help fund infrastructure and improve financial sustainability.

For now, the draft budget will go on public exhibition, with residents invited to have their say on how Council is spending its money and what, if anything, should change (www.byron.nsw.gov.au).

Councils at financial risk with Crown land laws

Byron Shire Council is calling on the NSW Labor government to withdraw the Crown Land Management Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2026, warning it could expose local councils and ratepayers to unquantifiable financial risk.

Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, said the new bill creates a pathway for councils to have to carry state government's liability for actions on Crown land, including Native Title compensation and

other claims.

'These are risks that councils are not resourced or structured to manage,' she said.

The concerns were formalised in a mayoral minute to last week's Council meeting, warning that the bill could force councils to cover state compensation and contract costs.

'These proposed changes could impact our ability to maintain that land, invest in environmental protection, and

continue delivering essential services' the mayor said.

Aboriginal rights

The mayor also raised concerns about the bill's impact on Aboriginal Land Rights, noting that the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council has lodged a complaint with the Australian Human Rights Commission.

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

Life Changing Financial Advice

Alana Pincombe
Senior Financial Planner

📞 0491 204 142



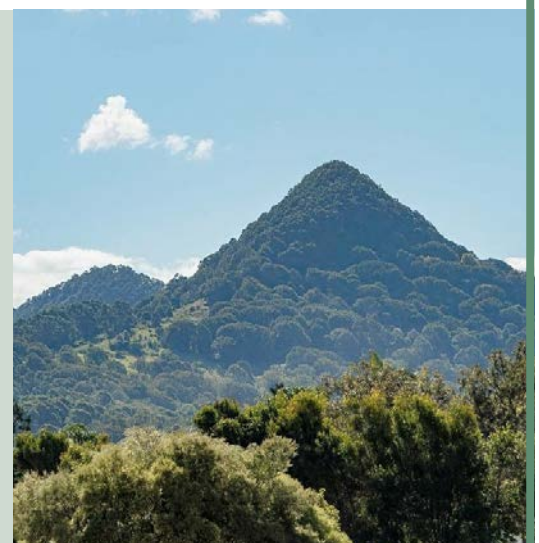
Representative of Viridian Advisory Pty Ltd
ABN 34 605 438 AFSL 476223



LIFE MEDICAL MULLUMBIMBY

High level medical care with lifestyle medicine

Dr Sarah Cunningham
FRACGP. MB.CH.B.
PG CERT HEALTH SCIENCE (WOMENS HEALTH)
Menopause
Perimenopause
Hormone Therapy
Lifestyle Medicine



113 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby NSW 2482 | hello@lifemm.com.au
02 6680 2486 | www.lifemedicalmullumbimby.com.au

Name change for Suffolk Park Progress Association



Kelly Minahan, President of Suffolk Park Progress Association (SPPA), has provided this photo of a meeting in late April that brought together representatives from sport, environment, community gardens, infrastructure advocacy and local initiatives in Suffolk Park to meet with Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye and Councillor David Warth. Since then the SPPA has been renamed the Suffolk Park Community Association (SPCA). 'This is not about abandoning our past. It's about accurately representing who we are today - and where we're going,' he said (see letters, page 14). Photo supplied

\$1m reward for info on Marion Barter

A reward for information into the suspicious disappearance of Marion Barter, reported missing in Byron Bay nearly 30 years ago, has been increased to \$1 million.

Marion Barter's family reported the then-51-year-old missing to police in Byron Bay in October 1997.

The most recent sighting of her was on 22 June that year at a bus depot in Southport on the Gold Coast.

Police believe she travelled to the airport and left Australia for the United Kingdom under the recently, and legally acquired name of Florabella Natalia Marion Remakel, before possibly returning to Australia ten days later newly married and listing Luxembourg as her residence.

Inquiries show an unknown person accessed Ms Barter's bank account after her disappearance, with

a formal police review of the case in 2019 and a coronial inquest in 2021.

The coroner found Ms Barter had probably died sometime after 15 October 1997 and recommended the state's Unsolved Homicide Unit continue with the case.

Marion's daughter, Sally Leydon, says she hopes someone knows what happened to her mother.

'I thank the NSW police minister along with the support of the NSW Unsolved Homicide Unit for raising the reward to \$1 million, which to me reflects that they [police] too believe that key information exists,' Mrs Leydon told media.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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

Mother's Day tree planting postponed

The Mother's Day community tree planting has been postponed due to the significant rain over the last two weeks.

'With heavy hearts, Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) is postponing this year's 15th annual Mother's Day community tree planting scheduled for Sunday, 10 May,' Harry Hackett from BVL told *The Echo*.

'It's ironic with the sun finally starting to shine again! These last few weeks of rain, with a little more yet to come, have meant that important site prep work and delivery of materials

essential for another successful planting have simply not been possible.

'Don't worry mums - we won't leave you hanging - we've got eyes on the radar like hawks. Still wishing you all a Happy Mother's Day for Sunday. On the bright side, we'll celebrate you again as soon as we can make it work to come together and plant trees with the usual fun and style.

'We'll announce a new date asap so keep your eyes on *The Echo* and BVL socials. BVL extends sincere thanks to our community of supporters.'

Inclusive winter warm-up splash at the Mullum pool

Now that the Mullumbimby pool is heated there is a two-hour family swim meet for people of all ages and abilities to get together for a winter warm-up splash in a relaxed, inclusive environment on Saturday, 16 May from 10am to 12 noon.

'With the pool heated and ready for winter, it's the perfect chance for locals to stay active, have some fun and enjoy the water even as the temperature drops,'

Craig Davidson, manager of the Mullumbimby Memorial Centre Petria Thomas Pool.

Games and fun activities

The program will feature a range of light-hearted and engaging activities, including short friendly races, parent-versus-kids challenges, novelty events such as a doggy paddle and t-shirt relay, as well as obstacle courses,

games and family relays, culminating in a grand finale. This is all included in the standard pool entry.

Mr Davidson said the focus of the event is firmly on fun and community connection.

'This isn't about serious competition - it's about getting in the pool, having a laugh and bringing people together. Whether you're a confident swimmer or just keen to splash around, there's something for

everyone,' he said.

The event is open to everyone, regardless of age or swimming ability, and encourages a fun-first approach.

'This is more than just a fun morning at the pool - it's a celebration of what our community has worked towards and can now enjoy together,' said Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye.

Bring swimmers, a towel and a sense of humour.



VACCINATION IS THE BEST PREPARATION

Influenza and COVID-19 viruses are always changing, and the risk of serious illness goes up if you're over 65. By vaccinating regularly, you can protect yourself before a new strain goes around.

Speak to your health professional and book your vaccinations today or visit health.gov.au/winter-vaccinations



Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Peacocks, publishing, politics and pottery

Candida Baker

When I was a young journalist working in Sydney in the '80s and '90s, it was hard to miss Richard Jones. It seemed as if he was everywhere, as an animal activist; owner of a successful mail-order company; the publisher of *Simply Living* magazine and as a politician with the Democrats, and later as an Independent.

Richard's memoir, *Merging with Nature* charts the extraordinary trajectory of a rebellious young English schoolboy who threw himself headlong into a life that's included numerous changes of direction.

Early on, he discovered he had a gift for writing advertising copy and turned his talent to good use, migrating as a 'Ten Pound Pom' to Sydney in 1962 to take up a position in an advertising company.

In his memoir, it becomes obvious that Richard's ability to think up money-making schemes became the foundation for his ability to fundraise for his lifelong passion for animal activism, initially sparked by buying, and freeing, caged birds from Sydney's Paddy's Markets. (It was around then that peacocks first entered his life, when he went to Balgowlah to buy a desk, and absentmindedly came home with a mating pair. Many years later Shiva the peacock became a resident at Richard's Possum Creek property, and it's Shiva's tail feathers that adorn the cover



Richard Jones at the launch of his book at the Book Room in Byron Bay. Photo Jeff Dawson

'Richard Jones's memoir, *Merging with Nature* is a walk on the wild side.'

— Candida Baker

of the book.)

As he plunged deeper into animal and environmental activism, joining the fight to stop the clubbing of baby seals, the fight to stop whaling, the saving of old growth forests and koala habitat, to name just a few, he also, to coin Timothy Leary's phrase: 'Turned on, tuned in, and dropped out'.

In the book he describes how his first acid trip changed forever his view of the natural world, writing: 'It's as though your nervous system has extended outside your body to encompass every living thing on the planet.'

This credo began – and continues – to define his life. Leaving Sydney in the early '90s for the then-barren acreage he'd bought at Possum Creek, he started, with his wife Jo Immig, to create the

flora and fauna paradise now known as 'The Forest of Friends'. Reinventing himself as a ceramicist, he is still committed to saving the planet, with profits from his business going towards protecting rainforest.

Visit Richard and you're quite likely to find the man, who once threw a bucket of calf blood over a Japanese whaling delegate, listening to the honeybees swarming in the wall cavities or talking to the paper wasps, or the resident python.

What shines through this inspirational, sometimes heart-breaking, often heart-warming book, is the optimism that Richard has brought to everything he's done. The slice of heaven he's created at Possum Creek is testament to the vision of a man who has truly merged with nature.

■ *Merging with Nature* by Richard Jones, is published by Richard Jones Publishing, and is available from: <https://richardjonespublishing.com>.

Humanitarian flotilla destined for Gaza intercepted by Israeli navy

Aslan Shand

Crews aboard Global Sumud Flotilla, who are part of unarmed crews, carrying critical humanitarian aid, bound for Gaza, say Israeli naval forces boarded their ships on 1 May and threatened them at gunpoint.

This included Bianca Webb-Pullman and Surya McEwen from the Northern Rivers as well as Ethan Floyd, Zack Schofield, Neve O'Connor, and Cameron Tribe.

Currently, 22 ships have been taken in international waters by Israeli forces and more are expected to be boarded in the next few hours [at the time of going to print.] The Israeli forces are reported to have vandalised, sunk, and left boats adrift after boarding them and illegally removing the crew.

The four boats currently being targeted are on their way to join up with the main fleet stationed in Greek territorial waters.

'Helen O'Sullivan from the Gold Coast and Violet Coco from Melbourne are two

Australians who are on board these boats,' Subhi Awad, spokesperson for Global Sumud Flotilla Australia, told *The Echo*.

'They saw hostile ships and then were surrounded by drones for hours. We expect them to be kidnapped by Israeli forces at some point in the near future.'

Escapees

When the original 22 boats were captured, it is understood that one boat evaded capture.

'Sam Watson, grandson of Sammy Watson who started the tent embassy, and Annie Mokotow from the loud Jew Collective managed to escape to Greek waters before they were captured by the Israelis,' said Mr Awad.

'I'd like to say that the lengths that Israel has gone to to stop food getting to the people of Gaza is very consistent with the definition of genocide.'

Ethan returned

Yesterday, activist Ethan Floyd was returned to Australia 'after kidnapping

and abuse by Israeli forces' according to a spokesperson from the Global Sumud Flotilla.

'I joined the flotilla because civilians in Gaza are being cut off from the basics of life – food, medicine, water – and governments have failed to stop that suffering. If harm is being done in our name, ordinary people have to step in and act,' Ethan said.

'Israel brutally and illegally attacked unarmed humanitarians, more than 1,000km from Gaza, to stop the flotilla reaching Gaza. That's a government determined to kill Palestinians and is consistent with genocide. I witnessed people being shot with pellets. I witnessed people being thrown to the ground, dragged along the ground by their limbs, people being forced to listen to the shouts and screams of people who were being beaten,' he said.

You can follow the Global Sumud Flotilla at: <https://globalsumudflotilla.org/tracker>.

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

Join the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee

Two new members are needed for the Byron Shire Council Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee.

The committee oversees and advises Council on the preparation, implementation and review of flood studies and floodplain risk management studies as required. This includes overseeing and advising on any documents

or processes that impact the management of ICOLLS (Intermittently Closed and Open Lakes or Lagoons).

'The committee is particularly interested in gaining insights from people that live near Tallow Creek ICOLL, Belongil Creek ICOLL, Marshalls Creek or Brunswick River. If this sounds like you and you'd like to have a say

in how our floodplains are managed, I encourage you to apply now on Council's website,' said Phil Holloway, Council's Director Infrastructure Services.

Expressions of interest are now open and close on Thursday, 28 May. Find out more and apply via Council's website: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/floodplain-advisory.



O'MEARA DENTAL
NET ZERO SINCE 2019

Dr Marcus O'Meara BDS
Dr Louise Barr BDS
Dr Karl Batorski BDS
Dr Roy Gamma BDS
Dr Cara Fitt BSc, DDS, PG Clin Dent
Mrs Rachel Andersson OHT
Ms Caitlin Wilkie OHT
Ms Cathy Elliott OHT
Mrs Annabelle Hemsworth OHT

Byron Bay: 19/5 Easy St Mullumbimby: 60 Stuart St
02 6694 3083 omearadental.com.au



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

100% Independent, local family owned

Servicing your area





NO RENTAL FEES

Free Call: 1300 727 013

swapabottle@bigpond.com

swapabottlegas.com

Tropical Fruit World is fun and adventure in your own backyard

Eve Jeffery

When Robert and Valorie Brinsmead bought a run down farm in 1972, Bob had a vision to grow tropical fruit on the red soil hills, while preserving areas of the original forest and the natural beauty of the land with breathtaking views of the Tweed Valley to the west, and the Pacific Ocean to the east.

Bob started planting lots of avocados and with his family nurtured orchards of custard apples, bananas, mangos, lychees, guavas, macadamias, papaya, and the collection grew, a fascination for an endless stream of visiting friends and family.

In a lightbulb vision, AvocadoLand opened its gates as a tourist attraction for the first time in 1983.

These days the property boasts hundreds of species of tropical fruit from all over the world and three generations of the Brinsmead family are involved in the continued success of this commercial farm and tourist attraction, which of course, if you are local, you know now as



From hanging out with friends, to a great place to take the kids, Tropical Fruit World is celebrating its 43rd birthday by inviting locals to come and enjoy a local experience. Photos supplied

Tropical Fruit World.

With around a hundred staff, overseen by general manager Aymon Gow, Bob still has his hand on his pride and joy, and regularly calls in for the staff morning tea with plenty of new ideas and sage advice.

Turning 43 this year

This week Tropical Fruit World celebrates its 43rd birthday and they have a treat for the neighbours who have supported them.

Gow says they get about 15,000 locals visit every year.

'We're running a 50-per-cent-off deal for all tours, for locals, all through May for our birthday,' he told *The Echo*.

'To celebrate we also have a new tour – The Island Escape – which is an offering for young families to just do the parts of the tour that are great for kids. It's a bit shorter than our usual tour. It's something new for people to try.'

The facility has also grown to include a 'market' of locally-grown produce, freshly harvested and produced on-site, a curated selection of pantry staples and fruit-based delicacies, and a nature-inspired home and body essentials range including Tropicology, a skin-care range infused with the organic wonders of avocado.

Gow says that people

often don't visit their own backyard.

Lots of new things to see and enjoy

'When we first launched this tour, postcodes who were visiting were Chinderah, Kingscliff, Casuarina, and even Duranbah. We really want to remind people that Tropical Fruit World is here, they can even just come in and have a cup of tea. There's no charge to visit the retail area.'

Gow says there are three key things that locals might not know.

'One would be that we've changed a lot of the

orchards to grow fruits that are becoming more and more popular – everyone's tried red dragon fruit before, but that may not necessarily have had a yellow dragon fruit or a pink panther purple. These are all varieties that have better flavours.

'The second thing is that we have upgraded a lot of the facilities, the cafe, dining room, the island, the fauna park barn and the entryway, so it is a different place to what many would have already visited.

'Thirdly, we put in a production facility about ten years ago where we make a lot of different products

from the fruit. We're doing dried fruit salads, we're doing jams and sauces, leaf teas and farm honey. 'All of these things weren't available 20 years ago when a lot of the locals visited. We really want people just to come and revisit the park to understand what's on their doorstep.'

To find out more about Tropical Fruit World or to book a birthday special tour in May and get the 50 per cent discount for locals – the promocode is LOCALS50 on the website – visit: tropicalfruitworld.com.au, it's great for kids, families, and adults who want to have a fun, inclusive, adventure on their own doorstep.



Ballina's Dental Implant Centre

Replace Missing Teeth with Dental Implants



Four or more implants can replace dentures all together



A bridge can eliminate the need for partial dentures



A minimum of 2 implants can stabilise a loose lower denture



One or more missing teeth can be replaced without impacting those adjacent – and they will look and feel like your own!

At GLEAM DENTAL BALLINA, Dr Geoffrey Sherlock provides expert DENTAL IMPLANT PLACEMENT RESTORATION using advanced technology and years of clinical experience.

From consultation to final smile, your treatment is completed IN ONE LOCATION BY THE SAME EXPERIENCED TEAM.

DENTAL IMPLANTS – THE MODERN SOLUTION FOR MISSING TEETH

SAME-DAY IMPLANT OPTIONS

In many cases, a tooth can be removed and an implant placed **on the same day**, shortening treatment time and helping preserve bone and gum health.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

- 3D CBCT imaging on site
- Computer-guided implant planning
- Bone and membrane grafting expertise when required
- Temporary teeth during healing

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Dr Geoffrey B. Sherlock – Dental Surgeon – B.D.S Hons. (Syd.)

Georgie Higgins – Oral Health Therapist – B.O.H (Syd.)

Over 37 years of experience in dental implant therapy



MODERN IMPLANT DENTISTRY IN ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION

BOOK A CONSULTATION
02 6686 6619 | 10 Grant Street, Ballina
www.gleamdental.com.au

Need a second opinion? Looking at treatment elsewhere? The Australian Dental Board advises that "Any surgical or invasive procedure carries risk. Before proceeding, you should seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner". Before you go ahead, get a second opinion from Dr Sherlock – as a highly qualified professional with over 37 years of experience, he's happy to help!



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

Richmond River's sediment problem identified

The lasting damage from the 2022 floods on the Richmond River has been the focus of a new study, with researchers claiming that it is 'the clearest evidence yet that the vast majority of sediment pollution starts far upstream'.

Ballina keeps door open for new mega-developments

At its last meeting, Ballina Shire Council narrowly decided to leave the door open for future urban development on several large areas of land between Lennox Head and Tintenbar. The contentious sites are North Kinvara (CURA B), CURA C and West Lennox Palms.

Tweed Council budget partly 'aspirational' thanks to oil crisis

While local governments in Ballina, Byron and Lismore were yet to publicly consider impacts of the geopolitical oil crisis on the Northern Rivers, the Tweed Shire Council said last week budget adjustments may be needed.

Lismore aims for massive growth through its strategic planning statement

Lismore City Council say they are aiming to be the 'principal regional growth centre for housing and employment in NSW', with the release of their draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

Koalas return to protected area south of Evans Head

Indigenous rangers are celebrating the return of koalas to the Minyumai Indigenous Protected Area south of Evans Head, New South Wales.

Man accused of Pottsville arson on bail

A 45-year-old man has received bail after police accused him of setting fire to the Pottsville rental property he was living in. Officers said they arrested and charged the alleged offender on 27 April, when they found him hiding in a nearby yard after allegedly carrying out arson.

Driver accused of DUI and crashing at Tweed Heads

A 26-year-old man is due to appear in court next month, accused of driving dangerously at Tweed Heads under the influence of alcohol and drugs. He allegedly crashed the blue SUV he was driving around 3pm Sunday, prompting reports to police.

www.echo.net.au

Have your say on region's transport system

Hans Lovejoy

A 20-year vision to guide the future of the region's transport system, called the *Draft North Coast Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan*, is now on exhibition.

The 172-page strategy, replete with large, attractive photos and slightly repetitive talking points, covers areas from Tweed Shire to just south of Port Macquarie.

The NSW Labor government said in a media release, 'For the first time in more than a decade, North Coast communities will be able to view a long-term plan that sets out transport priorities based on evidence, data and extensive consultation with over 800 stakeholders including councils, members of parliament and community groups.'

'Key directions of the draft plan include improving regional connectivity for people and freight, building a more resilient, disaster-ready transport network, expanding sustainable transport options, reducing transport

disadvantage and supporting the visitor economy'.

Trains removed in 2004 by NSW Labor

As for trains, the Labor government removed the local rail service in 2004 which connected Murwillumbah to Casino (and ran to Sydney). The Casino to Sydney XPT service has just returned after a year of refurbishing the train.

And while they left the disused line to degrade over decades, there are now rail trails along sections.

Public transport unreliable

On page 14 it reads, 'Public transport services can be unreliable across the North Coast, with poor service frequency outside of centres and uncompetitive travel times compared with private vehicles.'

'Dispersed towns and villages, long travel distances, and gaps in walking and cycling infrastructure can reinforce car dependence



The front cover of the *Draft North Coast Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan*.

and limit affordable alternatives. These factors disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities, restricting access to employment, education, healthcare and social participation'.

On-demand services

On page 135, it reads that the government should: 'Investigate opportunities for new on-demand public transport services across key North Coast centres including: Byron Bay, Murwillumbah, Wauchope, Laurieton, and Kendall'.

Regional rail project

Yet there appears some appetite to establish train services between Qld and NSW.

On page 137, it reads, 'North Coast and interstate passenger rail service improvements – undertake a staged review of North Coast rail services, aligned with the introduction of the Regional Rail Project fleet, to improve service timings and strengthen connections between communities, regional centres and capital cities.'

'Stage 1 will focus on: improving train timetables where feasible, particularly in the Northern Rivers and to Queensland, to address infrequent and inconvenient services times.

'Stage 2 will investigate opportunities for transformational change to rail services across the North

Coast and into Queensland, including: accessing future fleet needs, such as additional rolling stock and the continued provision of sleeping accommodation for longer-distance journeys; identifying options to increase service frequencies to major centres and capital cities; improving interchange and integration with the connecting coach network to support more seamless journeys.

