

## Leading pigs to slaughter not so easy

Aslan Shand

Booyong Abattoir has approval to slaughter 5,000 pigs per week, although it has historically slaughtered 7,000 to 10,000 animals at times, and a Booyong Village local residents' group doesn't want the abattoir's development application (DA 10.2024.305.3) to be approved by Byron Shire Council (BSC).

In March 2025 a \$7m redevelopment of the abattoir owned by Casino Food Company Ltd (CFC), was approved by BSC. At that time, the request to remove the cap on the number of animals slaughtered at the facility each week was rejected, and new limits on the hours of operation were imposed as part of the DA. Nevertheless, Booyong Residents Group (BRG) has told *The Echo*

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Mother's Day wishing: Granma Sue and mum Monique made a wish with Pippa at the wishing well at The Farm in Byron Bay after a delicious brekky at Three Blue Ducks followed by a trip the Crystal Castle on Sunday. Photo by slightly damp wish-giving Tree Faerie

## Budget talk

*The Echo* went to bed prior to the federal Budget announcement on Tuesday night, but far too excited to sleep. Treasurer Jim Chalmers says tonight's budget will be the government's most ambitious and will feature 'more than the usual amount of savings and more than the usual amount of reform'.

*The Betoota Advocate's* take on strongly-tipped CGT reform: 'Labor to finally even the playing field for younger Australians by stopping future generations from using the tax loopholes that boomers will be allowed to keep using'.

## Regional NSW newspapers to close

Aslan Shand

The closure this week of ACM's (Australian Community Media) Tamworth printing facility has once again led to the closure of more local, regional newspapers.

The closure left 'up to ten small independent newspapers racing against time to secure alternative

printing facilities,' according to *The Coonamble Times*.

'The closure is having a broader impact across the north-west, acting as a tipping point with one publisher already electing to close their publications.'

This included *The Courier* which serves the Narrabri Shire, the *Wee Waa News* and *The Gunnedah*

*Times*, along with the *North West Magazine*.'

Over the last ten years around 200 regional and community newspapers closed with another 20 or so closing in the last 18-months according to the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA).

Research supports Narrabri Mayor Darrell Tiemens statement

that, 'the closure of papers in his shire will have a negative effect on the social fabric of the community.'

Media expert Professor Kristy Hess of Deakin's School of Communication and Creative Arts says, 'Countries across the globe are mapping increasing news deserts and gaps as outlets struggle to

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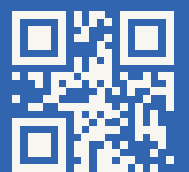
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## Height limits 'unreasonable' and 'unnecessary'

Paul Bibby

The Melbourne-based developer behind a luxury beachfront apartment project in Byron Bay is seeking to push the building more than two metres above the town's height limit, describing our height rules as 'unreasonable' and 'unnecessary'.

The modification application, now on exhibition with Byron Council ([www.byron.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/)), relates to a five-unit residential flat building approved last year for 42-44 Lawson Street, opposite Main Beach and Denning Park.

The original development application (DA), approved in December 2025, allowed for a three-storey development with basement parking and five apartments.

But the Melbourne-based developer, Newmagoo Pty Ltd, has now lodged a Section 4.55 modification application seeking to increase the building height from the permitted nine metres to 11.175 metres – a 24 per cent exceedance of Byron's height controls.

The additional height would accommodate larger floor-to-floor heights and new rooftop terraces featuring swimming pools,

entertaining areas, landscaping and other facilities for penthouse residents.

Planning consultants Urbis, acting for the developer, argue the increase is justified because modern building standards effectively make strict compliance with Byron's older nine metre limit 'unreasonable or unnecessary'.

### Established precedent

'Historically, a nine metre height is typical of a three-storey structure; however, to deliver a constructable three-storey product... a floor-to-floor height more than 3.1 metres is required,' the report states.

Urbis also argues that Byron Council has effectively established a precedent for height variations by approving numerous similar breaches in recent years.

### Developers keep pushing heights

The proposed Lawson Street increase is the latest in what has become a familiar pattern in Byron, and across the Shire, where developers secure approval for one

project before later returning with modification applications seeking additional height, rooftop structures, or expanded bulk and more.

In 2023, developers behind the Bonobo by Raes luxury apartment project on Jonson Street sought further rooftop height increases after already obtaining approval for a development that exceeded local limits.

Earlier this year, developers of the Eade beachfront apartment project at Shirley Street successfully secured another increase in building height through the Land and Environment Court after Byron Council initially failed to approve the modification.