Rail trail

As for rail trails for Ballina Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, and Tweed Council areas, it reads on page 140, [The government will] work with councils across the Northern Rivers to support delivery of the remaining Northern Rivers Rail Trail sections and improve safe active and public transport connections to the rail trail from nearby towns and visitor destinations, helping to strengthen the region's cycle-tourism economy and improve local access'.

To read the draft plan and provide feedback until Sunday 14 June, visit www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/sritp/north-coast.

Tweed man charged with importing 200kg of cocaine

A Tweed Heads man was charged with allegedly importing 200kg of cocaine last month, after police say they found the drugs on the catamaran he was sailing near the Queensland-NSW border.

In a media release, they say the 41-year-old faced the NSW Bail Division Court on 17 April, 2026, 'charged with one count of importing a commercial quantity of a border-controlled drug, contrary to section 307.1 of the Criminal Code (Cth), which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment'.

'The man was formally refused bail and remanded to next appear in the same court on 12 June, 2026.

'Police were investigating an alleged transnational plot by a syndicate with links to outlaw motorcycle gangs to sail cocaine into Australian waters before being transferred to local vessels to bring the drugs to shore.

'The Gold Coast Joint Organised Crime Taskforce (GC JOCTF), comprising officers from the AFP, QPS, ABF and ACIC, as well as NSWPF, intercepted a catamaran sailing into the Tweed River, just south of the Queensland border, on Thursday (16 April, 2026).

'The catamaran had sailed from the Tweed River on Tuesday (14 April, 2026), travelling north before turning its transponder off'.

Regional landfill at Lismore's Blakebrook Quarry investigated

With considerable community concern growing, Lismore City Council say they are undertaking 'early planning and investigation work to understand whether Blakebrook Quarry could be suitable for a future regional landfill'.

Council say it is part of long-term planning for how waste is managed across the region.

The quarry has attracted considerable public attention on social media.

Around 100 concerned

residents recently met and launched a campaign to protect the water, land, and biodiversity from the proposal, which they say was to add a large regional waste facility to the quarry.

Lismore City councillor Virginia Waters said, 'There will be another meeting at Goolmangar Hall at 5pm next Wednesday, 6 May. This is a chance to grow the group, plan next steps, and keep the momentum going to stop this now. Blakebrook Quarry is not the right location for a landfill'.

Council said in their media release, 'With the landfill at the Lismore Recycling and Recovery Centre expected to reach capacity within the next seven to ten years, Council is beginning to consider options now, to ensure the continuity of secure and affordable waste services'.

Mayor Steve Krieg said the current stage is about 'forward planning and understanding what options may be available – not making final decisions'.

15 new probationary constables for Richmond and Tweed-Byron

Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin (NSW Labor), said in a media release that 15 probationary constables will join the Northern Region police district. She congratulated the newest police officers graduating in Goulburn, 'in the biggest graduating class in 13 years'.

'I am pleased to see that

21 of the 349 new probationary constables will be coming to our region, with 11 for the Richmond police district and four for Tweed-Byron [also six for New England].

'These recruits have successfully completed eight months of intensive training through the Constable Education Program and now

begin a further 12 months of on-the-job training as probationary constables.

'[This] Record breaking class highlights the Minns Government's police recruitment reforms are working, including paid study for recruits, a once-in-a-generation pay rise, the Be a Cop in Your Hometown program

and the Professional Mobility Program.

'These programs have made a real difference to policing in our region. Since being elected, the Minns Government has added a total of 154 new officers to the three police district commands that safeguard local communities in the

Lismore electorate.

'I wish these new recruits from Class 368 well as they embark on their new careers,' Ms Saffin said.

'I am confident the discipline, courage and commitment they have already shown in becoming police officers will serve them and our communities well.'

Come
Fly
with us
this mothers day

VH-JIG

**GIFT
VOUCHERS
AVAILABLE**

DAILY SUNRISE BALLOON FLIGHTS

Includes breakfast at The Three Blue Ducks Restaurant - The Farm

www.balloonaloft.com | 1300 723 279 | [@balloonaloftbyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/balloonaloftbyronbay)



The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #48 • May 6, 2026

Community housing should be primary focus for Mullum Hospital site

The community frustration at Byron Shire Council was palpable on Monday night as they sought to understand why the draft development control plan (DCP) for the former Mullumbimby Hospital site failed so effectively at reflecting all the contributions they had made to the process.

Following years of fighting for the land to be retained in public hands after the closure of Mullumbimby Hospital, when NSW Health had said they would sell the site off, the community had participated in a year-long project reference group (PRG) that had come up with three proposals for the site based around a village concept. The idea was to have downsizing opportunities for older residents and those with mobility issues on the flatter areas, family and worker housing along with village facilities in the middle with higher density one and two bedroom units on the steeper areas of the site. This was designed around the principle that it would include a range of affordability in housing that reflected the need across the community.

So the proposed entry-level 20 per cent affordable housing outlined in the DCP seriously failed to meet community expectations. And from reports of the meeting between the Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) and Council staff in relation to the draft DCP, the key concern from BSC staff appeared to be the future saleability of the site to a developer rather than meeting community housing needs (see page 3).

The reason this is such a focus is that Council bought the land for \$1 but then had to borrow \$6m and pay interest to fund the remediation bill that nobody seemed to expect.

When the PRG had put forward their village proposals it led to the amendment of the local environment plan (LEP) to allow heights for the Mullumbimby Hospital site and some surrounding streets to be raised from 9m to 11.5m. For a Shire and local community that has fought hard for height restrictions, this was a significant concession made on the premise that the site would be meeting future community housing needs, not being sold off to a developer to meet the remediation debt already incurred by Council.

So if Council seeks to sell the site in an englobo sale to a developer, which Mullumbimby Hospital Action Group (MHAG), who originally started the fight to save the site for the community specifically reject, then the LEP should be revisited. The height limits were extended on the basis that the site had the community backing of local, affordable, community housing. If the site is no longer going to meet that expectation then it is only right that the LEP be amended to the former height limit of 9m. And the argument that 'it would hamper efforts to sell the site' to developers is not something that the community should accept.

Aslan Shand, editor

News tips are welcome: editor@echo.net.au

The Liberal Party needs to go back to where it came from

The Farrer byelection this Saturday is being cast in almost existential terms.

Will this mark the far-right party's foothold in the political mainstream with its first-ever federal lower house MP?

Does it signal the end of National dominance on the wombat trail?

Much less the Liberal Party's political demise?

For all the noise around One Nation's supposed rise, unlike the increasingly chaotic fever dream engulfing American politics, and many European democracies facing similar populist, nationalist, anti-immigrant insurgents like Reform in the UK, AfD in Germany or the National Rally in France, parties on either extreme of the political spectrum will never form government in Australia.

That's thanks to Australia's compulsory, preferential electoral system, which means that unlike the UK and US's first past the post systems, government in Australia has generally been won by the so-called 'sensible centre'.

Nonetheless, One Nation's rise reflects many voters' frustrations that nothing much seems to happen there.

Nobody could accuse ALP leaders like Anthony Albanese, Chris Minns, Peter Malinauskas or Jacinta Allan of being wedded to traditional ALP values – much less ever attempting the more serious reforms their predecessors Gough Whitlam, Bob Hawke, and Paul Keating undertook.

Which makes the Liberal Party's hard turn to the right, especially on immigration, understandable – and perplexing.

While Australian elections favour the middle ground – something the ALP has successfully taken from the Coalition since Hawke and Keating first introduced the economically neoliberal and socially liberal approach Bill Clinton called 'the third way' and Tony Blair dubbed 'New Labour' – political party membership, particularly for the Liberals, has cratered.

Membership across most state Liberal branches has plummeted to almost half in the past decade to less than 10,000 each, with the Liberals in WA and SA now little more than minor parties. Members' average age is 68, and increasingly conservative.



'For all Howard, Abbott, Morrison, and Dutton's harsh rhetoric and cruel treatment of boat arrivals, Howard doubled immigration.'

– Sunil Badami

These members preselect candidates who represent their values – even as these very conservative views don't reflect broader social norms today. It's evidenced by the lack of diversity in what remains of the Coalition in federal parliament, represented by no one of colour apart from Jacinta Price and only around 20 per cent women.

So, given its conservative, mostly Anglo base and One Nation outflanking it on the right, it's understandable that the Liberals are parroting One Nation on issues like immigration, especially given how policy free they've been since the last election.

But is going hard on immigration really an election winner for the Liberals – especially in rural seats which depend on immigrants working in jobs in agriculture, food processing and healthcare many locals don't want to do? Even One Nation's weather vane candidate disagrees on that point.

While many might think it was Gough and Al Grassby who ended the White Australia Policy and embraced multiculturalism, it started with Harold Holt's government in 1966. The Menzies, Holt, Gorton, and Fraser Liberal governments welcomed more refugees than any other before or since, from 170,000 Eastern European Balts in the 1950s, over 80,000 Vietnamese boat people in the 1970s and over 30,000 Lebanese refugees in the 1980s.

For all Howard, Abbott, Morrison, and Dutton's harsh rhetoric and cruel treatment of boat arrivals, Howard doubled immigration, and nearly all the record-breaking 536,000 arrivals in 2022-23 were approved by the Morrison government. Nearly half of us were either born overseas or have parents born overseas.

And it's the very skilled and affluent migrants successive governments have been bringing in in unprecedented numbers to make up for the Coalition's defenestration of higher

and vocational education who now comprise the fastest growing constituency. Until the 1990s, there were less than 20,000 people of Indian origin in the entire country. Growing up, I knew almost every Indian person in Sydney.

Now, with over 971,000 people, they make up Australia's largest overseas born population.

Most Indians and Chinese – along with Muslims, the most maligned immigrants – are professionals and entrepreneurs, the Liberal Party's natural constituency, often living in the very outer suburban seats the party now needs to win as it loses all hope of regaining inner city ones from teals (Tim Wilson's 157 vote skin of the teeth 'comeback' in Goldstein aside).

Price's comments about Indian immigration and refusal to apologise for them have cruelled the Liberals' chances with this key demographic, just as Jane Hume's comments about 'Chinese spies' sank the party's chances in once-blue ribbon seats like Chisholm, which previously elected an MP with ties to the CCP.

So while One Nation winning a seat might not seal the Liberal Party's fate, Taylor's aping of their anti-immigration stance can only end in ignominy, as noted by former independent Goldstein MP Zoe Daniel and former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull.

How is doing what Peter Dutton did to decimate their vote going to end any better?

If the Coalition wants to win back the 'sensible centre' perhaps it should go back to where it came from on immigration, especially given One Nation's faltering polling, rather than following the even more dysfunctional minor party down a very dark dead end.

■ Sunil Badami is a writer, academic and broadcaster. He's appeared in nearly every major Australian media outlet, and is a regular on ABC Radio and TV.

NORTH COAST VETS

- + Caring for your pets
- + Keeping your livestock healthy and productive
- + State-of-the-art human-grade CT machine
- + Laser therapy machine
- + Mobile service





info@northcoastvetservices.com.au

www.northcoastvetservices.com.au + 02 6684 0735

Clinic: 233 Gulgan Rd Between Mullum and Bruns just down the road from Uncle Toms

WINTER BONANZA RUMMAGE!
SATURDAY, 10 MAY • 9AM-4.30PM

Everyday winter essentials, statement pieces, vintage. Something for everyone!

All winter items that have been donated over summer are coming out all at once, to keep you all warm and fuzzy over the winter chills.

GLOBAL RIPPLE OP SHOP
268 Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay
0457 192 225
Kindness is magic



Rewire energy rules

In *The Echo's* Sustainability Issue [Vol 18], Mandy Nolan noted – correctly – that Australia leads the world in rooftop solar uptake.

But the strong uptake is revealing weaknesses in the energy system.

The Australian Energy Council (AEC) and the Clean Energy Council (CEC) recently warned in a submission to the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC), that the current approach to managing essential system services, like grid stability, is reactive and poorly governed, driving up costs for consumers.

At the same time, the CEC has pushed back on proposals by the AEMC to increase fixed network charges, arguing they would discourage households from generating, storing, and using their own energy.

If we want communities to embrace rooftop solar, batteries, and electrification, the system settings must support them.

Pricing should be transparent, and responsive, not locked into blunt fixed charges that undermine participation.

Zero Emissions Byron–Northern Rivers has representation on the NSW Essential Energy Stakeholder Panel and continues to advocate for transparent pricing, and genuine community engagement.

Submissions to the AEMC is via: www.aemc.gov.au/contact-us/lodge-submission.

Anne Stuart
Zero Emissions
Byron–Northern Rivers,
Mullumbimby

Crikey look at that fill

Crikey, I am wondering have residents noticed the ‘high fill’ that is happening in Ocean Shores?

This is surely a shock as back a-time, ‘no fill’ was the go.

Now, fill is sure a-happening, but that’s the reason for ‘crikey’, hard to believe and so high.

Just wondering, how many more house blocks will be filled this way?

Crikey is the only word I can think of regarding these fill doings.

Jillian Spring
Billinudgel



Cartoon by Sean O'Shannessy

Label them

The ACCC is suing supermarkets for ‘misleading customers’ with fake, manipulated ‘down’ signs.

When will someone sue our politicians for ‘misleading Australians’ with their lies?

As for prices labelled as ‘down’ not really being a reduction, surely we can have a law that compels supermarkets to put signs of ‘up’ as well, when appropriate?

Too easy?

Anthony Plesko
West Ballina

E-bikes

Wow hasn't the electric bike been taken up so readily by people. It's a great invention and is a directional change that is here to stay. However, why are governments so slow to catch up with this change that has seen many people injured and killed?

Okay, it may be hard to catch up with the horse after it has bolted, but the police are to blame for not going for the obvious unchanged law – wear a helmet or be fined!

Byron Bay, for years, led the way in ‘not wearing helmets’ and the local police failed to apply a basic safety law.

We have to wear seatbelts, whether you're a local, a domestic visitor or an overseas tourist.

Adults should be setting an example and wear bike helmets, parents should be insisting their precious children wear them, and kids riding on the road should show responsibility and commonsense and wear helmets.

So, let's see our police do their job now and enforce helmet-wearing, then when governments get their act

together the police can also sort out correct e-bike usage.

Richard White
East Ballina

Water and sewer

Annie Radermacher's letter in *The Echo* [29 April] was very factual as to why there are so many infrastructure problems occurring in the Shire.

From my experience in Council from 1978 to 2005, I say that the past structure certainly could have been better if engineers, managers and directors actually took the time to investigate, and actually knew what was happening on the ground.

As to the maintenance of the in-ground infrastructure there were procedures in place that were working well as to maintaining the infrastructure and identifying problems that needed to be addressed.

However, the structure now is not working, it is not progressive as to addressing serious infrastructure issues as Annie has identified, they [the issues] are just shelved.

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

Audit before rate rise

My oh my, how flawed is this expected rates rise.

As if so many hundreds of residents have definitely had enough of our failed and neglected infrastructure.

Then there are those complaining re just the simplest of local government regulations that are never addressed by Byron Council.

I am now convinced an audit is most definitely necessary. So many of us have experienced these issues already and alongside the continued lack of the necessary resources of those much-needed pathways, road upgrades, lighting, maintenance work, etc.

The idea of wards being essential, as per the letter by Anthony Sante – thanks Anthony, you're so right.

Many associations of our Shire have extensive lists of necessary projects that are

being ignored.

The objective now lies with an investigation into where so much of our funding has gone. This sort of neglect has to stop. How many liability cases have taken place! How much of our local government funds have been used for any of these foreseeable disasters?

Council should be instead asking us whether we support an independent audit.

Annie Radermacher
Bayside, Brunswick Heads

Another ‘Great Depression’?

In a recent unpublished *Echo* letter, it was suggested that supply chain disruptions during the current fuel crisis could be at least twice as severe, and last for at least twice as long as disruptions during the pandemic. In fact such a suggestion could be an understatement.

In addition to the fertiliser and food issues, half of the world's sulphur supply passes through the Straits of Hormuz and sulphur is used to make sulfuric acid, without which you can't make: car tyres, truck tyres, nylon, many pharmaceuticals, detergents, copper, nickel, stainless steel, rare earths, paper, cardboard, superphosphate fertiliser, gypsum and lead acid batteries, or do wastewater treatment or refine crude oil to produce petrol.

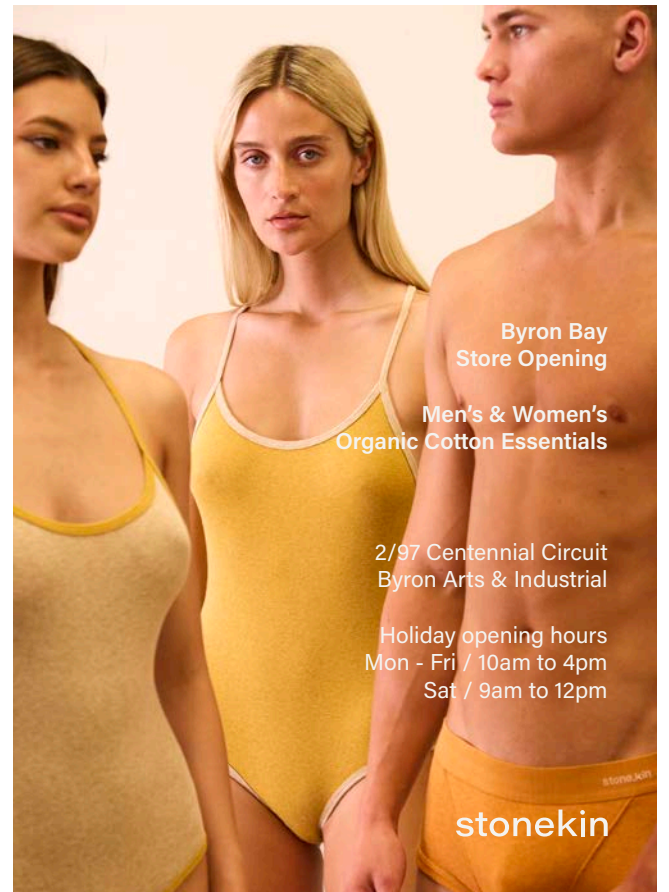
The media comments that the Australian government just locked in 300 million litres of new diesel shipments: but that's actually just a few days' supply.

Australia has a small supply in reserve and when it runs out, our economy will come to a grinding halt.

If the war is still going on the 1st of June, it will result in a depression worse than 1929. Regardless of what they say, the fire at the Victorian oil refinery was no accident.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

► More letters: echo.net.au



Byron Bay
Store Opening

Men's & Women's
Organic Cotton Essentials

2/97 Centennial Circuit
Byron Arts & Industrial

Holiday opening hours
Mon - Fri / 10am to 4pm
Sat / 9am to 12pm

stonekin

Lismore's 34th Annual Gemfest

Lismore Showgrounds

16th May 9am - 5pm
17th May 9am - 3pm

Discover Dazzling:
Jewellery, Fossils
Kids Activities
Crystals, Gemstones
Food Stalls

Admission:
Adults \$5
Kids \$1

Free Shuttle Bus
Both Days
Proudly Sponsored by:

ATM Available

Proudly Sponsored by:
NBN NEWS, 100.9 ZZZ FM, 90.0 FM, Ballina BUSLINES, Harcourts Northern Rivers, Northern Rivers Times, ALLAMBI CARE, HERMES SECURITY, lismore, Lismore Gemfest APP

Event Info: www.lismoregemfest.com.au

Bodhi LIVING

Shop 1/18 Centennial Circuit
Byron Bay Industrial Estate
PH: +61 413 420 120
We ship Australia Wide

Our own designs, your story. Bodhi Living's in-house collection sits alongside pieces sourced locally and globally – curated to reflect the freedom and soul of the individual, expressed through the spaces they live in.

@bodhi.living www.bodhiliving.com.au

Letters to the Editor

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

Why did the majority of the Suffolk Park

I was one of four people who resigned from the Suffolk Park Progress Association (SPPA) committee on 18 March, following two previous resignations.

At the time, we four, then a majority, wrote a respectful resignation letter, explaining key reasons, and requesting the letter's release.

The president of the SPPA, Kelly Minahan, not only repeatedly declined those requests, but also sent warnings in emails, which in our view amounted to threats of potential litigation, if we publicly discussed reasons for our resignation.

Since then, in our view, the president has repeatedly misrepresented the reasons for our resignations, leaving us no alternative than to speak out. We resigned chiefly because we were concerned that the speed of decision-making was not accompanied by a commensurate amount of due diligence, and that our repeated expression of this concern was ultimately dismissed. One chief concern was that the haste was not allowing adequate time to discuss and implement

management strategies for potential conflicts of interest of the SPPA president.

Since our resignation, following questioning from *The Echo*, Mr Minahan has revealed a conflict of interest relating to the large proposed Denwol development in Clifford Street, previously rejected by the Land & Environment Court, amidst great community concern.

In a SPPA newsletter on 2 April, making no mention of any conflict of interest, the president welcomed the Denwol development, saying it offered an opportunity 'to enhance and beautify our village,' and appeared 'sensitive to both community sentiment and environmental concerns.'

Concerned about the need for a genuinely independent community voice, other former committee members organised a public meeting to discuss the Denwol development, independent of developers and the SPPA (now Suffolk Park Community Association), and that meeting was extremely well attended.

I again respectfully ask the president to release our letter, and ask all readers to

ponder what message this situation is sending to developers across the country, with their eyes on opportunities in Suffolk Park.

Ray Moynihan
Suffolk Park

I'm one of the 'old guard' from the Suffolk Park Progress Association (SPPA) committee who had hoped to clear the air regarding our resignations at the general meeting held last week on 29 April.

Alas, the issue could not be addressed as the president failed to attend. I would have left the matter there and moved on, but then read Gael Nash's letter in *The Echo*.

She claimed those who resigned struggled to accept a new dynamic style of leadership bringing the association into the 21st century.

This 'dynamism' translated into the president bombarding the committee with multiple emails, day and night, usually containing the latest thought-bubble for new tangential projects.

The so-called '21st century' leadership also involved chaotic, overburdened meeting

agendas that were impossible to get through.

The 'dynamism' culminated in an injunction not to stand in the way of the president - which in our view was an intolerable breach of our responsibilities mandated by the constitution.

We didn't 'oppose change' - we were committed to the key principles of transparency and accountability in giving a voice to, and promoting, the interests of our community.

My alarm with leadership style was confirmed when the new guard promoted a private electronic survey regarding the impending DA at 9-15 Clifford Street, a development with dramatic impact on the community.

Plans for this development were not even available at that stage. This is why the 'old guard' called a public meeting, independent of the SPPA, in the pub on 19 April.

Finally, far from lacking integrity and misrepresenting the truth, according to Ms Nash, *The Echo* has been remarkably balanced in its reporting.

Tony Christy
Suffolk Park

The former Suffolk Park Progress Association (SPPA) committee's documentation with its agendas, minutes and correspondence are available to new committee members upon request.

Respectfully, Ms Gael Nash could have examined it before going to print with her perspectives. I certainly would have, with so many resignations.

We did not control the association. Nor did we struggle to accept the 'new dynamic style of leadership.'

We tried in good faith to work with the president, and this has been recognised by the executive.

It is incorrect to claim we did not want change. Nor were we disgruntled. The president repeatedly apologised for the utter chaos and the dysfunction of the committee, owing to inexorable emails and their trails, latest ideas before other business was resolved, and 'urgent' calls for action.

A three-tier communication policy was developed in an attempt to contain the chaos. All of us were

exasperated with committee meetings owing to their inefficiency. None of this has been disclosed in shaping the dominant narrative.

We resigned ultimately because it was not possible to exercise our statutory duty of due care and diligence required by law, with an inexperienced president seemingly incapable of listening, calling on all not to hold him back.

There were other conflicts of interest before the disclosure of those related to Denwol owing to the probing of *The Echo*. Everything suppressed, in an environment of attempted intimidation, innuendo and slur in social media.

Given the level of dysfunction, we called for the remaining committee to go to a special general meeting for fresh elections. Alternative appropriate action to manage the high level of conflict was mediation. Regrettably, neither has occurred. I hope this is clarifying for Ms Nash and other readers.

Lynne Richardson
Suffolk Park

Eat drink
Autumn issue
OUT NOW

Eat drink

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

Read it online here

BRUNSWICK HEADS
Old & Gold
Festival
Saturday 6th June 2026

SATURDAY 6 JUNE
Celebrating all things old, secondhand & recycled
ALL TOWN GARAGE SALE 8 to 2pm
Registrations to 4pm Fri 29th May

Your garage sale location and items will be included on the Echo feature list & Google Map on 5 June. Registrations are **essential by 4pm Friday** for promotion and Organised Stall Holder certificate.
Drop in to Byron Shire Real Estate (from Monday 4th May)
Cnr Tweed & Fawcett St, Brunswick Heads.
Fee is \$15.

OR NEW PAY BY TIPPY TIP QR CODE YOU CAN ALSO DONATE TO HELP KEEP OUR HOME GROWN FESTIVAL ALIVE. EVEN IF IT'S A GOLD COIN DONATION!

SECONDHAND STALLS BOOKING FAST
Vintage & Collectables Fair - Lizrathborne@Gmail.com
School Treasure Trove - 6685 1204
Banner Park Flea Market - Events@Brunswickheads.org.au

RECYCLING ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT SO FAR
Amazing Raffle • Lucky Penny • Ray Essery and Terry Brogan • CWA
Devonshire Tea • Hub Cap Stan Sidewalk Stompers • National Australian
Marbles Championships

Thank you to our Principal and Gold Sponsors so far:

Principal Media sponsor: Echo
Gold sponsors: North Coast Lifestyle Properties, Reflectors Holidays, Crystal Castle, Brunswick Heads, B3

Principal sponsors: HOTEL BRUNSWICK, Old Maids, IGR BRUNSWICK HEADS, BYRON SHIRE REAL ESTATE, The Chalet, MEADOWS HEALTH, MONA APARTMENTS

Silver sponsors: Ocean Shores Tavern, Ocean Shores Country Club, Tursa Employment and Training, Tom Tom Thai, Better By Bike, Print Rescue, Footbridge Café, M.V Jasmine River Cruises

Cherie Heale Co-ordinator 6685 1003 or 0499 395 601
or events@brunswickheads.org.au | www.brunswickheads.org.au

committee resign?

Last week in her letter Gael Nash, suggested that *The Echo* has not investigated thoroughly before going to print on news about the SPPA (now Suffolk Park Community Association).

Yet did she speak with the six committee members (including me) who resigned before she made up her mind? Has she considered why some of the six members who resigned have not been voicing their reasons for leaving the association?

Is it because she has been told they are 'lazy' or is it because they have been threatened to 'exercise extreme caution'? And if so, by who? Critical thinking, please make an appearance before our beloved Suffolk Park gets swallowed up in Trumpist rhetoric. One last question for Gael and all – does she know that all six members who resigned have significant roles in NFPs and community organisations locally and globally, yet the president and secretary have stated that this is a whole new experience for them?

Pia Jane Bijkerk
Suffolk Park

I can understand that Ms Nash, a 'recently joined' member (*Echo*, Letters 29/04), may have a few gaps in the chronology, so let me help. Indeed 'a new executive was voted in at the last AGM' – November '25.

Nine of us were elected of whom six 'losers' (?) had resigned by March '26.

I left first, but can attest to a founding determination to have an effectively-functioning team, supportive of the new president who expressed some trepidation over his unfamiliarity with committees.

My experience of all five fellow ex-members, was of high-functioning individuals and a group rich in skills, integrity and years of collective, community activism.

I thus find it distressing to see their request refused to have their own words of explanation included in the association newsletter.

Into this vacuum emerged an aggrandising narrative of inadequacy, unmatched to 'the speed, scale or operational intensity required'.

Liz Levy
Suffolk Park

I write to explain my recent resignation from the SPPA (now Suffolk Park Community Association), and to challenge the current president's position that my resignation, together with my four colleagues, was owing to our inability to manage the workload.

To be clear, the volume of work was not the issue, rather the chaotic, and at times incoherent, leadership of the current president who, by his own admission, has no committee or board experience.

Despite these concerns being raised on more than one occasion, they were not adequately or appropriately addressed.

These concerns were further exacerbated by how the current president managed his conflicts of interest.

I remain committed to the goals of the organisation and to the wonderful community of Suffolk Park. However, I believe that effective governance, transparency, and respectful, collaborative decision-making are essential to achieving good outcomes.

Rebekah O'Flaherty
Suffolk Park



Join the community conversation

Council's draft 2026-27 Operational Plan, Budget, Statement of Revenue Policy (including rates, fees and charges), and draft 2026-36 Long Term Financial Plan are all on public exhibition.

Have your say by taking a look at the draft documents online or in person and making a submission. You can also come along to an information session to learn more.

Submissions close: 31 May 2026

Join a community conversation session:

- **IN-PERSON:** Thursday 14 May, 5 – 7pm, Byron Shire Council Chambers
- **ONLINE:** Tuesday, 19 May, 5-7pm, Zoom

More Information

Read the documents, make a submission, or register for the community conversation sessions at:

🌐 <https://yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/OP>

Submissions can also be made by contacting Council:

- 📍 Council offices, Station Street Mullumbimby, NSW 2482
- ☎ 02 6626 7000
- ✉ PO Box 219, Mullumbimby, NSW 2482



📞 02 6626 7000 • www.byron.nsw.gov.au

THE BOARDWALK

\$22 MEMBERS LUNCH & DINNER

<p>CHICKEN SCHNITZEL Served with chips and salad and your choice of sauce</p> <p>FISH & CHIPS (Grilled or Battered) Served with chips, salad, & tartare</p>	<p>200g RUMP STEAK served with chips, salad and choice of sauce</p> <p>LINGUINE PUTTANESCA Add chicken or prawns +\$4</p>
---	---

SMOKED SALMON SALAD

THE BOARDWALK

\$16 SENIORS LUNCH SPECIAL

<p>PUMPKIN & GREEN PEA RISOTTO, PARMESAN (Veg)</p> <p>ROASTED BLADE BEEF served with mash, roasted vegetables, peas and gravy</p> <p>CURRY OF THE WEEK</p> <p>Please show your seniors card One meal per card only</p>	
---	--

THE BOARDWALK

\$75 VALUE

\$50 FAMILY DINNER

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

2 x Main Meals from \$22

Members Specials

2 x Kids Meals

Juc of Soft Drink

MEMBERS ONLY

BALLINA RSL

EPIC \$6 JUNIOR MEAL SPECIAL

WITH FREE ICE CREAM

CHOOSE FROM OUR DELECTABLE KIDS MENU!

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

KID-APPROVED DELIGHTS FOR CHILDREN 12 YEARS & UNDER

Boardwalk

PRE SHOW DINING HERE

BALLINA RSL

f i

[ballinarsl](http://ballinarsl.com.au)

BOOK BEST SEATS HERE

STRENGTH. MOBILITY. LONGEVITY.

STICK TO YOUR HEALTH GOALS ALL IN ONE PLACE.

PILATES GYM · CLASSES MASSAGE · SAUNA EXPERT TRAINERS

SOCIALREMEDY

Feel grounded

ZENTHAI SHIATSU

1:1 sessions fully clothed on a mat For stress, burnout and body tension

Mullumbimby and mobile

Text 'ZEN' to Alex 0421 921 538 for your welcome offer

Mother's Day gift cards available

heat PILATES & YOGA

\$10 COMMUNITY CLASSES MONDAYS & FRIDAYS

NOW WITH REFORMER!

heatbyronbay.com.au @heat_byronbay

Follow us on Insta

@byronshireecho

The life of local dairy farmer, Denzil Thomas

Story & photo Adele Scaysbrook

Now at 95 years old, local dairy farmer Denzil Thomas reflects on a life spent living and working in the Northern Rivers and continuing a generational farming legacy.

Very few can still remember riding into Bangalow on a horse and sulky. Or rushing out of a film at the A&I Society Hall as the hotel and bank on Bangalow's main street burnt down.

Nor can many say they were baptised down the road in All Souls' Anglican Church, married there 24 years later, and the church organist for 78 years!

Denzil Thomas can recall these tales and many more, as we sit one summer afternoon in the living room of his Possum Creek family home. Originally purchased in 1918 by his father Harry, an English dairy farmer, the home is a time capsule in itself, with the original dairy still standing down the path.

Many generations of the Thomas family have been raised under its roof and the rich layers of history and memories are palpable as one walks through the rooms.

I ask if Denzil has ever thought about leaving the farm, which is met with a quick response: 'No, no. It will stay in the family. My boys won't think about selling it. It was always a happy home. All my kids were brought up in this house too. We love the place and I'm so glad that they want to keep it too.'

He smiles warmly while grabbing a carton of Norco milk from the fridge, and sets it down beside our tea and biscuits.

NORCO supplier

Like his father before him, Denzil was a loyal supplier to Norco. He remembers having to move ten-gallon cream cans down the road with a wheelbarrow for when the Norco cream carrier would come by and collect them and take the cream off to be processed into butter.

Cream was the main, and most valuable commodity at the time for dairy farmers and it took ten gallons of milk to make just one gallon of cream.

The family dairy is the beating heart of this home. Much like the house, it has retained its original charm, structure, and has seen four generations of Thomas family farmers over the last 100 years.

Old wooden beams



From left: Dave Thomas, Denzil (middle), Charlie Thomas and Geoff Thomas.

hold up the corrugated tin roof and the cement floor beneath Denzil's boots is dusted with loose hay.

He reminisces, looking around the very room he began working in as a boy 89 years ago. Here Denzil, youngest of six, would sit beside his parents and siblings while manually milking their cows until buckets were full and the job was done.

He recalls, 'It was pretty tough farming. Hard work. All hand milking.'

'I remember we all used to get up with mum and dad at six o'clock in the morning. Me and my older brothers would all milk before going to school.'

The children would all walk down to the quaint Possum Creek Public School, which has since become home to renowned restaurant, The Hut.

By 1946, Denzil was graduating high school and his siblings had left the farm seeking different, and in some cases, more profitable paths.

However, dairy farming was where Denzil felt he belonged and had a duty to serve. It was now solely up to him to keep the legacy of dairy farming running through the Thomas family.

Denzil began working full-time in the dairy with his father where he continued learning the trade.

He delights in telling me, 'Dad was a strong milker and he timed himself one day. He always milked into a three-gallon bucket, a really big bucket, and he filled that bucket in three-and-a-half minutes just with hand milking!'

Before settling in Possum Creek, Denzil's father first owned a milk-run in Sydney.

He would wake at 2am to milk 25 cows by hand. At 5am,

he would harness up a cart and start delivering the milk all around town. Then at 2pm he would bring the same 25 cows in, milk them, and do the afternoon delivery.

All-consuming work

There is then no doubt that by 1942, when the Thomas family got their first milking machines, there was a sigh of relief.

Although there was still no electricity on their farm until 1950, these machines were a lifechanging advancement to their daily milking practices and in Denzil's words, 'it made the milking so, so much easier.'

For decades the dairy remained and functioned the same. It wasn't until 1995 that the next major development arrived.

Denzil added a much-needed extension, which saw a large shed housing rows of modern milking machines installed. This impressive renovation enabled them to milk more than 90 cows an hour, which was a far cry from the previous six cows at a time. Here Denzil spent most of his days, continuing to work hard, long hours until he was 89 years old.

Closed in 2019

In early 2019, Denzil was forced to make a heartbreaking decision. Owing to lack of financial viability, the family dairy had to be closed and so ended an era.

Not only in the Northern Rivers, but also in the broader Australian agricultural landscape, many multi-generational family businesses have since collapsed.

Denzil reflects on this stating, 'there were a lot of dairies, it was all dairy country around here at one time and now there's hardly

any. There's only three left in the area and I was one of the last four in this area. There were originally nine.'

Farming continues

As for the future of their family dairy, Denzil and his son Geoff keep the door to the dairy slightly ajar by agreeing to leave everything as it was.

As Denzil puts it, 'All that equipment could be brought back into work again in case [dairy] ever got to a profitable stage. It wouldn't be too difficult to have to sell our beef herd and buy a dairy herd I suppose.'

Despite hurdles and hardships, the lineage of farmers in the Thomas family remains as strong and dedicated as ever.

The same driven and devoted approach toward life, work and farming instilled by Denzil's parents has been passed down the generations to Denzil's own children and grandchildren.

His sons David and Geoff are life-long farmers who also worked as young boys in the dairy alongside their father through to their adulthood.

Now both in their 60s, they have dedicated their lives to working the land of the Northern Rivers and in service to their community.

The generations of farmers continues with Geoff's son Charlie, a determined and successful fourth-generation farmer who also works with his father in their business, GCT Rural Contracting, on properties across the Northern Rivers.

With roots first put down here over a hundred years ago, the Thomas family continue to keep the spirit and tradition of multi-generational farming alive... until the cows come home!

Stalking the reclusive and quirky bitterns

Byron Bird Buddies

For those with patience, who are happy to spend long hours around freshwater wetland habitats, a reward in the form of a+ bittern sighting might be forthcoming.

If not an actual sighting – as these birds blend seamlessly into their surroundings – then perhaps its call.

Bitterns, along with herons and egrets, are members of the Ardeidae family, *ardea* being the Latin word for heron.

All are waders, who dedicate their lives to hunting for food in wetlands.

They are united in form by their mostly long, flexible, serpentine necks; slender bodies; long, stilt-like legs and elongated, sharp, straight bills.

They are potentially lethal bills, if you are their prey.

Of the three Ardeidae family members, bitterns are the most elusive, being beautifully camouflaged and highly secretive.

They are known to be nomadic, having to move from one habitat to another



Australasian Bittern. Photo Andrew Silcocks, BirdLife Australia

in response to water volume fluctuations, which may be caused by drought, flood, or human activity.

Worldwide, there are 12 bittern species and of those, four are found in Australia, with three living here in the Northern Rivers.

Three local species

Ranging in size from smallest to largest, those three are: the endangered Australian little bittern (*Ixobrychus dubius*) – 30cm long and 85g in weight; the vulnerable black bittern (*Botaurus flavicollis*) – 54-66cm in length and 400g in weight; and the endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*), with a length of 66-76cm and

weighing up to 1.4kg.

With their distinctive plumage and calls, our three bittern species, once seen or heard, are relatively easy for the keen observer to identify.

They nest in dense, undisturbed wetland vegetation, such as sedges, thick reeds, rushes or riparian thickets.

Nests are fashioned deep within these plants, whose structure affords security from predators, stable temperatures for eggs and chicks, and dependable, readily accessible food.

Little and black bitterns may also nest in trees. Their reliance on secluded, vegetated pockets directly links the health of bittern populations with the existence of

intact wetland habitat.

Bitterns guard their secrets closely. It's not just their ability to blend with reeds and sedges – they can remain undetected by freezing on the spot in an elongated stance, bill pointing heavenwards.

Or they can flatten themselves on the ground, remaining motionless for as long as is necessary.

Field ornithology

In 2012, in volume 29 of *Australian Field Ornithology*, ecologist Peter Menkhorst published a paper titled 'The food and foraging rate of an Australasian bittern'.

The paper was based on nine-and-a-half hours of observation, spread over four separate visits to the same site, where a particularly cooperative adult bird permitted him to observe its behaviour.

Menkhorst's bittern had chosen a 1.3km stretch of bank bordering a water channel at a treatment plant south of Melbourne along which to forage.

In his vehicle on the opposite bank, Menkhorst followed the bird, observing it through

binoculars and taking photos as it went about its daily business: resting, preening, travelling, hunting, feeding and, occasionally, showing signs of disturbance.

During that time, the bittern caught and ate 17 growling grass frogs and one common galaxias – a native fish. He described the bittern as walking 'slowly and purposefully', its body almost horizontal to the ground, noting that 'its long toes and slow, high-stepping gait facilitated this movement.'

Methodical and purposeful

He further described the bird's hunting behaviour as being 'methodical and purposeful, seemingly with intense concentration, and continued until a capture was made.'

At up to 75mm long and 35g in weight, adult growling grass frogs put up a jolly good struggle to avoid capture, 'kicking with their hind legs and gripping with their digits', all the while emitting a 'high-pitched squeal!'

Each time the bittern

caught a frog, it carried the prey in its bill from the thickly vegetated bank to be 'dunked several times in the water' – presumably to wash away the film of mucous covering its skin.

Menkhorst describes the bittern subduing the frog 'by mandibulation before being positioned for swallowing head first'.

In our neck of the woods, the places most likely to appeal to a bittern, and where bitterns have previously been observed include: the Marshalls Creek floodplain, Byron and Tyagarah wetlands, Rocky Creek Dam and upper catchment wetlands, and the Clarence floodplain wetlands. Black bittern nests have been observed in trees bordering Wilsons Creek.

Byron Bird Buddies participates in the annual Australasian Bittern Survey conducted by Birdlife Australia. If you would like to take part in the survey, or if you have wetlands on your property and want to be involved, please contact us at: byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com.

IN SUPPORT OF RAFIKI MWEMA

Rafiki Royale

LIVE MUSIC, SIDESHOW, ALLEY & GAMES

MC ON THE NIGHT ANNALIESE TODD FROM MAMAMIA

Dress your Vegas best for an evening of glamour & entertainment!

LENNOX HEAD CULTURAL CENTRE

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE 2026 @6PM

CASINO TABLES + ENTERTAINMENT + LIVE MUSIC
BUBBLES ON ARRIVAL + FOOD TRUCK + POKER TOURNAMENT
PRIZES TO BE WON FOR CASINO WINNERS, BEST DRESSED & MORE!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! RAFIKIMWEMA.COM

Grab your tickets here

PLATINUM SPONSOR

GOLD SPONSOR

SILVER SPONSOR

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR OTHER SPONSORS

Compassionate Care in Your Home

LOTUS PALLIATIVE CARE

Personal & reliable care in your home 24/7

Care in your home.

We do everything we can to support you to remain at home.

How can we help you?

Lotus Palliative Care provides personalised, compassionate care in the comfort of your own home, with 24/7 access to our team of experienced nurses.

Our Services include:

- End of life and palliative care
- Wound and catheter care
- Medication management including administration of intravenous meds
- Personal care and respite
- Emotional support for clients and families

Our team of experienced nurses are here for you.

(02) 6680 4800

lotuspalliativecare.com.au

The care and respect shown by everyone at Lotus was truly touching and an amazing comfort during a very tough time. The team's professionalism and warmth was incredible. I cannot praise them enough.

The care, the love. This is not just a job to Lotus Palliative Care. It truly is home felt caring and support.

Dino's



MULLUMBIMBY

ON SALE WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

FRESH PRODUCE

Lemons

NEW SEASON



\$6.99 kg

Celery

BRILLIANT VALUE



\$2.99 each

Snacking Tomatoes
Punnets 200g



UNBELIEVABLE

\$2.99 each

Strawberries



LOCAL PRODUCT

\$5.99 500g

Imperial Mandarins

UNBELIEVABLE



\$3.99 kg

Telegraph Cucumbers



FRESH

\$1.99 kg



IGA COMMUNITY CHEST

WE STAND BEHIND OUR FRESH FOOD

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

DINO'S IGA MULLUMBIMBY

62 BURRENBAR STREET • PH 6684 2207

*Conditions apply. Specials available Wednesday 6/5/26 – Sunday 10/5/26. Limits may apply. We reserve the right to correct printing errors.

Byron Winter Whales ocean swim



The mens 50-59 years swimmers hit the water at The Pass. The 900 or so entrants swam a truncated course due to conditions being too dangerous to swim past The Pass headland from Wategos. The Superfish division winners were Saul Easman in a time of 16:01 and female winner Adriana Fydler with a time of 16:48. Photo Jeff 'Smelly Fish' Dawson

Aslan Shand

Last Sunday, 3 May, the Byron Bay Winter Whales gathered wearing their iconic Okanui shorts, to host the Byron Property Sales Ocean Classic and Byron Chocolate Co Dash.

'After a nervous Saturday night, fearing cancellation due to large surf, the annual event was able to proceed by modifying the course. Usually starting from Wategos Beach, the 2.2km swim was moved to The Pass,

avoiding dangerous current and rocks,' a Winter Whales spokesperson told *The Echo*.

At only 16 years old on the day, Saul Easman was able to celebrate his birthday by taking out first place! The first woman home, Arianna Fydler, 21, finished third overall and for the first time ever, got the better of her former-Olympian father Chris, who finished a very creditable fifth.'

Byron Bay Surf Club supported the event with 96 members volunteering for

water safety. The event raised approximately \$40,000 and takes the Winter Whales' total amount raised to around \$1.2 million overall since 1983.

'Many competitors do multiple swims around the country, and all think the Ocean Classic is the best of all. Next year is special as it is our 40th anniversary of the swim and we would like as many people as possible to enter. So bring a friend as it's an absolute must to swim in the Bay in May,' said the spokesperson.

Mayberry wins Gold in Brisbane

Aslan Shand

Local athlete Paul Mayberry won gold at the 2026 MSA National Championships in Brisbane on Saturday, 2 May, in the 800 metres short course freestyle for age 75 to 79.

'I swim around four times a week at the Mullumbimby pool and have been swimming in the ocean and the pool most of my life,

probably since I was around seven years old,' Paul told *The Echo*.

Paul said he started racing in Masters swimming events about ten years ago.

'I won quite a few distance freestyle state titles but had not competed in the national titles except once about ten years ago. So winning at a National Championships was a complete surprise.'



Paul Mayberry with his gold medal for the 800 metres short course freestyle for age 75 to 79. Photo supplied

Clean sweep for Byron Shire Rebels as colts, women, and men all dominate

Hywel David

The day began with the Rebels' Colts delivering a clinical 43-19 victory over Lismore, with Tucker Groves earning man of the match. The momentum continued as the women's side secured a hard-fought 17-14 win over Kyogle. Faith Taylor crossed twice, followed by a crucial try from Rosallie Tranier and a Kari Massey conversion. Debutante Natte Strande was named woman of the match.

The men's first grade side took to the field clad in black armbands in tribute for second-rower Corey Stocks who said, 'it meant a lot not only to me but my family that the boys showed their respect, and dedicated Saturday's game to my Pop. That game will forever hold a special place in mine and my family's life, and I have the boys to thank for that.'

On the pitch, the Rebels' set-piece strength immediately put the Casino Bulls on the back foot. While the Bulls drew first blood against the run of play, the Rebels



Byron Shire Rebels v Casino Bulls. Photo supplied

responded when inside centre Jamie Gosling toed a loose ball through for Samuel Valpy to finish.

The first half remained a see-saw affair. A Casino break was answered by a team effort from the Rebels' backline, seeing captain Will Hawkins cross for a try converted by Valpy. Just before the break, a surging lineout maul led to a quick tap from Corey Stocks, allowing number eight David Flynn to power through several defenders. Valpy's conversion sent the Rebels into half time leading 19-14.

The Rebels' forwards took control in the second half.

Second-rower Zach Klassen hammered through to score, followed by a spectacular try-saving tackle from winger Campbell Harvey that stifled a Casino comeback.

The tone shifted for good after an interception by Klassen. Prop Oisín Canney added a try off a clinical pick-and-go, followed by a Valpy conversion and a Hawkins penalty. Though Casino managed a late consolation, winger Lisandro Ardeti crossed in the dying minutes to seal a 43-21 victory. Archie Alexander was awarded man of the match for his tireless work rate and defensive grit. The final score was 43-21.

Girls and boys encouraged to join the Rebels

Hywel David

The Byron Shire Rebels are signalling a big year ahead for local rugby, with both the Under-12s and the U18 Colts delivering standout performances across major preseason tournaments. The Rebels - the combined initiative of the Bangalow and Byron Bay junior rugby clubs - are proving that their grassroots, family-first approach is a winning formula on the big stage.

Under the guidance of coaches Ross Larsson and Bill Englefield, the Under-12 Rebels recently returned from the prestigious TAS Rugby Carnival in Armidale as outright winners of their division.

Competing in Australia's largest junior rugby carnival against 20 teams from across the eastern seaboard, the Byron side secured a convincing five-tries-to-one victory over Marist College Canberra in the grand final.

'The Byron Shire U12s ethos is to embody the spirit of fun, fair, and competitive rugby union through a family-based, grassroots mentality,' coach Ross Larsson said of the win.

Earlier in the preseason, the U12s also hosted a successful invitational round-robin at the Byron Rec Field against the Casuarina Barbarians, and travelling players from the Mosman Whales and Dolphins.

The success continued in

Brisbane, where the Rebels U18 Colts took on the region's best in the BJRU Lightning Series. Led by coach Christian Serge, alongside coach Reece Bartlett, and manager Bryson King, the squad finished an impressive third overall. The Colts' campaign was highlighted by a dominant 39-19 win over GPS.

As the season approaches, the club is looking for more Rebels to join the ranks. They remain determined to invite as many boys and girls from within the Bangalow, Lismore, Clunes, and Byron Bay catchment to be a part of the 'premier junior program' in the Far North Coast competition and expand the Rebel family.

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

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

& much much more!

Echo

In the paper each week and online at www.echo.net.au

Service Directory



KARATE CLASSES

Mondays & Wednesdays
Juniors (8-13yrs) 4.30-5.30pm
Seniors (14+ yrs) 5.45-7pm

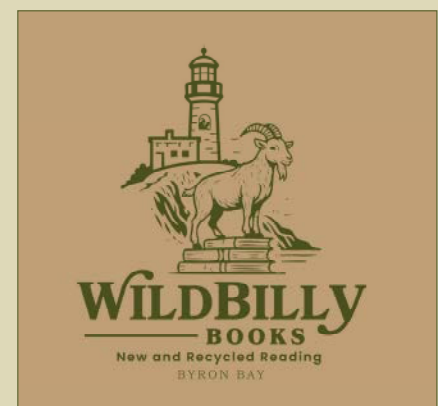
First term classes commence
Wednesday 4th Feb.

Register online for two free classes.

jinwukoonkarate.com.au

0490 849 295

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

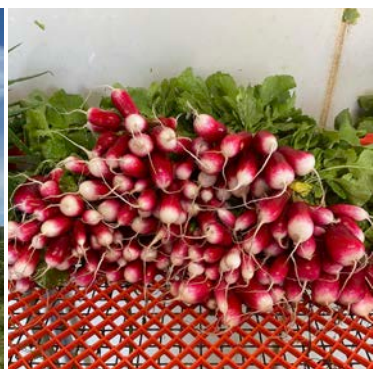


11 Fletcher St. Byron Bay
50 m from Surf Club down the path (next to No Bones Restaurant) and Brunsbooks, Fingal St Brunswick Heads.

The Good Life




Rod (R) and Ryan (L) Bruin from Summit Organics are preparing for an environment of climate change and fuel uncertainty.



Summit Organics' farming advantage

Allie Godfrey

I spoke recently with Rod Bruin, owner of one of our most respected organic farming operations, Summit Organics, to find out what he's planting right now – and how the very formidable Bruin family is preparing for climate change and looming fuel shortages.

It's very much a family affair. Rod is often strategising behind the scenes, while his wife Tania – the pocket rocket of the operation – keeps everything moving, and their son Ryan holds

the front line at the markets, and their other son, Owen, runs all the machinery and prepares the soil!

As the cooler months set in, Rod says the focus shifts back to seasonal staples. 'We move away from tropical crops and back into the leafies – silverbeet, spinach, and coriander,' he explains.

Onions and leeks are being planted now for later harvest, while brassicas like broccoli, broccolini, cabbage, and cauliflower are on their way. Peas are thriving in the cooler conditions, while basil and tomatoes

continue under protected indoor systems.

With increasingly unpredictable weather systems, the Bruins are moving more towards growing under cover. Their use of greenhouses, shade systems, and overhead cooling sprinklers helps protect crops from extreme heat and stabilise growing conditions year-round.

When it comes to diesel and fuel use, organic farming gives them an advantage. They rely less on heavy inputs, and their travel miles are short, servicing local farmers' markets rather

than long supply chains. That local focus not only reduces fuel dependence but also strengthens food security within the community.

Despite rising costs and uncertainty, Summit Organics remains resilient – demonstrating how local, family-run farms can adapt and continue to supply fresh, organic produce in a changing world.

Find Summit Organics every Tuesday at New Brighton Farmers Market, and every Friday at Mullum Farmers Market, both from 7am to 11am.

The ARTISTS



BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL PRESENTS BOOKER PRIZE SHORTLISTED AUTHOR SUSAN CHOI

Join Booker Prize shortlisted author Susan Choi in conversation with Mick O'Regan about her award-winning novel *Flashlight*.

Flashlight tells the astonishing story of one family swept up in the tides of the 20th century, ranging from Japan to the US to the North Korean regime.

Choi is also the author of *Trust Exercise*, *My Education*, *A Person of Interest*, *American Woman* and *The Foreign Student*. She has won the National Book Award for Fiction, the Asian American Literary Award for Fiction, the PEN/W. G. Sebald Award and a Lambda Literary Award, and has been a finalist for the Booker Prize and the Pulitzer Prize.

Tuesday 19 May, Brunswick Picture House
Tix: brunswickpicturehouse.com/susan-choi-in-conversation-19-may/



ART IN THE HEART OF MULLUMBIMBY: EXHIBITION 11

Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre is once again transformed into a gallery as the H'Art Gallery unveils its 12th exhibition. With ten artists and more 30 works across painting, printmaking, and mixed media, this show celebrates both the reach and intimacy of local creativity.

Bessminda Groves brings muscular emotional weight to oil on canvas - her works 'Hope is a Thing with Claws' and 'Happenstance' bristle with tension and surrender. Bill Veale's sweeping coastal acrylics trace the Broken Head headlands with quiet awe. Blair Ferguson offers tender, small-scale studies of local rivers and beaches in ink and oil. Brendan Kelly returns with bold, conceptually-charged work, including the striking 'Corellas'. Edward Sach contributes a deeply personal piece navigating cancer survival with colour and grace.

Karena Wynn-Moylan's luminous oils move from coastal light to fallen birds, always with reverence. Marika Bryant fills the room with lyrical mixed media that blur landscape and lived experience. Sally Green brings richly textured abstracts drawing on outback pigments and arctic cool alike. Spero Jones delivers visceral, polymer-varnished works pulsing with elemental force. And curator Solveig anchors the exhibition with signature graphic impressions - from moonlit botanicals to deep neural explorations.

Together they remind us that art doesn't just decorate a health centre - it heals it.

Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre
60 Stuart St, Mullumbimby



Antoinette O'Brien, *Dagda* 2026, high fired ceramic, cement, 26 x 21 x 16 cm. Image courtesy of the artist. © The artist

AFTER FUGUE ANTOINETTE O'BRIEN 22 MAY – 23 AUGUST 2026

The ceramic works of regional artist, Antoinette O'Brien, often portray the human figure, becoming both portraits of places and landscapes as her mineral glazes melt and froth to emulate sea foam, deep oceans, black stone cliffs, or the surface of a salt lake. Other ceramic works include quotidian objects — embossed, as porcelain appears to be quilted, like a mattress. With these works O'Brien asks, 'What is strong, and when on earth will we rest?'

In the same way figurative works become landscapes, O'Brien's exhibition *After Fugue* refers to both personal and collective crisis, as well as the cacophony of complex musical scores which uplift, haunt and inspire. For the artist, all are true.

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

Open Wed to Sun, 10am to 4pm
2 Mistral Rd, South Murwillumbah
Free entry

Winter Opening Celebrations
Friday 29 May, 6 to 8pm, free entry
Bookings essential <https://events.humanitix.com/woc26>

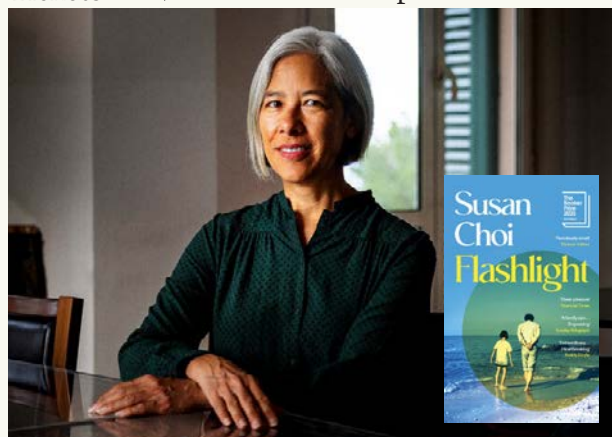
b Special Event

Susan Choi in Conversation

Tuesday, 19 May
Brunswick Picture House

Join Booker Prize shortlisted author Susan Choi in conversation about her award-winning novel 'Flashlight'.

Tickets —> brunswickpicturehouse.com



H'ART GALLERY

Art in the heart
INSPIRED LOCAL ART

Mullumbimby
 Comprehensive Health Centre

After Fugue Antoinette O'Brien 22 May – 23 August 2026



Antoinette O'Brien *Papaver* (detail) 2026 high fired ceramic with lustre, cement, 19 x 15 x 9 cm. Image courtesy the artist © The artist

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE



ART GALLERIES

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

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

ARTIST'S STUDIO GALLERY

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

BANGALOW FINE ART

Consultancy / Sales / Valuations
bangalowfineart.com.au

BLACK FIG GALLERY

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

BYRON CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

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

BLUE KNOB

719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock
Open Thursday to Sunday 10am-3pm
02 6689 7449
blueknobgallery.com

BURRINGBAR GALLERY

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

GALLERY COSMOSIS

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

GARAGE GALLERY

'Community Arts Hub'
(Byron Community College)
Cnr Gordon & Burringbar Streets,
Mullumbimby
02 6684 3374
[@mullum.garage.gallery](https://www.instagram.com/mullum.garage.gallery)

H'ART GALLERY

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

HAVEN GALLERY

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

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

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

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

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

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

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

MZ GALLERY

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

NINBELLA GALLERY

Open Mon-Sat 10-4pm & Sun 10-2pm
19a Byron Street Bangalow
0429 357 274
ninbella.com

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

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



Image credit: Byron School of Art - *Fundamentals of Painting*

ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR BYRON SCHOOL OF ART'S TERM 2 COURSES

Enrolments are now open for BSA's full program of Term 2 Short Courses and Weekend Workshops. Available classes include: Painting, Ceramics, Creative and Professional Practice, Fundamentals of Design, Collage and Exploration with Gouache which students can do online, or in person mentoring with one of BSA's Directors or teachers. All classes are limited to small groups to maximise one-on-one time with instructors. Visit their website for more information and to enrol or to sign up to BSA's mailing list to stay informed of all upcoming classes and events.

112 Daley St, Mullumbimby
byronschoolofart.com

BSA BYRON SCHOOL OF ART

**Term 2
Short Courses &
Weekend Workshops
now listed online and
open for enrolment**

byronschoolofart.com

The ARTS



CREATE, LEARN AND CONNECT THIS MAY

Byron Community College is welcoming the community into a vibrant season of creativity, connection and learning. Applications are now open for the nationally-recognised Certificate III in Visual Arts, starting in June, with limited subsidised places available for those ready to develop their artistic voice, build practical skills and grow creative confidence through guided studio practice and contemporary art exploration.

Alongside this, the college offers a range of creative short courses designed to spark new skills and hands-on making, including welding, metal fabrication, printmaking, watercolour and landscape painting.

In the Garage Gallery, May opens with *Mesh*, a dynamic group exhibition bringing together local artists working across painting, sculpture, ceramics and floristry, launching Friday 15 May, followed by a solo exhibition by Sarah Darling presenting new painterly works exploring tone, texture and atmosphere, opening Friday 29 May.

Byron Community College
www.byroncollege.org.au
 02 6684 3374

MOTHERS DAY ARTS & CRAFTS EVENT

The Ballina Arts and Crafts Group, BACCI, will be holding its Annual Autumn Art & Craft Show on the weekend of Saturday 9, and Sunday 10, of May from 9am to 3pm at The Masonic Centre, 56 Cherry Street, Ballina. Free entry. As a registered charity BACCI will be raising money to donate to Ballina Bosom Buddies, in aid of Breast Cancer.

Come along, enjoy a day out, bring a friend, just in time to purchase a unique Mother's Day gift. Relax with a cuppa and cake at our pop-up cafe. Vote on the People's Choice Award, which creation means the most to you! You can win from a range of exciting valuable prizes!

BACCI members create a broad mix of high quality arts and crafts including painting, limited edition prints, fabric dye-painting, weaving, woodwork, jewellery, natural paper-dyeing, post cards, bee hives, ceramics, and fabric sewing crafts.

See you there.
9 to 10 May, 9am to 3pm
Masonic Centre, Cherry Street, Ballina
Free entry

Byron Community College
 RTO 90013

CUA31125
**CERTIFICATE III
 VISUAL ARTS**
 LIMITED SUBSIDISED
 PLACES AVAILABLE

VISUAL ARTS
www.byroncollege.org.au

This training is subsidised by the NSW government

BACCI

**ART & CRAFT SHOW
 MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL**

**9 & 10 MAY
 9AM TO 3PM
 CAFE OPEN ALL DAY**

MASONIC CENTRE
 56 CHERRY ST, BALLINA

FUNRAISER FOR:

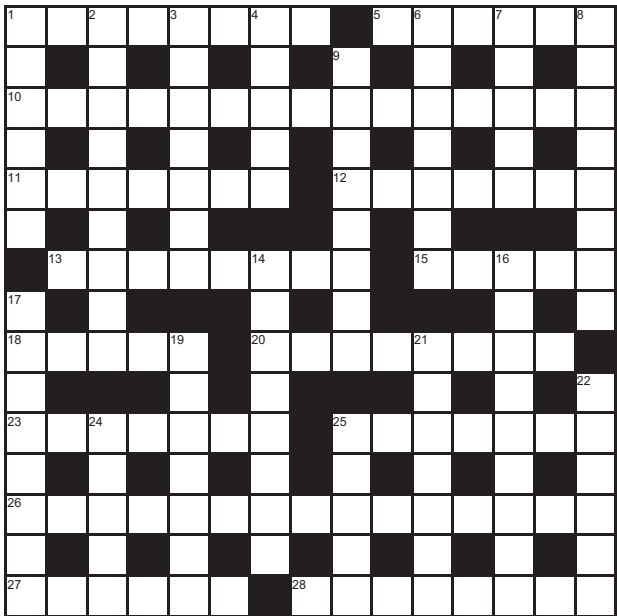
**FREE
 ENTRY**

WWW.BACCI.COM.AU

Mungo from the Bardo

Crossword by Mungo MacCallum

#16



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. And the first shall be the last (8)
5. Climb up the backside, as Americans would say (6)
10. Earnest digger unearths Apollo gestation (15)
11. Spiv holds back knight, and takes a trip (7)
12. Mistake article in the last working day – designed for speed! (7)
13. Great work for monarch with real problem (4,4)
15. Eagles nest sounds weird (5)
18. Lodgers abandon front and back but go in anyway (5)
20. This poem is beyond speech (8)
23. Science in confusion, but still in good odour (7)
25. Decoration of ribbons is locked in repetition (7)
26. Stones' memorial album, perhaps, is a study for 10 across (3,6,6)
27. Finish the measure before the sound of the bell (6)
28. He estimates idiots, with a short pain (8)

DOWN

1. Presumptuous, and risen above sorrow (6)
2. Hebrew scholar to reluctantly admit lust (9)
3. Chinese dynasty embraces Oriental alien in assembly (7)
4. Up and down rule (5)
6. Affliction produces swelling, firm inside (7)
7. Heath and Jong? (5)
8. Dined, ate, suffered: now locked up (8)
9. Finds skeletal remains around a tree – signals for help! (8)
14. Number one man in the oil company gets a coffee (8)
16. Responses about lawsuits (9)
17. Shrink from insult? (8)
19. Called Sellers, we hear, in Myanmar (7)
21. Blue view of Russian river (7)
22. Contortionist goes on a spree (6)
24. There's chromium upriver, that's the belief (5)
25. Radio for parts for the expensive car (5)

■ Crossword circa 2008

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Final, perfect (8)
5. Climb, rise (6)
10. Expert on fossils (15)
11. Tripper, traveller for pleasure (7)
12. Very fast Italian car (7)
13. Tragedy by Shakespeare (4,4)
15. Eagle's nest (5)
18. Go inside, penetrate (5)
20. Rural, especially of poetry (8)
23. Eastern perfume used in church (7)
25. Bunch of ribbons used as decoration (7)
26. What 10 across studies (3,6,6)
27. Finale, conclusion (6)
28. Estimator, especially for insurance purposes (8)

DOWN

1. Pushy, cheeky (6)
2. Scholar of sacred Hebrew writing (9)
3. Assembly, gathering (7)
4. Rule, doctrine (5)
6. Punish, afflict (7)
7. The heath bush (5)
8. Prisoner, one under strait (8)
9. Blazes lit as signals or celebrations (8)
14. Italian coffee (8)
16. Responses, reverse movements (9)
17. Put down, denigrate (8)
19. Capital of Burma (7)
21. Offensive, pornographic (7)
22. Drinking spree (6)
24. Belief system (5)
25. Buns served with a meal (5)

Last week's solution #15



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

Why Only Nature Can Save Us

Sometimes it's hard to know what's real. It's hard to know who to trust. Weirdos in the thing they call the manosphere who groom men into poisonous misogyny. Billionaires who have no problem getting richer while single mums bring up their kids in the back seat of a car. Political leaders who bomb houses where babies live. News sources that are biased. Algorithms that track you like some creepy digital stalker. Women murdered by their partner or ex-partner. Children hurt by the people who were supposed to love them. One man living in a \$35 million beachfront mansion, another living on the beach in a swag.

It feels sometimes like the world is lopsided. It feels like we are in danger. It is no wonder most of the modern world lives in a constant state of panic. We live in a world that is hyperfixated on wealth and consumption, on beauty and achievement. It tells us we are less than. That we are not enough. While over three billion people live in extreme poverty and malnutrition, others use a medication to stop them eating. It's absurd. We are starving. We are binge eating. We are empty. We strive to fill the unfillable hole. The ache of our humanity. The thing we drink to silence. We shop to stifle.

Meanwhile behind the whitened smile of our Instagram profile pic we feel anxious and scared. We feel disconnected and sad.

In a world that's never had more people we feel alone.

Welcome to late-stage capitalism where the star of the show is alienation. And it's centre stage.

It's hard not to feel a little disenchanted.

As humans we so desperately need to have something we can believe in. An oasis of moral calm in a savage sea.

The other day it occurred to me that nature is the only place with integrity. It doesn't want me to buy anything. It's not collecting my data.

Nature isn't watching me through my window and slipping through my door. Nature isn't coming to rape me. Nature doesn't send me bills. It doesn't tell me I'm fat. Or old. Or stupid.

Nature doesn't judge me.

Nature exists in this fragile timeless space. Trying to do what it has always



...nature is the only place with integrity. It doesn't want me to buy anything. It's not collecting my data.

done. Bees pollinating flowers. Ants circling the sap on a tree. A seed pushing a tiny shoot through the undergrowth looking for sun. A tree reaching for light. A magpie calling. A nest. A web. A home. Cycles of life and interdependence. Deep ecology. Natural intelligence. It doesn't look for likes on social media.

It's a place AI can't reach. I stand in nature, enjoy the sand under my feet, the sky above me. I feel small. Inconsequential. I feel part of something eternal. I am a grain of sand. I am a leaf on the forest floor. I am a bird in the tree. I am part of this. I am life.

It's profound. It's a return to self. It's medicine.

Wild spaces are precious. They're a reminder it's possible to live in balance. That dominance of an invasive species creates destruction. That we as humans are an invasive species nearly everywhere on the planet.

I think about David Attenborough who turns 100 on 8 May. He is, in my

opinion, one of the truly remarkable humans, not because he has dominated nature through building or achievement, but because of his quiet fixated passion to understand and learn from nature.

Attenborough is the antidote to Epstein. To the manosphere. To my fury at the patriarchy.

He has lived his life with a simple enlightenment, that nature is our church, it is our library, it is our mirror, it is us.

Stand in nature. Be silent. Listen. Watch.

Then, stand for nature. It's the only truth left.

■ 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

Pluto taking a planetary pause in Aquarius until mid-October prompts a world-wide period of reflection on power dynamics, the detriments of technology, and the importance of social connection...



TAURUS THE BULL

ARIES: With the celestial quartet of Mars, Saturn, Neptune and Chiron in your combustible sign, the pressure's on. Aries can sometimes move too quickly into the friction of differences, and while old habits don't die overnight, this week suggests experimenting with new ways of resolving problems and reaching accord.

TAURUS: Communicator Mercury in your birthday sign can bring brilliant flashes of insight if you're able to follow spontaneous leads, test-drive new approaches and explore alternative ideas so you're primed and ready when healing planet Chiron makes its midyear move into Taurus for the next seven years.

GEMINI: Flirty, playful Venus in Gemini is this week's welcome balance to world news – that's the upside. The downside is that options multiplying and distractions doubling make it hard to commit because there are so many choices. Your planet ruler Mercury entering its most sensible placement will definitely help.

CANCER: This year so far seems to have pulled the plug out of our collective reality socket. And with Uranus, planet of surprises, in the sign of communication for the next seven years, collaborative discussion and connection are paramount. Your stars suggest this week isn't too soon to make a start.

LEO: An unpredictable Sun/Uranus alignment could see May taking a surprising turn you couldn't have anticipated, but this cosmic combination also sparks flashes of insight, so don't cling too tightly to plans. Stay ready to pivot, because this could be the breakthrough you've been waiting for in disguise.

VIRGO: As your guiding planet Mercury slows into lower gear in a fellow earth sign, this week's energy downshift to the autumnal comfort zone is palpable. This zodiac cycle of sensual pleasures is your time for kicking back, connecting with friends, enjoying music, food and nature's endless offerings.

LIBRA: Witty, friendly and entertaining, your guiding planet Venus in social butterfly mode helps you to lighten this week's density for those around you, for which they'll be grateful. What's not likely to work as well? Trying to pin people down, so best hold off till a more astrologically propitious time.

SCORPIO: Since this month's astrological activity is known to provoke power plays, make it a point to deflect negativity so you don't absorb it. Do your best to clarify mixed signals, and in situations where there may be unspoken tension, keep cool: the less reactive you are, the more stable your position.

SAGITTARIUS: The current zodiac season encourages patience, persistence, and slow and steady step-by-step progress on long-term plans, which to you fiery types might be sounding a bit like the no-fun zone. So make this week interesting by dancing the fine line between overreaching and underwhelming.

CAPRICORN: This week's earthy energy speaks your language, and is in full support of moving forward, but with reasonable reserves of caution because the over-assertive tendencies of your planet ruler Saturn's current position has been known to cause unintended offense. Empathy and sensitivity offer ample and generous rewards.

AQUARIUS: Just as we earthlings were enjoying a retrograde-free respite, Pluto retrogrades in Aquarius – your personal cue to review what's working and what's not in collaborations. If group dynamics need recalibration, divvy up duties so everyone can play to their strengths, which is best done face to face where possible.

PISCES: The upside of this and the next couple of weeks favours getting all the boring, dull, practical necessities done, because crossing off the to-do list will provide a feeling of satisfaction, relief and space to play when the zodiac's fun season kicks in during the last days of May.

Volume 40 #38
 6-12 May, 2026
 Editor: Eve Jeffery
 Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment

Seven days of entertainment

NEVEN



Mullum Roots artists

Following a sold-out inaugural event in 2025, **Mullum Roots Festival** is thrilled to announce its artists for the 2026 edition, which they say promises to deliver an even bigger and better experience in Mullum.

Set across various venues in town, the festival will now incorporate an additional venue this year, offering a 'Youth Battle of The Bands' and more room for music lovers to gather and celebrate.

With its reputation for bringing together an eclectic mix of acts, Mullum Roots Festival has successfully carved out its place as one of the most anticipated events on the regional calendar.

Headlining will be the iconic **Mental As Anything**. Original members **Reg Mombassa** and **Peter O'Doherty** have reunited Mental As Anything for a 50th Anniversary Tour and Mullum Roots Festival are incredibly excited to bring them to town.

It doesn't stop there. More artist announcements include three times ARIA winner and double-

platinum-selling artist **Alex Lloyd**, ARIA winners **Busby Marou**, as well as nostalgic '90s favorites such as the satirical and evocative **Dave Graney** and **Clare Moore**, **Marcia Howard** and her brother **Damien Howard**, **Lucie Thorne**, The Go Betweens' **Lindy Morrison**, country music hillbilly and outlaw **Bill Chambers**, and the ever-popular and, well-loved in Mullum, blues lady **Jo Jo Smith**.

Not to mention local icons including **Kyle Lionheart**, **Zee Star** and **Hayley Grace**, **Women Of Country**, **Abbie Cardwell** and the **Bay Collective**.

Tickets are now on sale and are extremely limited – act fast to secure your spot at this unmissable celebration of music.

Mullum Roots Festival is proudly sponsored by Stone & Wood – supporting live music and local artists in our community.

For ticket information, artist updates, and festival details, visit www.mullumrootsfest.com.

Meg Mac wants to party

ARIA #1 artist **Meg Mac** is in her party era, her fourth studio album, *It's My Party*, marks a vivid new chapter – one shaped by creative freedom, collaboration, and joy. Written and recorded between London and Los Angeles, the album reflects a shift away from rigid planning toward instinct, play, and openness. What began as a tightly controlled concept ultimately evolved into something far more expansive.

That release became central to the album's emotional core. After years of intense self-pressure, Meg found a new creative rhythm by loosening control and embracing collaboration.

Produced by acclaimed UK producer Bullion (Carly Rae Jepsen, Ben Howard), *It's My Party* is an eclectic alt-pop record that brings together contrasting worlds – sonically, geographically, and creatively.

The album features tracks that highlight Meg's unmistakable vocal power while leaning into darker textures. Across the record, she continues to balance emotional honesty with irresistible melody, delivering some of her most open, joyful, and self-assured work to date.

Meg Mac plays The Northern on Thursday from 8pm.



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

35-43 JONSON ST
BYRON BAY
6685 6454

[THENORTHERN.COM.AU](http://thenorthern.com.au)
@thenorthernbyronbay

THUR 07 MAY	Front Bar: Trilla 6pm, DJ Quendo 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: MEG MAC
FRI 08 MAY	Front Bar: JB Blues Breakers 7pm, DJ Oren Selecta 10.15pm DUELLING PIANO BAR LAUNCH IN THE BACKROOM 8PM
SAT 09 MAY	Front Bar: Electric Avenue (Jesse Witney) 7pm DJ Jamie Lowe 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
SUN 10 MAY	Front Bar: Ben Walsh 5pm, Vinyl Sunday ft Monsieur Diop 8.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
MON 11 MAY	Front Bar: Jerome Williams 6pm, DJ Davi Bangma Duelling Piano Bar 9pm BACKPACKER MONDAYS
TUES 12 MAY	Front Bar: Marshal Okell 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
WED 13 MAY	Front Bar: Dan Hannaford 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm



MEG MAC



MAY 8TH LAUNCHING
PIANOS IN THE BACKROOM



DAMN RIGHT THEY GOT THE BLUES

JB's Blues Breakers have been a fixture on the Northern Rivers circuit for over two years, they have several local residencies, and over what might become an annual 'Blues Over Byron' Easter weekend, they played to full rooms at The Northern, The Rails and Lennox Hotel. They capped the weekend with a guest appearance from Australian, international guitar prodigy Taj Farrant at Lennox.

JB's Blues Breakers, fronted by Lennox local **Josh Blau** (he's the JB in JB's) have cemented themselves as one of the fun shows to see if you're looking for music. Side-by-side with Blau is drummer **Grant Gerathy** (John Butler Trio, Pete Murray, Angus Stone), bassist **Nic Lemits** (Marshall & the Fro, Lisa Hunt), and lead guitarist **Geoff Wright** (JJ Cale, Robben Ford, Tina Turner, Procol Harum), who like Blau are all Northern Rivers locals, but they bring serious national pedigree to every show.

Blau, who started playing piano when he was nine got a guitar when he was about 12. 'It was the same old story – you can't travel with a piano. I'd always been very into Elvis and BB King, all that sort of rootsy blues and rock and roll. And when I moved up here I hadn't really played music for a while, and I met a couple of old guys down at the [Lennox Surf Club] kiosk who play every Saturday. They're just the loveliest group of older gentlemen and I ran up and said, 'Hey, you guys need a bass player?' And they said, 'Sure!' I ran home and got the bass and had a play. I realised I really missed it.

'I found the Lennox Hotel jam every Thursday which just has a pool of incredible musicians,' says Blau.

'I realised that other than the Blues Club on Sundays in Ballina, there wasn't really any way you could go to see blues and rock and roll bands, so I just decided to start one.'

The rest as they say...

Since then JB's Blues Breakers have been a constant reminder to Northern Rivers folk that you can't stop the blues – they pop up everywhere – you'll find them keeping it fresh and real every weekend somewhere on the circuit with monthly residencies at The Rails, Coolangatta Hotel, The Northern, Lennox Hotel, Club Lennox, and Feddy's Alstonville.

'The band's setlist is dedicated to the blues, but not limited to it with country, '50s rock and roll and soul featuring in our shows,' says Blau. 'We have a huge repertoire that means every show can be different and a unique experience for the audience.'

It's what keeps the venues full and the people coming back week after week.

Blau's musical knowledge of blues and '50s to '60s performers is massive. Before a song he'll often give a lot of background information and history

on famous artists such as B.B. King, Ray Charles, Freddie King as well as the Beatles, Bobby Darin and Tony Joe White.

This May, they return to the Gold Coast for Blues on Broadbeach – back for the third time since 2023. They also have a headline slot at Riverhead Rocks Festival, Fraser Coast, 17 to 19 to July. Other festival appearances include Cooly Rocks On, Blues on the Bayou, Love Lennox Festival, Winter Solstice, and Mullum Roots.

The most exciting news is a second album in the works, following a debut vinyl produced by Jordan Power (Xavier Rudd, Ash Grunwald, Kasey Chambers) at Brooklet Studios.

JB's Blues Breakers are constantly moving onwards and upwards.

You can find them on Facebook and Instagram @jbsbluesbreakers.

THE DARK SIDE
A PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE

4:30PM
SUN 10 MAY **BEACH HOTEL** FREE ENTRY

1 BAY STREET, BYRON BAY

MISEX
SPACE RACE 1980

BEACH HOTEL
SUN 17 MAY 2026
BYRON BAY NSW
W/- THE HIGH ROLLERS

DOORS 4PM | FREE ADMISSION | MISEX.COM.AU

TRIPLEPEAK GREAT SOUTHERN HEIGHTS NSW FEEL NEW SOUTH WALES ARIA NITE-RITE

HSBC
German
Film Festival 2026

PALACE BYRON BAY & BALLINA FAIR
7 - 27 MAY
PALACE BYRON BAY & BALLINA FAIR
GERMANFILMFESTIVAL.COM.AU

BOOK NOW



Mi-Sex Space Race lands

Touring a massive live show featuring all the greatest hits and more, following the group's sold-out national tour and 45th anniversary of the trailblazing LP *Graffiti Crimes*, **Mi-Sex** promises a catastrophic collision of post-punk, 1980's new wave, and the avant-garde, so get set for a sonic spectacle that's as blistering as it is passionate and powerful.

In 1979, ABC's Double J embraced the emergence of new wave and Mi-Sex became regular guests on *Countdown*, which saw the group shoot to #1 with 'Computer Games'. Rounding-out the decade with its landmark performance at the Sydney Opera House – the 'Concert of the Decade' – Mi-Sex is revered by peers and punters alike as the band of its era. Early the following year, Mi-Sex *Graffiti Crimes* scooped the TV Week/Countdown Music Awards with four gongs, including: Best New Single ('Computer Games'), Most Popular Single/Album ('Computer Games' / *Graffiti Crimes*), Best New Talent (Mi-Sex), and Best Production (Peter Dawkins/*Graffiti Crimes*).

Paying homage to *Space Race*, Mi-Sex play all the hits from *Graffiti Crimes* (1979) – 'Computer Games', 'But You Don't Care', 'Not Such A Bad Boy', and 'Stills' – alongside your favourites from *Space Race* (1980) – 'People', 'It Only Hurts When I'm Laughing' and the infamous title track – and many more, including 'Falling In And Out', 'Blue Day', 'Castaway', and a few newbies just for fun – let's party like it's 1980!

Now, altogether reimagined to honour and pay legacy to the 45th anniversary of *Space Race*, Mi-Sex new wave features founding member, songwriter, producer, and local legend **Murray Burns** (keys 'n' synth), **Steve Balbi** (vocals), **Joel McDonald** (guitar), **Bobby Poulton** (bass), and **Jordan McDonald** (drums).

Beach Hotel, Byron Bay, on Sunday 17 May, with very special guests, The High Rollers. Free Admission, doors open at 4pm.

Seven days of entertainment



They're wild and audacious

Cha Cha Bang's embodied burlesque spectacular is back – stripped bare and smoking hot.

Quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with, the **Wild Women** are back for a fifth season of scandalous striptease.

Pretty Audacious will grip you from start to finish with a ritual burlesque show of sensuality, tease and empowerment. Directed by Cha Cha Bang, this show features 20+ local women who have been on a deep inner journey, reclaiming the erotic and the divine. Alchemising their truth into a powerhouse performance of unadulterated expression.

Expect flaming hot performances and striptease that will linger with you long after you've left the theatre.

Come and experience what all the hype is about!

Shows this Thursday at 7pm and then next week on Thursday and Friday.

For more information and tickets, visit brunswickpicturehouse.com.

2026 **MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL**

11-12 JULY

ENDANGERED SPECIES!

MENTAL AS ANYTHING

BUSBY MAROU | ALEX LLOYD

DAVE GRANEY & CLARE MOORE | THE BAY COLLECTIVE BIG BAND
 ROB SNARSKI & LINDY MORRISON | BILL CHAMBERS
 MARGIA HOWARD & DAMIAN HOWARD | THE PINKS | JO JO SMITH
 YOUTH BATTLE OF THE BANDS | LUCIE THORNE | KYLE LIONHART
 ABBIE GARDWELL | FINOJET | ROGUE ELEMENTS | THE HOOCHERS
 KRISTINA OLSEN | WILD ROCKET | LOU BRADLEY | Z-STAR
 KANGAROOS WITH MACHINE GUNS | WANITA QUEEN OF HONKY TONK
 MINNIE MARKS | MANDY HAWKES | WOMEN OF COUNTRY
 BRODIE BUTTONS | JIMMY DOWLING | JOEY'S COOP
 VELGRO BULLY | ORTHENTIX | YAZMINDI

STONE WOOD

WWW.MULLUMROOTSFEST.COM

EXPERIENCE GOLDCOAST.

Queensland AUSTRALIA

BLUES ON 14-17 MAY 2026

BROADBEACH

SUNDAY TICKET • 17 MAY 2026

THE TESKEY BROTHERS

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **EMMA DONOVAN • ASH GRUNWALD**

IAN MOSS
RUTHIE FOSTER • MONONEON
ROBERT FINLEY • THE BAMBOOS
GRACE CUMMINGS
THE LACHY DOLEY TRIO
DADDY LONG LEGS

PLUS MANY MORE

BLUESONBROADBEACH.COM

CELEBRATING **25 YEARS**

NEWS



The Dark Side, beachside

The Dark Side – A Pink Floyd Experience is a show recreating the songs and sounds from the golden era of Pink Floyd's vast repertoire. The show reproduces tracks from the classic albums; *The Dark Side Of The Moon*, *Wish You Were Here*, *Animals* and the concept masterpiece that is *The Wall* – with a few often requested crowd pleasers from other albums.

The popularity of Pink Floyd and their music is unquestionable. They are the seventh biggest selling act in the history of popular music with over 250 million records sold. They released 10 multi-platinum albums, two of which list in the top ten best-selling albums of all-time. The Dark Side recreates the sensory and sonic experience that made 'the Floyd' rock music icons. Let The Dark Side take you on a journey through the back catalogue of one of the most popular bands in the history of rock music.

Catch The Dark Side – A Pink Floyd Experience at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay on Sunday from 4.30pm. This is a free show.

SPIDER SKILLS WANTED

BayFM's website needs some TLC

Good on the web? Skilled in Wordpress? Do you have an hour or so a week in your work schedule?

We need your help to make our website look and work better. We have folks here who can write, but we need to get those words in the right place at the right time to make our online experience sing.

If that's you, please contact studiomanager@bayfm.org



bayfm.org
Listen like a local



This queen has to be seen!

A major new Australian work will take centre stage this May, as **Drill Hall Theatre** presents the world premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Queen* – a bold, original musical transforming the venue into a glittering disco palace.

Set against the vibrant backdrop of the Tropical Fruits New Year's Eve Festival in Lismore, the story unfolds in a world fuelled by music, connection and radical inclusion – where love in all its forms is celebrated.

Inspired by Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, this high-energy reimagining brings romance, mischief and mistaken identity into a dazzling queer festival setting of sequins, spectacle and sky-high wigs.

Created by Australian playwright and composer **Michael Sharmon**, the production showcases a passionate company of LGBTQI+ artists and allies. With a pop-infused score inspired by Kylie Minogue, Madonna and ABBA, audiences can expect powerhouse vocals and dynamic choreography by Danielle Linegar.

Directed by **Kylie Fuad**, the show balances exuberance with emotional depth, offering a vibrant tribute to queer culture, community and belonging.

Following its premiere, the production will tour to Qtopia Pride Fest in Sydney, bringing a joyful celebration of community and music to new audiences.

See the Gig Guide (page 30) for times for this great show, 7 to 24 May at the Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby. Book now: drillhalltheatre.org.au.

BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

DINGOES ON COUNTRY SHORT FILM SCREENINGS:

MOORT
CALLING DINGO BACK TO COUNTRY

WOOLEEN:
UTILISING DINGOES AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL

DEFEND THE WILD Dingo Culture

SUN 17 MAY | 5PM BRUNSWICK HEADS

Eclectic Selection

What's on this week



The 2026 **Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour** delivers a thrilling three-hour adventure through the world of extreme mountain sports. Experience the most captivating short films from fearless explorers, trail runners, mountain bikers, skiers, paddlers and climbers who push boundaries across the globe.

Friday and Saturday, 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets from \$24 from brunswickpicturehouse.com.



As Australia's premier classical guitarist, and an Austrian electric bass player – **Slava Grigoryan and Al Slavik** will find themselves in Byron, re-uniting to celebrate the release of their third album *And so, it turns*.

Saturday at 7pm at the Byron Theatre. Tickets \$49.40 at byroncentre.com.au.



Allensworth is a Southern California soul quintet that fuses rock and soul into a melting pot of true life anthemic stories. The authentic sound derives from the band's diverse cultures and surroundings.

Saturday from 7pm at Salt & Stone, Fingal Head. Tickets on the door \$25.



Smokey Cake is the solo project of Hamilton Blacket, melting downtempo, synth

wave and neo-psychedelia, Smokey Cake's music is a kind of dopamine mining, blissful sonic experience.

Saturday from 8pm at the Australian Hotel, Ballina. Free show.



Ballina Blues Session features the **Guy Kachel Band** who have the grace and soul of the blues, interspersed with the country strains of Kachel's youth, and the tempering power of rock and roll. What emerges is a form of kicking country blues that esteems and embellishes the legacy of icons such as John Hiatt and Little Feat.

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



Soul'D, is a dynamic presence in the Northern NSW music scene – renowned as one of the region's most prominent live music rock bands, this ten-piece ensemble boasts an impressive lineup of musicians.

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



Whether it's a fun-filled night filling the dance floor party, a relaxing afternoon session or something more intimate, **Adam Hourigan** specialises in making the crowd the most important part of any of his gigs.

Tuesday from 6pm at the Hotel Brunswick. Free show.

Seven days of entertainment



The Toad the Whale and the Sun

With the current global instability, many people must be wondering where humanity's heading. Local documentary filmmaker **Dean Jefferys** believes humanity is heading for a quantum shift in consciousness with psychedelic toads, the whales and the sun contributing to this shift. Jefferys has been making and fine-tuning his documentary called – **The Toad the Whale and the Sun** over the last ten years and he is screening the film around the Byron Shire next week, including, a Q&A.

Jefferys explores the secrets of the universe through the use of the most powerful psychedelic known to man, 5 MeO-DMT from the Sonoran Desert toad in Mexico. The documentary includes inter-dimensional ceremonies in the Sonoran Desert and the ancient sun-worshipping temples of the Mayan civilization. Dean also sails and swims with whales in tropical waters as he explores a vision, that the toads, the whales and the sun are offering insights to humanity to assist us in these critical times.

Some plant and animal medicines like the Bufo alvarius toad and iboga are now, Jefferys says, 'recognised by mainstream medicine as curing severe addictions in 80 per cent of patients, and often resolving complex PTSD and depression'. [However, they are not currently approved as standard 'cures' due to safety concerns and regulatory hurdles which limit research, and the need for specialised therapeutic reports]

Jefferys says that what is going on in Gaza and the Middle East is showing us how some of the major power structures are trying to control humanity's evolution. 'The film shows how we can face our own emotions, trauma and shadows to be the change we want to see in the world.'

The documentary will be screening at the Byron Palace Cinema, in magnificent surround sound, on 13 and 20 May at 6pm, and outside with dinner at Threeways Cafe, Wilsons Creek on 15 May at 5.30pm. To get tickets, and for more info see toadwhalesun.com/tickets.



A double dingo film screening

Presented by **Defend the Wild and Dingo Culture**, a double screening of **Moort: Calling Dingo Back to Country**, followed by a special second screening of **Landholders for Dingoes** film **Wooleen: Utilising Dingoes as a Management Tool**, will come before a discussion panel, and audience Q&A.

Moort: Calling Dingo Back to Country is a powerful short film that highlights the deep cultural, spiritual, and familial connection between First Nations people and the dingo. Across south-west Western Australia, moort means family – and that is what dingo is: kin. The film illuminates the enduring relationship between Cultural Custodians and Australia's only wild canid, while also revealing the profound loss felt in places where dingoes have been eradicated through widespread killing programs. Even where they are physically absent, the dingo remains present in Songlines, stories, and spirit – and the call for his return grows stronger.

As attitudes shift globally toward valuing predators for their irreplaceable ecological roles, moort invites audiences to consider Australia's own path forward. It is a call to ensure dingoes – culturally significant, ecologically vital – are respected and protected for generations to come.

Landholders for Dingoes film: **Wooleen — Utilising Dingoes as a Management Tool** is a film highlighting the benefits a growing number of graziers are finding when dingoes are retained in the environment.

Wooleen explores how allowing dingoes to return has helped restored ecological balance, reduce overgrazing, and supported healthier Country.

After the screenings, stay for a discussion panel and audience Q&A exploring the cultural, ecological, and practical dimensions of dingoes on Country. Details of panellists to come.

Sunday 17May, screenings start at 5pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets and more info at brunswickpicturehouse.com.

THE ECHO AWARDS & 40TH ANNIVERSARY

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE, CLUB BYRON
FEATURING:
THE MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA

'Swinging through the decades'

CABARET-STYLE ENTERTAINMENT
MC MANDY NOLAN
A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY
HONOURING LOCAL LEGENDS

AN ECHO FUN-RAISING EVENT!
Dress like ya mean it 'n wear yer dancin' shoes
Delicious food available

TICKETS \$55 + booking fee via Humanitix.
events.humanitix.com/the-echo-s-40th-anniversary-and-awards-celebration

SEVEN

CINEMA



Project Hail Mary

In 2032, Ryland Grace awakens from an induced coma on an interstellar spacecraft. Initially erratic and amnesic, Grace learns that he is the sole survivor of the three-person crew, on a spaceship light-years from Earth, which embarked on its journey to the Tau Ceti system over ten years earlier.

Based on *The New York Times* bestselling novel by Andy Weir – acclaimed for his award-winning hit, *The Martian* – *Project Hail Mary* is a spectacular new sci-fi thriller starring Academy Award nominee **Ryan Gosling**.

From Oscar-winning filmmakers **Phil Lord** and **Christopher Miller**, this gripping space thriller follows a lone astronaut (Gosling) who wakes up in deep space with no memory. As his memory returns, he begins to uncover his mission: solve the riddle of the mysterious substance causing the sun to die out. He must call on his scientific knowledge and unorthodox ideas to save everything on Earth from extinction – but an unexpected friendship means he may not have to do it alone.

Also starring Academy Award nominee **Sandra Hüller** (*Anatomy of a Fall*, *The Zone of Interest*), prepare for an out-of-this-world cinematic experience and one of the biggest sci-fi events of the year.

On at palace cinemas www.palacecinemas.com.au



GIG GUIDE

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

WEDNESDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, DAN HANNAFORD
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM ERIC BIBB WITH STAFFAN ASTNER, GLEN SCOTT & PAUL ROBINSON
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM MATTHEW ARMITAGE
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2026
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5.30PM BALCONY BEATS + KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ ISHWARA
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 7PM SONS OF THE EAST, 8PM SMOKEY CAKE WITH LUNE TO THE MOON + HOMBRE DEL SACO
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2026
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ VINYL DAN
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM PIANO BAR W/ JOHN
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM BORROWED & BLUE
- CRABBES CREEK HALL 5PM SCREENING: 1917
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, 6PM JOSE
- EMBODY, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM SYZGY WITH GREG SHEEHAN
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM KATIE BROOKE
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM JB'S BLUES BREAKERS
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM LILLI ROSE SHEEN
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT GUY KACHEL BAND
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM SOUL'D

THURSDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, JOCK BARNES
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM JET
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM TRILLA + DJ QUENDO + MEG MAC
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 8PM TEMPLE OF FIRE
- FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL 5PM YAMBAA
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM NATHAN KAYE
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM WILD WOMEN: PRETTY AUDACIOUS
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM TIM SCANLAN + SWAMP CATS
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM POLY & CO
- HOTEL LISMORE 5.30PM LILLI SHEEN + DJ SPEX
- BLAH BAR, LISMORE, 7PM DEDWAY
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM WOLFIE
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM MAPLE GLIDER
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM WHAT SO NOT
- SALT BAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM JEROME WILLIAMS
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 5PM JOHN MARTIN
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM KEVIN BLOODY WILSON
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM THE HITMEN
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM JAVA + TOBHAIS + BERSERKER
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM BEN PURNELL
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM FROTHA & CO
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM ALEX BOWAN
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM JABIRU
- HOTEL LISMORE 9.30PM SABOTAGE
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM CLASSIC GOLD
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM Y.O.G.A.
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 5PM TIM STOKES, 6PM JAMIE ALLENSWORTH + CC THE CAT.
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM CHARLIE BRAVO COUNTRY BUNKER
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM LIVE BAY LIVE – INXS TRIBUTE
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 6PM DJ JOHNNY LOVE, DJ TIGHTWINNER, DJ L'MANUEL + DJ VICTOR LOPES

FRIDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, BULLETPROOF
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM BETTY TAYLOR, PAMELA, EMILY RINK
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM GUY AND NICCI
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM DANI QUAYLE MUSIC
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM O.A. WITH BONHAM + THE BLEEDING TONGUES
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM JB'S BLUES BREAKERS + OREN SELECTA + DUELING PIANO BAR
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ PAPA BITCHO
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, THE NINTH CHAPTER
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM LUKE PAULEY + CHRIS PALMER DUO + AYYBO & SHIMMY
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM SLAVA GRIGORYAN & AL SLAVIK
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM DJ QUENDO + SCOTT WOLFE
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM ELECTRIC AVENUE + DJ JAMIE LOWE + DUELING PIANO BAR
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM 3198
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 2PM DENVAH

SATURDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, THE NINTH CHAPTER
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM LUKE PAULEY + CHRIS PALMER DUO + AYYBO & SHIMMY
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM SLAVA GRIGORYAN & AL SLAVIK
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM DJ QUENDO + SCOTT WOLFE
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM ELECTRIC AVENUE + DJ JAMIE LOWE + DUELING PIANO BAR
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM 3198
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 2PM DENVAH

SUNDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, ALBY PITMAN
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM THE DARK SIDE – A PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE + DJ SUNNY SIDE UP
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM BEN WALSH + VINYL SUNDAY FT MONSIEUR DIOP + DUELING PIANO BAR
- BANGALOW HOTEL 3PM LEIGH JAMES
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM BULLHORN
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS

MONDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, BEN HIGGINS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ADAM HARPAZ
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM JEROME WILLIAMS + DJ DAVI BANGMA + DUELING PIANO BAR

TUESDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, OLE FALCOR
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM MARSHALL OKELL + DUELING PIANO BAR

WEDNESDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, MATTHEW ARMITAGE
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM DAN HANNAFORD + DUELING PIANO BAR
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, 6PM SCREENING: THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS

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

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

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY • BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES THURSDAY MAY 7 TO WEDNESDAY MAY 13

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

- A PRIVATE LIFE (M) SNEAK PREVIEW Sun: 3:45PM
- ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 (1976) (MA15+) CULT VAULT Mon: 6:30PM
- BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY (1) (25TH ANNIVERSARY) Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:15PM
- LIFE COULD BE A DREAM (M) PREVIEWS Sat, Sun: 1:00PM
- MOTHER MARY (MA15+) PREVIEW SCREENING Sun: 6:15PM
- NT LIVE: ALL MY SONS (1) (CT) Thurs, Wed: 6:00PM. Sat: 12:50PM. Sun: 1:00PM
- TOP GUN - 40TH ANNIVERSARY (PG) Wed: 1:00PM
- TOP GUN: MAVERICK (M) TOP GUN DAY RE-RELEASE Wed: 3:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

- HOPPERS (PG) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 10:30AM
- THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE (M) Daily: 10:45AM
- THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG) (NFT) Daily: 10:50AM, 1:10PM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM
- THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE (PG) Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:10PM. Sat, Sun: 10:50AM

ALL FILMS

- BILLIE EILISH - HIT ME HARD AND SOFT: THE TOUR (1) (CT) (NFT) Daily except Sun, Wed: 1:00PM, 3:50PM, 6:15PM. Sun: 1:00PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 6:15PM
- DON'T BE PREY (M) (NFT) Daily: 1:15PM
- HOKUM (M) Thurs, Mon, Wed: 8:40PM. Fri, Tues: 8:20PM
- IRON MAIDEN: BURNING AMBITION (M) (NFT) Daily except Sat, Sun: 8:30PM. Sat, Sun: 3:30PM, 8:30PM
- IT'S NEVER OVER, JEFF BUCKLEY (M) Daily except Fri, Tues: 10:40AM. Fri, Tues: 10:40AM, 6:00PM

PALACE BYRON BAY

- Tues: 10:40AM, 6:00PM
- KAPODISTRIAS (PG) (NFT) Daily: 3:20PM, 6:00PM
- MICHAEL (PG) Daily: 10:30AM, 3:15PM, 5:50PM, 8:30PM
- MORTAL KOMBAT 2 (MA15+) (NFT) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 8:40PM. Sat, Sun: 1:10PM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM, 8:40PM. Wed: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 8:40PM
- PROJECT HAIL MARY (M) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 12:45PM, 8:00PM. Sat, Sun: 8:10PM
- THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (M) (NFT) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 11:40AM, 1:00PM, 2:10PM, 3:30PM, 4:45PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM, 8:00PM, 8:30PM. Fri, Sun: 10:30AM, 11:40AM, 2:10PM, 3:30PM, 4:45PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM, 8:00PM, 8:30PM. Sat: 10:30AM, 11:15AM, 1:45PM, 3:30PM, 4:20PM, 6:00PM, 8:00PM, 8:30PM
- THE DRAMA (MA15+) Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:15PM
- WOLFRAM (M) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 10:50AM. Sat: 10:40AM. Sun: 10:45AM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

- BILLIE EILISH - HIT ME HARD AND SOFT: THE TOUR (1) (CT) (NFT) Daily except Tues: 10:00AM, 5:10PM. Tues: 10:00AM, 5:20PM
- MICHAEL (PG) Daily except Tues: 2:40PM, 7:30PM. Tues: 2:40PM, 7:50PM
- MORTAL KOMBAT 2 (MA15+) (NFT) Daily except Tues: 12:20PM, 5:20PM, 7:45PM. Tues: 12:20PM, 5:15PM, 7:45PM
- THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (M) (NFT) Daily: 9:50AM, 12:10PM, 2:45PM, 7:40PM
- THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG) (NFT) Daily except Tues: 9:45AM, 2:45PM, 5:15PM. Tues: 9:45AM, 3:15PM, 5:30PM

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE FOR ALL GERMAN FF SESSIONS, PLEASE VISIT GERMANFILMFESTIVAL.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 Classics also appear online:
www.echo.net.au/classified-ads

WANTED

TREE FERNS

Any shape, size. Royalties paid. Ongoing supply needed. 0414904396

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

GARAGE SALES

MOVING!! 30 Browning St Byron, Sat 9 May 8-12. Designer clothes, art, rugs, garden tools, books & kitchen/household goods. Surfboards. Undercover if rain.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

DISCLAIMER

Advertisements placed in *The Byron Shire Echo* do not reflect the views or opinions of the editorial staff. *The Byron Shire Echo* does not make any representations as to the accuracy or suitability of any content or information contained in advertising material nor does publication constitute in any way an endorsement by *The Byron Shire Echo* of the content or representations contained therein. *The Byron Shire Echo* does not accept any liability for the representations or promises made in paid advertisements or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on such content, representations or promises.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BARB VON

Friends of the late Barb Von, who had a popular BayFM radio show called 'Bareback Barbie' in the 1990s, are having a small 'celebration of life' on Saturday May 23rd in Byron on the anniversary of her death in Melbourne May 23rd 2025. For details email Abbe at abbeholmes3@gmail.com

LEASE OVER ROAD RESERVE

Byron Shire Council has granted the following lease of the road reserve to a private landowner for advertising signage: 12sqm on the cnr of Ewingsdale Road & Harvest Boulevard, Byron Bay (Part Lot 58 DP 1299678) and 3sqm on Harvest Boulevard, Byron Bay (Lot 55 DP 1229678).

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 Shaw's, Seagrass Lennox, Lennox pub drive-through, Station St Grocer Lennox

Expression of Interest 5 year Market Licences

Byron Shire Council invites applications for 5 year Market Licences.

Register with Vendor Panel to view proposed market licences and assessment criteria.

Expression of Interest closing date extended to 2pm, 25 May 2026.

For more info:

Visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/EOI or contact Lyndal Brennan, Leasing Coordinator 02 6626 7300



COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH



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.



Want to volunteer?

Volunteers are the heart of our community. Your time, energy and dedication help shape a more connected, vibrant and caring Byron.

We simply couldn't do it without you!

02 6685 6807

volunteers@byroncentre.com.au

Health fundraiser for Nyck Jeanes



Donate now!



www.gofundme.com/f/nyck-jeanes

IN MEMORIAM

Tilemachos (Archie) KORIALOS

14 April 1912 - 4 May 1997



'The rolling steep hills of Mullum Creek where once you were, Camouflaging a story of endless toil and survival, Of challenging times for you and many others.

As we look across to those hills... Always a gentle reminder of you...'

With much love, your family.

HEALTH

HAWAIIAN MASSAGE

Ocean Shores, Michaela, 0416332886

KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs.

Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. 0403125506

SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

HYPNOSIS & EFT

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

Supporting humans of all ages to thrive. Stress, sleep, learning, behaviour, posture, muscles, healthy emotions, trauma release & more... 0413 003 301 www.katemessengerkinesiology.com.au

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 & NLP

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

TRADEWORK

Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental

The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

6687 2880

TREE SERVICES

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

20 years local experience
• 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
• Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat
Fully insured • Free quotes
0427 347 380

• Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder • Fully Insured
Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas
6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

COMPUTERS

> WINDOWS 10, 11 LAPTOPS
> Free upgrade to Linux
> Details at linuxisgood.com

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

Pick-up/delivery. Seasoned. All quantities
byronbayfirewood.com.au
0401 739 656

VAMOS FAT BIKE \$2500

(purchased 7/8/25 \$4000). 1600km No mobile coverage at my location. Email Theo on 4engeltenaer@tgp.com.au

Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby
0401 926 090

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

SUNNY first-floor space in Byron A&I Est 51m2. Aircon, carbay + shared ktchn+WC \$400pw +GST +exp 0403900525

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

POSITIONS VACANT

HC TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED!
The cane season starts in June in the NSW Northern Rivers area: Condong, Broadwater and Harwood sugar mill sites. Send a brief driving history or resume to Wendy.Keel@sctlogistics.com.au

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

requires
Warehouse / General Assistant
Approximately 9.30am to 3.00pm, 2-3 days per week
Tasks Include: Invoicing and packing orders, product making, a nose for aromas a minor advantage, possibly assist with video and other projects.
(probably suits a mum with kids at school)
Email CV to:
info@essentiallyaustralia.com.au

WORK WANTED

HOUSE CLEANING
Ballina and Lennox Head areas \$35 per hour. Robyn 0401804909

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

1 or 2 MEN + UTE

Furniture and rubbish removals
Over 15 years exp. Jarrod 0415 139 308

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Lions Club of Brunswick / Mullumbimby Inc
'Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things'
 Meeting at the Ocean Shores Country Club 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month - 5.30 for 6pm.
brunswickmullumbimby.nsw@lions.org.au
0400 484 419

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 Trainer

- Photoshop • Indesign
- Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

PETS

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

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



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO MY MUM



LEVI

Levi is a 1.5 year old Kelpie X. He's a little shy to start with but soon warms up for a cuddle. Levi would suit a quiet home with a shady yard to protect his white skin. M/C # 991003002920415 Location: Murwillumbah
 For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.
 Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>
 Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338



CLEO

Cleo is a beautiful 13-month-old domestic short-haired girl with a heart as big as her personality. She's been a devoted, attentive mum, lovingly raising her kittens. Now it's her turn to be cared for. Affectionate and friendly, Cleo enjoys human company, happily seeking pats and attention. She's ready for a loving home where she can be spoiled and cherished as a sweet, people-loving companion
 Rehoming #R251 00 00 60

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



MUSHY

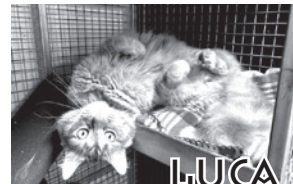
MUSHY - his foster carer describes him as "the most beautiful cat in the world... he's never shown us anything but love and respect. He's affectionate, and super relaxed. A family adopting him could be good, as he enjoys interacting with lots of different personalities. He's just a joy to be around!" Need some furry 'forever' love in your life? Then adopt darling Mushy. About 6 years old. Microchip 900079000405478. Desexed and vaccinated. See my video on our fb page!

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



Who gives a Cluck?
#52

Adopt a Rooster.
 Mika was rescued from an abandoned golf club on gold coast, left with no food or water. A very friendly medium sized boy, good temperament. Just need a flock to care for so we've given him 5 girlfriends that you can also adopt (for only \$10 each).
 Here's the link to adopt him (#52), or ask us questions about taking his girlfriends too.
www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/
[@whogivesacluck](http://whogivesacluck.org)



LUCA

This gorgeous, ginger goofball is Luca. He has the most affectionate nature & adores being brushed & fussed over. As he has longer, luscious locks, he will need to find someone who is happy to keep on top of his beauty routine. Best of all, Luca has a sister, Bailey - a tabby version of him! Together, these 2 are the purrfect addition to a family that's looking for double the cat love. To meet Luca & Bailey, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. **OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm Thurs 3-5pm / Sat 10am-12 noon**
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook!
 AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
 Number: R251000222

Marianne ALLAN (née SCHOEVERS)



Born in The Netherlands on 25/8/1947
 Died in Castlemaine on 26/4/2026

Loving and loved wife of Ross. Loving mother of Fionna and Neal. Loving and adored Oma of Elin. Loving sister and sister-in-law to Hans (dec) & Jacqueline, Margaret & Klaus (dec), Robert & Denise, Karin & John, Johan & Steph and Mick & Karen. Loving Tante to 17 nieces and nephews. Friend to Fionna's partner Adam, and great aunt and great-great aunt to 33 nieces and nephews.

Marianne died peacefully at home with her family Ross, Fionna, Neal, Elin and Adam by her side, after finally succumbing to a 6+ year battle with pancreatic cancer. She fought the good fight, and in her own words, was "a goddamn magical unicorn" - and a straight out freak according to her oncologist.

A private natural burial was held at Chewton Cemetery on Monday 27 April.

A CELEBRATION OF MARIANNE'S LIFE will be held from 1pm on Tuesday 9 June at Shedshaker Taproom, Castlemaine. Light refreshments will be provided.

If there is anything you would like to say or show about Marianne (incl video/photo), please send it through to Ross at: allan@mullum.com.au before Monday 25 May 2026.

"Life is for living, not for worrying about what's going to happen at the end of it. I'm more concerned with enjoying the time I have left, doing the things I love, and spending time with the people who matter to me." - Billy Connolly



ONLY ADULTS

MALE 2 MALE SENSUAL MASSAGE
 Relaxation, stimulation, 4 Hand available
 Discreet. In & outcalls
www.male2massage.com.au
 0476069889

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
 0416 899 048

SOCIAL ESCORTS

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



Echo
 VIGILANT SINCE 1986

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

The Echo's Market Guide

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

MONTHLY MARKETS:

1st 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.



ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

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



SERVICE DIRECTORY INDEX

Accountants & Bookkeepers 33	Health	34
Acupuncture	Hire	34
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	Hypnotherapy	34
Architects	Landscaping	34
Automotive.....	Locksmith	34
Barber Shops	Mobile Mechanic.....	34
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters.....	Pest Control	34
Bricklaying.....	Photography.....	34
Building Trades	Physiotherapy.....	35
Bush Regeneration & Weed Control.....	Picture Framing	35
Carpeting.....	Plastering	35
Carpentry & Joinery	Plumbers	35
Chimney Sweeping.....	Removalists	35
Cleaning	Rendering.....	35
Computer Services	Roofing.....	35
Concreting & Paving	Rubbish Removal	35
Decks, Patios & Extensions..	Self Storage	35
Design & Drafting	Septic Systems	35
Driveway Maintenance.....	Solar Installation	35
Earthmoving & Excavation..	Television Services	35
Electricians	Tiling	35
Fencing.....	Tree Services	35
Floor Sanding & Polishing... 34	Transportation Services.....	35
Garden & Property Maintenance.....	Upholstery.....	35
Gas Fitters, Suppliers & Servicing.....	Valuers	35
Guttering.....	Veterinary Surgeons.....	35
Handypersons.....	Water Filters	35
	Web Design Services.....	35
	Welding.....	35
	Window Cleaning & Repairs	35
	Window Tinting	35

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**
SKIP AIR: Airconditioning installation, servicing, repairs. Free quotes. 5-star rated..... **0406 485187**

ARCHITECTS

OCEANARC ARCHITECTS Reg. 6042 www.oceanarc.com.au..... **0412 251392**

www.echo.net.au

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



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 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

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 www.bbtimbers.com.au

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

BUSH REGENERATION & WEED CONTROL

Bush Regeneration

- Qualified service
- Weed treatment
- Native forest recovery
- Camphor culling

0431 636 608 regen@reforestnow.org.au

THE GREEN WAVE: native reforestation and weed management (John) **0491 117656**

CARPENTRY & JOINERY

LOCAL CARPENTER small, medium or large jobs. Lic 207899C.....Ph **0431 048856**
ALL CARPENTRY Doors & stairs, all repairs. Reliable. 20 years exp. **0437 202050**
BYRON BAY CARPENTRY & CONSTR. Decks, kitchen, bath, laundry. Lic 337421c..... **0432 549082**
PARRY'S CARPENTRY - Decks, Pergolas, Repairs, Renovations. Licence 491263C. .Ph **0478 429767**

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

BLACKS CHIMNEY SWEEPING & REPAIRS AHHA member, insured. 3rd generation **66771905**

CLEANING

Services List
 (Low Pressure Softwashing)
 Houses, Gutters, Roofs, Awnings, Solar panels, Retaining walls
 Driveways, Paths, Pavers, Fences, Decks, Patios, Pool areas.

Locally owned and Operated Residential and Commercial
 No job too big or small
 Obligation free quote
 Fully insured

AQUA PRESSURE CLEANING

0426 119 550 info@nraquapressurecleaning.com.au ABN: 47576013867

Byron Bay **5 Stars**

CLEANING SERVICE

CLEANS: Holiday, Residential, Bond, Commercial, Spring.
Phone Mick 0409 009 024
 Email: mickbhl@gmail.com

HOT WATER PRESSURE CLEANING

ROOF CLEANING & PAINTING - DECK RESTORATION

Free quote CALL OR SCAN TODAY **0455 573 554**
FCRTEAM.AU

BETTY'S CLEANING & HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES..... Text **0476 984649**
PRESSURE WASH IT WASHING !!! Text **YOKO 0475040733**

COMPUTER SERVICES

One-on-one, patient, experienced teacher offering digital support for seniors needing help with phones, laptops and computers.

Phone or email: **0420 235 624**
contact@thinkblinkdesign.com

FLASH COMPUTERS Mac & PC. Affordable & helpful. 77 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby.. **02 66844124**

CONCRETING & PAVING

SALISBURY CONCRETING

DARYL 0418 234 302

Over 30 yrs' local experience.
 All forms of concreting.
 Residential - Civil - Industrial

Lic:136717c

SHAKA CONCRETING Driveways, sheds, slabs, p/ways, patios. Insured & Lic#391742C..... **0402 728207**
MIRO HALFORD BUILDING DESIGN mirohalforddesign.com **0402 613638**

DECKS, PATIOS & EXTENSIONS

BYRON BAY FLOOR SANDING by Chris Wallace. Quality assured. Best prices..... **0408 536565**
DECK REFINISHING EVANS HEAD Customer satisfaction guaranteed **0413 786879**
FCR DECK SANDING, OILING Local, 12 years exp. 190x5-star reviews. Free quotes ... **0419 789600**

DESIGN & DRAFTING

MIRO HALFORD BUILDING DESIGN mirohalforddesign.com **0402 613638**
HOLM STUDIO architectural drafting & planning services. holmstudio.com.au..... **0488 216555**

DRIVEWAY MAINTENANCE



ALL ASPECTS OF ASPHALT & BITUMEN SERVICES

6677 1859

SERVICING THE EAST COAST OF THE NSW NORTHERN RIVERS
Burringbar

admin@ecasphalt.com.au

MC2 RURAL Earthmoving, mulching, camphor/weeds, property maintenance..... 0427 900701

EARTHMOVING & EXCAVATION

TINY EARTHWORKS



Philip Toovey
0409 799 909

various implements available for limited access projects



360 EARTH

CONSCIOUS EARTHWORKS

- DRAINAGE DESIGN • DRIVEWAYS • PADS • WATERWAYS
- ALL ASPECTS OF EARTHMOVING


Phone Zac: 0468 344 939 www.360earth.com.au

Drainage Consultation & Installation 5T Excavator & Skidsteer
Landscaping Install & Supply 8 Tonne Tipper
Retaining & Rockwalls Attachments:
Bulk & Green Waste Removal Rock Grabber, Auger
All Earthworks Requirements 350/450, Compactor



GAIA EARTHWORKS
FROM THE GROUND UP, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

BEN - 0499 985 555 License 479630C. Fully Insured.



SOUTHERN EARTHMOVING

Greg Southern - Operating in Byron Shire since 1982

Earthmoving & Excavations, general earthworks, land management, pre-build works, drainage issues, driveway needs fixing - Plant List: 4WD tipper, 9T Excavator + Mulcher & rock hammer, 5.5 T Excavator & Attachments, 100Hp Posi-track & Slasher, wheeled 75 Hp Bobcat, Roller.

Give Greg a call - 0427 788 773 - byronbayexcavations.com

NORTHERN RIVERS TRENCHING 65hp chain trencher, excavator, cable locating & tpr. 0402 716857
ANDREW FLANAGAN CONCRETING & EXCAVATION Lic 310498C 0401 968173

ELECTRICIANS

COUGHRAN ELECTRICAL

0439 624 945 AH 02 6680 4173

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL 24 HOUR SERVICE

ALL JOBS: SMALL OR LARGE

Lic: 154293c



E4 Electrical Services

Electrical Services for Byron Shire

- Commercial/Industrial & Domestic
- Power, Lighting, Networks & Starlink
- Security & Home Automation Solutions

jhipps@e4electrical.com.au
0410 502 060

Reliable & Responsive | All Size Jobs | # 116612C

JP ELECTRICAL All electrical. Level 2 ASP. Solar, data, TV, TV Antennas. Lic 133082C 0432 289705

BEN FORSYTH, Electrician. Lic:240691C. Ocean Shores & surrounds. No job too small...0422 136408

JIM LABELLE ELECTRICAL O.Shores, Mullum, Byron, Bruns. Lic 176417C.....0415 126028

ATLEE ELECTRICAL Lennox/Ballina/Byron. All jobs Lic125138C..... 0499 456558

TOPAZ ELECTRICAL. All electrical work. Reliable. Lic No. 461605C..... Ph 0421 707380

FENCING

BYRON & BEYOND FENCING. Any fence, any time, prompt quotes 0439 162 069 or 66802393

EDL FENCING Installations & repairs. Prompt service 0432 107262

FLOW FENCING Pool fencing, timber/colourbond, local, professional and reliable.....0416 424256

TOM'S FARM MAINTENANCE Fencing, orchards, cattle work. Experienced & reliable. 0412 860132

FLOOR SANDING & POLISHING

THE FLOOR SANDER New & old floors, decks, non-toxic finishes, special effects, free quotes. 0407 821690

GARDEN & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE



ACREAGE MOWING

0428856687

bladerunnerbyron@gmail.com
bladerunnermowing.com.au

BYRON TRAILER WASTE REMOVAL

0475 053 124

- Onsite waste collection
- Mower transport
- Goods and material transport



GARDEN WARRIOR

- Rural, acreage, strata and commercial
- Lawnmowing (zero turn) - acreage/small block
- Brushcutting, chainsawing, pressure cleaning
- Fully insured

Est. 2007
PAUL SOMMERS 0431 331 810

MULLUM.MOWING@gmail.com. Ride-on, large lawns & acreage. Ph Peter.....0423 756394

GUTTERS CLEANED Solar panel cleaning, all areas, free quotes, fully insured. 66841778 or 0405 922839

A-Z Garden maintenance, acreage, gutters, rubbish removal, tip runs, top jobs 0405 625697

LEAF IT TO US Tree care specialists & acreage mowing.....0402 487213

TIP RUNS & RUBBISH REMOVALS 4m³ trailer.....0408 210772

RICK'S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Mowing, brushcutting, gardening, hedging.....0424 805660

GREEN DINGO for all your mowing and gardening needs. Ph Michael0497 842442

BLADE RUNNER ACREAGE MOWING Local, reliable0428 856687

BRUSH-CUTTING Whipersnip, clearing saw, light chain saw.....Rob 0455 587425

NORTHERN RIVERS SLASHING & LANDCARE..... Call Keni on 0417 509299

GW MOWING Ride-on /acreage. Tip runs..... Call George on 0408 244820

GROWING WELL gardens residential lawns, hedging and design. 20 years experience. 0413 459545

THE GREEN WAVE: Eco property and garden care (John) 0491 117656

COAST & COUNTRY Acreage mowing, prop. maintenance, prof. reliable service... Mike 0413 812582

GAS FITTERS, SUPPLIERS & SERVICING

Free Delivery
No Rental
Reliable

EL GAS

BRUNSWICK VALLEY GAS

www.brunswickvalleygas.com • 0408 760 609



SWAP a Bottle

Locally Owned
No Rental Fees
Servicing your area
Free Call: 1300 727 013
Email: swapabottle@bigpond.com



GUTTERING



SPOTLESSGUTTERS

The Gutter Guard Specialists

- ✓ Gutter guard
- ✓ Gutter cleaning
- ✓ Locally owned
- ✓ Fully insured
- ✓ Free quotes

Call Junior for friendly, genuine advice and service.
www.spotlessgutters.com.au
0405 922 839 or AH **6684 1778** ABN 94 239 089 086

HANDYPERSONS

HANDY ANDY Carpentry, plastering, welding..... 66884324 or 0476 600956

AWESOME REPAIRS Professional, commercial & domestic. Wayne..... 0423 218417

ABSOLUTE HANDYMAN Repairs, renovation, maintenance, painting. Call Mark..... 0402 281638

A HANDY GUY All trades & small construction. Bruns, Ocean, SGB & Mullum.....0411 858201

PFM HANDYWORKS Repairs, pressure cleaning, maintenance Call Ari 0484 729139

HOME MAINTENANCE Carpentry, painting, repairs, gardens, jet washing. Insured 0434 705506

HIGHPOINT Repairs & handyman services. Painting, plastering & tiling Michael 0421 896796

ALL CARPENTRY Doors & stairs, all repairs. Friendly, reliable. 20 years exp.....0437 202050

AW WOODWORK Furniture, kitchens, carpentry, handyman services. Call Adam.....0455 813965

HANDYMAN 40 years experience in the building game. Call Paul.....0422 017072

ALL ASPECTS handyman and maintenance work. Free quotes.0413 289443

HEALTH

ACUPUNCTURE & COSMETIC MEDICINE Dr Adam Osborne 66857366

MULLUMBIMBY HERBALS Naturopathic and herbal dispensary, consultations..... 66843002

AYURVEDA, NATUROPATH, Herbs, Jacinta McEwen - Om Healing.....0422 387370

HIRE

MULLUM HIRE Marquees & all event equipment. Tools & machinery. Pool supplies & service 66843003

HYPNOTHERAPY

MOONLIGHT HYPNOTHERAPY QHHT, RTT for clarity, healing, insight, purpose. Teresa 0422 179941

LANDSCAPING

Waterscapes
BYRON BAY

Swim Ponds, Landscaping,
Water Features, Earth Moving

0448 401 638  




GRACEWOOD LANDSCAPES

Landscaping, Vegetation Control & Earthworks

- General Landscaping • Vegetation Control
- Excavations & Civil Residential

Call Paul 0403 316 711 gracewoodlandscapes.com.au Lic 474317C

LEMONTREELANDSCAPES.COM.AU Liam. Lic 277154C0423 700853

LOCKSMITH

Brendan Duggan Locksmith. Automotive car keys and lock installation/repair 0412 764148

MOBILE MECHANIC

SAS SPECIAL AUTO SERVICE

Mobile repairs, warranty logbook servicing, diagnostics, and pre-purchase inspections.

All at a fair price, by an honest qualified technician with decades of experience. **MVRL: 63952.**

Call or email to book - 8:30am to 5pm
specialautoservice@outlook.com 0494 567903

PEST CONTROL



sanctuary
pest & termite management
A Rentokil Company

Book our Termite Inspection & Pest Control package this winter and receive 10% off. Protect your home and save money with this limited-time offer! Contact us today to schedule your appointment.

Phone 02 6685 4490 • Email: service@sanctuarypest.com.au

BRUNSWICK BYRON PEST CONTROL..... 66842018

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tree Faerie Fotos

Professional • Commercial • Personal

30+ years experience in commercial photography and photojournalism

www.treefaeriefotos.com • 0417 427 518

PHYSIOTHERAPY

OCEAN SHORES PHYSIOTHERAPY Manual therapies, dry needling, custom orthotics, shock wave therapy, real time ultrasound. Nigel Pitman66803499
EWINGS DALE PHYSIO Matrix Therapy, all ages, massage, home visit. Renata.....0437 647137
PELVIC FLOOR PHYSIOTHERAPY Bangalow Mon & Wed. Lisa Fitzpatrick0422 993141

PICTURE FRAMING

MULLUM PICTURE FRAMERS Studio located in Ocean Shores0403 734791

PLASTERING

PLASTERER, TRADE QUALIFIED repairs, renovations, cornices, quality assured. Kurt 0431 015414
CAPE BYRON PLASTERING. Gyprock/Venetian. 27 yrs exp, free quotes, lic + insured. 0402 538155

PLUMBERS

Ben The Plumber

Servicing Mullumbimby, Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads, Byron Bay & Surrounds
 30 years' experience
 Lic: 321191C

Taking on work NOW!
 0427 528 108 | benwilton74@icloud.com

unblock PIPE CLEARING

Drain clearing, inspections and repairs. Reliable family owned and operated local business with 30 years plumbing experience and the latest technology.

Phone James 0429 888 683

- ✓ CCTV camera and locators
 - ✓ High pressure jet rodder
 - ✓ Electric eel
 - ✓ 1.7t and 3m tipper truck
 - ✓ Blocked drain specialist
 - ✓ 12 month guarantee on most jobs
 - ✓ Fully insured
- Lic 378040C

MARK STRATTON All plumbing & emergency. Sewer drain camera/locator. Lic 57803C0419 019035
BRAD EVELEIGH PLUMBING based in Ocean Shores, no job too small. Lic 257153C0438 140075
DAVE SPARKES Plumber Byron based, call out \$110 incl. first hour. Lic 209669C0418 167074

REMOVALISTS

SHIRE REMOVALS & FREIGHT CO

From Middle Pocket to Middle Earth
 Just give us a ring

- Freight services to Brisbane weekly
- Carriers of fine art • Furniture removal
- E-bay pick up & delivery

0409 917 646

LEAPFROG REMOVALS

BYRON BAY'S LOCAL REMOVALIST
 MOVING THE SHIRE FOR OVER 10 YEARS

0432 334 200 02 6680 8170
 leapfrogremovals@yahoo.com.au



MULLUMBIMBY RELIABLE REMOVALS
 SYDNEY • MELBOURNE • BRISBANE • GOLD COAST • BYRON BAY

- Sydney • Gold Coast • Brisbane • Melbourne
- North Qld • Country • Interstate • LOCAL

02 6684 2198 queries@mullumbimbyremovals.com.au

BENNY CAN MOVE IT!0402 199999
RYAN'S MINI MOVES0406 657 755

RENDERING

RENDERING / SOLID PLASTERING 25 years experience. Free quotes. Ph John 0406 673176

ROOFING

FCR ROOF PAINTING Local, 12 yrs exp, best paints avail, 190x5-star reviews. Free quotes 0419 789600

Metal Roofing & Guttering Experts

- A Lifetime Warranty on Workmanship
- Double Satisfaction Checks
- Spotless Work Sites, Every Time

admin@oceanbluepr.com.au
 0429 909 433

www.oceanbluepr.com.au License # QBCC: 15327621 NSW: 381929C



BLUE SKY ROOFING NSW

Roof repairs Replacements Gutters Downpipes

0450 659 114 Lic No. 304784C

RUBBISH REMOVAL

OCEAN SHORES SKIPS Mini skip specialists0412 161564 or 66841232
TIP RUNS & RUBBISH REMOVAL 4m³ trailer.....0408 210772
TIP RUNS & RUBBISH REMOVAL 7m³ trailer. Prompt, reliable service.....0413 289443
BYRON SHIRE Rubbish and furniture removals.0415 139308

SELF STORAGE

BYRON BAY SELF STORAGE.....66858349

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

TRINE SOLUTIONS Local sewerage specialists. Plumbers, drainers & gas fitters. Lic 138031C. 0407 439805

SOLAR INSTALLATION

Serving Northern NSW since 1998
SUNBEAM SOLAR
 Your local, qualified team
 Specialists in standalone and grid interact system designs

0428 320 262 sunbeamsolar.com.au
 team@sunbeamsolar.com.au

TELEVISION SERVICES

DIGITAL ELECTRONICS REPAIR & SERVICE TV. Audio. Antennas66843575 or 0414 922786
INSTALL SERVICE: TV, Wi-Fi, AV, special pensioner/concession rate. Damian 0414 741233

TILING

WALL & FLOOR TILER/WATERPROOFER/STONEMASON Lic 24418C.Ph Karl 0439 232434
AJ'S TILING all aspects. Bathrooms, kitchens, walls, floors, waterproofing. Lic 239988C.. 0416 345202

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

BYRON BUS CO Door to Door Charter Services
 arrive@byronbuscompany.com.au 0490 183 424

Get a Quick Quote Now
 Airport Transfers | Tours | Nights Out | Beach Walks
 Events | Parties | Weddings | Corporate | Festivals

TREE SERVICES

CHOPPY CHOP TREE SERVICES

The Fully Insured Professionals

- Stump Grinding • Bobcat • Cherrypicker
- Crane Truck • 18" Chipper

Mark Linder Qualified Arborist
 0408 202 184
 choppychoptrees@bigpond.com



EST 2011
SENTINEL TREE CARE
 QUALITY, PROFESSIONAL ADVICE & EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST
 Expert Pruning • Habitat Creation & Monitoring
 Cleaning & Removal of Palms • Tree Removal
 Phone or Text 0421 435 620
 www.sentineltreecare.com.au

HART TREE SERVICES
 PRUNING ~ REMOVALS ~ STUMP GRINDING
 • 20 years local knowledge and experience • Fully insured / free quotes
 • 19 inch chipper • Bobcat • Cherry picker • Crane truck
 www.harttreeservices.com.au
 0427 347 380

Tallow TREE SERVICES

ALL AREAS OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS & SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

0401 208 797

- Professional Tree Removal, Surgery & Maintenance
- Stump Grinding
- Weed Control
- Arborist Reporting & Consultancy
- EWP Cherry Picker Hire
- Mulching of Green Waste
- 24 Hour Emergency Call-Out
- Professional, Reliable Service

Martino TREE SERVICES
 Byron Bay & Beyond
 0435 019 524

TREE CARE SPECIALISTS

- 4x4 truck with 19" chipper
- Qualified local arborists
- 120 ★★★★★ Google reviews

Local • Reliable • Insured
 Leaf it to us!

0402 487 213

leafittous.com.au • kascha@leafittous.com.au

17 Years Experience as an Arborist
 Experienced crew ready to go.
 Free Quotes | Insured | Amenity Tree Pruning
 Removals | Chipping | Block Clearing
 Council DA Assistance if required
Call Sam 0456 044602

BYRON TREE SERVICES AQF Level 5 consulting arborist, insured..... Call Alex 0402 364852

LEAF IT TO US 4x4 truck/chipper + crane truck. Local, qualified, insured. Free quotes0402 487213

LOCAL TREE GUYS 15m crane truck. 18 inch chipper. Bobcat..... Jason 0488 489159

OUT ON A LIMB TREE SERVICES Lucas Holland qualified arboristLuc 0402 191316

UPHOLSTERY

BANGALOW UPHOLSTERY Now at Billinudgel. Re-covering specialists.....66805255

VALUERS

BYRON BAY VALUERS NSW & QLD registerd. Chartered Valuers0431 245460 or 66857010

VETERINARY SURGEONS

MULLUM VET CLINIC: Richard Gregory, Bec Wills, Heidi Jenal. After hours avail.....66843818

NORTH COAST VETERINARY SERVICES Dr Lauren Archer.....66840735

WATER FILTERS

The Water Filter Experts



for home, commercial and rural properties

6680 8200 or 0418 108 181

WEB DESIGN SERVICES

NEED A WEBSITE? We build fast, affordable, tailored websites for your needs. Contact us today - info@websitesbywednesday.com.au | www.websitesbywednesday.com.au0468 345742

WELDING

WELDING & FABRICATION Structural, General, Repairs: Steel, Aluminium & Stainless..0408 410545

WINDOW CLEANING AND REPAIRS

CLEAN VIEW Prompt, professional, insured. Phone David.....0421 906460

WINDOW TINTING

SURFWAGON - Car/Home/Office tint. Lifetime Warranty. W/sale price.....0434 875009

SUNRISE window tinting, mobile Byron+ N. Rivers. Cars, homes, offices, etc0412 158478

Brad Rogan – Sotheby’s International Realty, lists Wave Break – an award-winning beach sanctuary of high-calibre design

Positioned just moments from the shoreline of Sharpes Beach, this substantial two-storey residence represents a rare offering defined by its calibre, scale, and exceptional construction. Set within a tightly held, blue-chip enclave, the home reflects a level of quality and presence seldom found in coastal properties, with a design and build that speak to both change and distinction.

This is a rare opportunity to secure a newly constructed home by an award-winning builder, where properties of this calibre are becoming increasingly difficult to find. Showcasing exceptional craftsmanship and thoughtful design. For buyers seeking a home that distinguishes itself through superior build quality, design integrity, and long-term value, this represents a truly unique offering. ‘Opportunities of this calibre are becoming exceptionally difficult to secure. It’s not just the position,

but the craftsmanship and luxury aesthetic of the build that sets this home apart from others,’ Brad Rogan states.

Internally, the home is generously proportioned and intelligently configured, offering a flexible dual-level layout suited to multi-generational living and guest accommodation. Expansive living zones, and thoughtful spatial planning provide a strong architectural base, complimented further through premium interiors. A defining feature of the residence is its solid construction and orientation, enhancing natural light, cross-ventilation, and year-round comfort. Outdoor entertaining areas and the pool integrate seamlessly with the home’s layout, reinforcing its functionality as both a private retreat and a space for hosting on a grand scale. Brad adds, ‘What stands out is the integrity of the home, the scale,



the layout, it is easy to see why it is an award-winning build and this design elevates it into something truly special.’

Despite its private setting, the residence enjoys immediate proximity to renowned beaches, coastal walks, and vibrant village centres, cafes and boutique retails. This beachside positioning, combined with the home’s inherent quality, continues to underpin strong buyer demand. When asked about the market,

Brad notes, ‘Skennars Head is fast establishing itself as a premium destination alongside Lennox Head. These suburbs, within the Byron Bay region, are supported by a strong and active buyer pool. We’re seeing increasing interest from buyers who recognise both the lifestyle and the long-term value on offer here.’

‘In the premium market, Skennars Head is also drawing attention beyond local buyers, with growing

metropolitan interest further reinforcing its reputation as a desired coastal destination.’ Overall, 24 Wave Break Circuit, Skennars Head represents a unique opportunity to secure a high-calibre beachside holding of enduring appeal.

For more information on this incredible home contact Brad Rogan, Sotheby’s International Realty.

■ Brad Rogan, Senior Sales Agent, +61 420 529 112, brad@sirbyronbay.com.au



AUCTION

Iconic Murwillumbah Landmark - Dual Living Period Residence with DA

Commanding the premier elevated position in Murwillumbah’s revered Hospital Hill enclave, “Glenelg” is a beautifully restored circa 1902 Queenslander offering heritage elegance, breathtaking views and remarkable flexibility.

Currently operating as an iconic short-term holiday rental with strong brand, business infrastructure and forward bookings, Glenelg offers immediate income potential or an exceptional multigenerational living opportunity for an owner occupier.

“A rare opportunity to transition from admirer to custodian. This is not just a residence for today, but a 1902 masterpiece preserved for the centuries to follow.”

■ We bring the *whole* team
Ray White Rural Murwillumbah 02 6672 3737

🚗 4 🛏 2 🚗 1

Address
2 Bent Street, Murwillumbah

View
By private appointment

Wally Trankle
0417 622 842
wally.trankle@raywhite.com



raywhiteruralmurwillumbah.com.au

195 NORTH TEVEN ROAD, TEVEN



Elevated Hinterland Living with Sweeping 270° Views

3 bedrooms 2 living zones 2 bathrooms 2 cars

17.92HA

- Spacious family home with multiple living zones, high ceilings & private main retreat
- Approx. 40 acres of fertile, usable pasture with a spring-fed dam & ample water storage
- 20m x 10m drive-through farm shed providing excellent storage, machinery space or workshop potential
- Prime location just minutes to Ballina, beaches & M1 access, offering lifestyle + convenience

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 9th May 10 - 10:30am



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232



Mia Stevie
0402 098 032

73 ALCORN STREET, BYRON BAY



Elevated Coastal Luxury with Ocean Views in a Premier Beachside and Beachfront Enclave

3 bedrooms 2 living zones 3 bathrooms 2 cars

733M²

- Beautifully renovated two-storey residence with light-filled open-plan living and dining with raked ceilings
- Seamless indoor-outdoor flow to expansive covered entertaining decks capturing ocean views
- Flexible second living zone, ideal as a media room, home office or guest accommodation
- Prime position, just footsteps to Tallow Beach and moments to local shops, cafés and schools

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 9th May 10 - 10:30am



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660

5 KOALA CLOSE, EWINGSDALE



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

5 bedrooms 2 living zones 2 bathrooms 2 cars

4162M²

- Elevated home positioned to maximise privacy and allow for future expansion or secondary dwelling (STCA)
- Single-level layout plus separate home office/multiple living zones
- Open-plan living flows to covered north-facing deck overlooking sparkling pool
- Ducted A/C, 5kW solar, town water + 5,000L tank and double garage

ON-SITE AUCTION | Thurs 21st May 11am
OPEN | Sat 9th May 10 - 10:30am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698

4 SEACREST PLACE, LENNOX HEAD



Premium Elevated Block with Magnificent Ocean Views

1032M²

- Private cul-de-sac position bordered by reserve land on two sides
- North-east aspect capturing sun, sea breezes and natural light
- DA-approved plans for a luxury 4 bed, 4 bath, 3 car residence
- Protected outlook with no risk of future development

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | By Appointment



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

www.byronbayfn.com.au | sales@byronbayfn.com | 35 Fletcher St, Byron Bay NSW 2481 | 02 6685 8466





6B CHILDE STREET
BYRON BAY
SOLD



15 MARVELL STREET
BYRON BAY
SOLD



352 BANGALOW ROAD
HAYTERS HILL
SOLD



750 FEDERAL DRIVE
FEDERAL
SOLD



15 NEWES ROAD
COORABELL
SOLD



10 BYRON CREEK ROAD
COOPERS SHOOT
SOLD



159 MCGETTIGANS LANE
EWINGSDALE
SOLD



714 LIMPINWOOD ROAD
LIMPINWOOD
SOLD



399 FERNLEIGH ROAD
FERNLEIGH
SOLD

The highest sale price achieved in the region this year.

Multiple suburb records set already this year.

58% more property sold in the last quarter in comparison to 2025.

Over 1,800 buyer inquiries received already this year.

Find out what we do differently today.

37-38/1 PORTER STREET
BYRON BAY NSW 2481

02 6610 9892
OFFICE@SIRBYRONBAY.COM.AU



29 BROWNS CRESCENT
MCLEODS SHOOT
SOLD



36 CARLYLE STREET
BYRON BAY
SOLD



15 KENDALL STREET
BYRON BAY
SOLD



18 BROOKVIEW COURT
EWINGSDALE
SOLD



538 COWLONG ROAD
MCLEANS RIDGES
SOLD



61 AMBER DRIVE
LENNOX HEAD
SOLD



109 BROKEN HEAD ROAD
NEWRYBAR
SOLD



29 GREEN FROG LANE
BANGALOW
SOLD



856 BANGALOW ROAD
TALOFA
SOLD



7 WARRAWEE DRIVE
LENNOX HEAD
SOLD



9 BROOKVIEW COURT
EWINGSDALE
SOLD



60 RUSKIN STREET
BYRON BAY
SOLD

Byron Bay

Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Over \$80m of property
sold in the last 6 months.

Thinking of selling?

We've already found your buyer.

BRAD ROGAN
SALES AGENT

0420 529 112
BRAD@SIRBYRONBAY.COM.AU



Waterfront Retirement Now Selling at Uniting Yamba

56 - 58 Yamba Road, Yamba

Embrace a relaxed coastal lifestyle at Uniting Yamba — perfectly positioned opposite Yamba Marina and the only retirement living community in Yamba with onsite care. A new release of thoughtfully designed apartments and villas is now selling, offering comfort, connection and peace of mind in a truly special location.

Enjoy added confidence with:

- No stamp duty
- 90-day change of mind guarantee
- No sales or marketing costs when you leave
- Service fees stop 42 days after you leave

Enquire today and secure your place by the water.



Available now:

- 1-bedroom apartments from **\$630,000***
- 2-bedroom apartments from **\$750,000***
- 2-bedroom + study villas from **\$780,000***

Visit [Uniting.org/yamba](https://uniting.org/yamba) or call **1800 864 846** to book your tour.

Uniting

You will have to pay a departure fee when you leave this village. *Pricing and information are correct as of April 2026.

PRIME COMMERCIAL LOCATION



12 & 14 GREVILLEA STREET, BYRON BAY

Opportunity to purchase commercial premises in a prime location in the Byron Industrial Estate.

Desirable corner position, close to IGA shopping centre, Bunnings, Habitat, Elements and Belongil Beach.

Level block with sheds. The site is ideally suited for a multitude of purposes subject to council approval.

Total land size 1887.9sqm, Lot 12 – 1042sqm, Lot 14 – 845.9sqm.

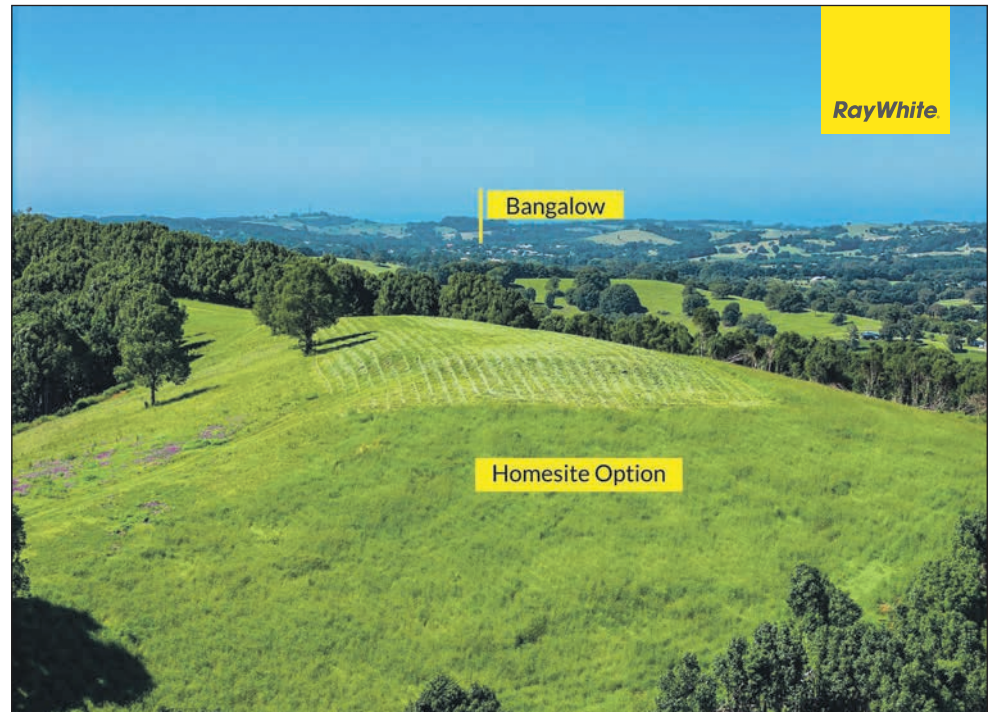
Zoned E4 General Industrial. Plus GST if applicable.

Call for more information or to arrange an inspection of the site.

AUCTION ON-SITE
21 May 2026, 10am

Contact:
Lois Buckett
0428 877 399

Lois Buckett loisbuckett.com.au ■ 02 6687 4399



AUCTION THIS WEEK

"Taylor's Farm" in Nashua

- First time offered in 120 years
- Massive 285 acres of Byron Hinterlands finest agricultural country
- Huge frontage to Wilsons & Byron Ck
- Happy balance of rich alluvial creek flats and gentle red slope soils
- Application to subdivide before council

■ We bring the *whole* team
Ray White Rural Bangalow 02 6687 2479

Auction
Saturday 9 May

View
By Appointment

Greg Price
0412 871 500
greg.price@raywhite.com

3 🚗 1 🏠 2 🚗

raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au



Mr Property Services

Tweed Broadwater – Tweed Heads South



2 🚗 1+1 🏠 2 🚗

Call us on 0403 713 658 **\$598,000**

Tasman North Star – Hastings Point



2 🚗 1 🏠 1+1 🚗

Call us on 0403 713 658 **\$560,000**

Banksia Waters – Tweed Heads West



2 🚗 1+1 🏠 1+1 🚗

Call us on 0403 713 658 **\$639,000**

Tweed Broadwater – Tweed Heads South



2 🚗 1 🏠 2 🚗

Call us on 0403 713 658 **\$439,000**

View over 50 homes at www.mrpropertyservices.com.au

Email: enquiries@mrpropertyservices.com.au

Phone: 07 5523 3431 Mobile: Heike Wilson 0403 713 658

Kelvin Price 0423 028 468

COASTAL^o



350 Rowlands Creek Road
Rowlands Creek
5 bed | 2 bath | 7 car

Expressions of Interest
Closing 13th May 5:00pm
Inspection
By appointment

Presented by
Jessica Murphy 0434 644 238
James Massey 0430 070 038
coastal.com.au

Wilmas Holdings Pty Ltd ACN 165 717 993 works in conjunction with Coastal Robina Pty Ltd ACN 620 836 777 trading as COASTAL^o Property Agents (Robina)



AGENTS



TARA TORKKOLA
SALES
0423 519 698
tara@byronbayfn.com

@taratorkkolafirstnational
@taratorkkola_realestate
www.byronbayfn.com.au

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON




PAUL PRIOR
SALES
0418 324 297
paulprior@byronbayfn.com

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON



SHARON McINNES
SALES
0408 659 649
sharon@byronbayfn.com

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON



TIM MILLER
REAL ESTATE

0411 757 425
tim@millerrealestate.com.au
millerrealestate.com.au
@timmiller_realestate

CAPE BYRON
PROPERTY



SALES & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Contact the team today on 0412 057 672

Call today for an obligation free chat
0418 123 393



BYRON BAY AGENT OF THE YEAR
Damien Smith
Sales Director Ray White Byron Bay
www.rwbyronbay.com

agent of the year awards
SOLID WINNER
2023



REAL ESTATE OF DISTINCTION

Boutique, family-owned and proudly serving Byron Bay & beyond.

Where personalised service isn't just a promise - it's our way of life.

JANIS PERKINS
02 6680 8588 | 0438 841 122
janis@reodbyron.com.au
Shop 9/15-19 Fletcher St, Byron Bay
www.reodbyron.com.au

FINANCE

ENTOURAGE
Your Local Mortgage Broker
Residential Home Loans | Refinancing
Commercial Property Finance | Business Loans



Scan Here To Book



entourage.com.au | (02) 6678 1751
Office | 3/6 Jonson Street, Byron Bay NSW
Australian Credit Licence 475676



The Shire's local finance expert

- Home Loans
- Investment Loans
- First Home Buyers
- Car Loans
- Debt Consolidation
- SMSF Lending
- Commercial Loans
- Development Funding



Russel Shaw
Finance Broker
russel@acceptancefinance.com.au
0412 833 280

Acceptance Finance Australia Pty Ltd ABN 20 678 011 571
Australian Credit Licence Number 391715 Credit Representative Number 395628

CONVEYANCING

BUYING and SELLING REAL ESTATE?
We are here to help

NP CONVEYANCING
PHONE 6685 7436 FOR A QUOTE

NPC PERSONALISED APPOINTMENTS IN BYRON BAY NOW

NOW OPERATING OUT OF CENTRAL OFFICE IN POTTSVILLE Lic No 06000098



BANGALOW CONVEYANCING

NSW & QLD Conveyancing, Leases, Business Sale & Purchase

P: 02 6687 0548 | hello@bangalowconveyancing.com.au

PROJECT MANAGEMENT



CA CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

We project manage building, development & fire safety measures.

Craig Adams | Project Manager
0411 575 991
craig@cacm.net.au

Conveyancing, Leases, Wills, Estates, Probate

bvk bvk.com.au
SOLICITORS ATTORNEYS
QUALITY LEGAL ADVICE

in and around Byron Bay
02 6680 8522

"Please pass on a huge thank you to Adam. Your office has been amazing to deal with as always."

Conveyancing, Leases, Wills, Estates, Probate

vka vkalaw.com.au
SOLICITORS ATTORNEYS
VAN KEMPEN & ASSOCIATES

Ocean Shores 02 6680 2888
Tweed Heads 07 5599 4456

PROPERTY STYLING

cactus hill
PROPERTY STYLING



Visit us at 69 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby, or call for a free quote

home@cactushill.com.au
02 5643 9333 cactushillproject.com.au



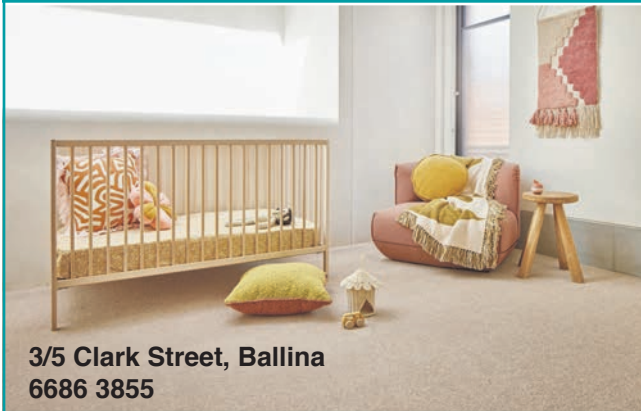
Open for inspection listings www.echo.net.au/ofi

CARPET ONE®

THE ONE STORE FOR YOUR PERFECT FLOOR

Triextra Carpet is an eco-friendly carpet that is perfect for your active household!

- Made in part from renewable plant-based ingredients
- Manufactured locally in Australia
- Chemical-free cleaning with just cold water
- No tropical treatment is needed



3/5 Clark Street, Ballina
6686 3855

ONE-ON-ONE LESSONS FOR SENIORS



Be tech savvy and learn how to use your phones, tablets, laptops and computers at your own pace.

GET HELP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY?

QUALIFIED, PATIENT AND EXPERIENCED TEACHER

Phone or email: 0420 235 624
contact@thinkblinkdesign.com

Lessons for all. Tech help for Apple devices only

'Elon Musk is planning to send his semen to Mars. No, seriously, these people are seriously deranged, deranged.' – Yanis Varoufakis

Just one of those unfortunate things... Mayor Sarah Ndiaye's Facebook reply to Tamara Smith's resignation post starts off, 'Hi I would like to improve this Facebook reply – warm grateful for her work, celebratory but also understanding that it's a tough decision. Here is my draft: Congratulations Tamara ...' followed by AI's version, which luckily validated the mayor's draft as striking the right emotional tone. Tamara was kind enough to thank both Sarah and ChatGPT for their comments, which, the mayor said, were caused by her using 'voice to text' in the car on the way to a meeting and, ironically, wanting to make sure she didn't 'stuff it up'. We've all been there!

Mayor [Hey Siri, please spellcheck before publication] NdAlye is considering throwing her hat in the ring for state Greens preselection. The twice-unsuccessful federal candidate, Mandy Nolan has confirmed she is running. Due to some weird preselection rule of the Greens, we have to guess who else might be in the running and 'ask' them, they can't tell us. So, if you have someone that you'd like us to 'ask', please let us know. See story page 2.

Both Ndiaye and Nolan are winners in their own way, Ndiaye having defeated Asren Pugh for mayor (Pugh also lost to Smith in the state election and is now running for Labor in the upper



Enjoy lots of sparkles and frills at the Midsummer Night's Queen extravaganza running 7-24 May at Mullumbimby's Drill Hall Theatre. Infused with wigs, disco balls, and more. This vibrant, vibrating performance is a must-see for all. Photo J 'King of the Queens' Dawson

house). Nolan, on the other hand, has runs on the board against a much tougher candidate in federal Labor, Richmond incumbent Justine Elliot MP. As the state Ballina seat does not include the more conservative Tweed part of the federal seat, where Elliot is based, Nolan seems likely to be a more certain bet for the Greens as she's familiar to voters in both shires. However, like the Vatican conclave, party preselection rooms are a black box from which only the smoke of burning unsuccessful candidates and the PR-checked smile of the victor emerges.

'All six conservative members of the Supreme Court attended President Trump's state dinner honouring King Charles. Their appearance seemed at odds with the chief justice's oft-stated message that the court avoids even the appearance of political

splits. None of the three liberal justices were present.' – The New York Times

Australia Institute research shows that Japan collects more tax on Australian gas than Australia does.



MAY IS PET DENTAL MONTH

- Free pet dental check with nurse
- 10% off routine dental procedures
- 10% off equine dentals (excludes medication & travel)

Please call the clinic for an appointment

124 Dalley Street Mullumbimby

Phone 6684 3818

After Hours Emergency Service

Small & Large animals.

Locally owned with a friendly & caring team!

byron healing

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

2026-2027 MAGAZINE + WEBSITE PACKAGE ON SALE NOW!

Book now for your comprehensive website listing and to be in the magazine out this June.



byronhealing.com.au/promote-your-healing-or-health-business



BEDS R US BYRON BAY CLOSING DOWN SALE

ALL STOCK REDUCED EVERYTHING MUST GO

BEDS R US BYRON BAY

Cnr Brigantine St & Wollongbar St, Byron Arts & Industry Estate • 02 6685 5212