The original DA for the Lawson Street site had itself been promoted partly on the basis that the development would remain within the nine metre height limit.

Newmagoo Pty Ltd does not have a publicly listed phone number or email address. An ASIC search shows that it has a registered address in the Melbourne suburb of Camberwell.

The modification application is currently on public exhibition through Byron Council's DA Tracker ([www.byron.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/)).

## Booyong residents say abattoir has serious impacts

► Continued from page 1 that their amenity has already been significantly impacted by the 'increased operational intensity' of the CFC.

They complain about intrusive noise of machinery, refrigeration, and 'distressed, screaming pigs' as they are transported into, and held at, the facility prior to slaughter 24 hours a day. They also highlighted that it was only complaints from the BRG that led to the abattoir reducing the number to within their slaughter cap of 5,000 pigs per week.

Now CFC wants to increase building height to 9.9m (the limit is 9m), remove previously required road upgrades, and change the hours of operation. CFC argues that the increase in height limit 'would have no unreasonable or adverse impact on the surrounding area or adjoining properties'.

However, the BRG has told *The Echo* that, 'considering the incredible intrusion into our homes by way of noise, stench, and increased operational hours, it seems the facility wishes to add an architectural intrusion to our bucolic vistas as well. The notion that the plant buildings do not intrude visually

on surrounding properties is incorrect.'

The DA condition 14 'outlines upgrade requirements for sections of Cudgerie Gully Lane, Booyong Road, and associated intersections. These include driveway upgrades, full pavement and seal widening, drainage improvements, line marking, and potential culvert works along a stretch of the road,' according to the report submitted by GeoLINK on behalf of CFC.

### Trucks wreck road

BSC General Manager, Mark Arnold has said that the road conditions were too onerous, and Council should pay for them, according to the GeoLINK report, which states that, 'It was generally agreed that the scope of works/upgrades required by the condition were onerous and that Council also had a responsibility for road maintenance/improvement of the public road network.' Hence, CFC are seeking to amend the condition 'to reduce the extent of these road upgrade works' and 'undertake roadworks only at the curve of Cudgerie Gully Lane and extending into the entry of the site entrance.'

The BRG say that triple-decked transports and refrigeration trucks transporting 'up to 230 pigs per truck, sometimes 8-10 trucks per day, six days per week, and 52 weeks per year' means that the impact on their roads is significant, and the facility has 'responsibility to own the immense road destruction it has historically caused, currently causes and will cause in the future.'

BRG said that they object to the proposed changes to operating hours as it would 'strip away any remaining noise-free time in the entire week, for the community'.

Responding to questions from *The Echo*, CEO of CFC Simon Stahl acknowledged that at times they have 'exceeded the limit in our consent' of processing pigs to slaughter.

'We are in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement so the question of appropriate processing capacity can be properly assessed on environmental and amenity grounds, with full input from Council, the EPA and the community. We invite residents with concerns to make a submission during public exhibition,' he told *The Echo*.

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# Community honours Ballina Marine volunteers

Aslan Shand

Three people died in tragic circumstances on Monday, 4 May, 2026 as six marine rescue volunteers went out to assist a yacht that was foundering off the South Ballina break-wall around 6.15pm.

The two volunteers from Marine Rescue Ballina who lost their lives in the night-time rescue mission were 78-year-old William (Bill) Ewen and 62-year-old Frank Petsch. Solo yachtsman 54-year-old Matthew Clayton also died.

The two marine rescuers lost their lives after the Marine Rescue NSW vessel capsized in heavy conditions as the volunteers were heading to the aid of a yacht in distress. The four other Marine Rescue crew members – aged 55, 75 and two aged 61 – made it to shore and were treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics for various injuries before being taken to hospital for further treatment. Ballina Shire Citizen of the Year, Captain Geoff Hutchison, was seriously injured in the tragedy.



Marine Rescue volunteer William (Bill) Ewen. Photo supplied



Marine Rescue volunteer Frank Petsch. Photo supplied



Flowers on Ballina coastal bar following Marine Rescue tragedy. Photo David Lowe



Damaged Marine Rescue boat delivered to Ballina Police Station following river entrance tragedy, 6 May 2026. Photo David Lowe

## Heroes, Bill and Frank

The community has come together to remember these brave citizens who lost their lives helping others, and to provide support to their families and the Ballina Marine Rescue Unit.

Marine Rescue Ballina Unit Commander Peter Hill said both men are heroes and their contribution to service and the local boating community will never be forgotten.

'Losing two of our boat crew has been particularly difficult for us,' said Commander Hill.

'Bill loved getting on the boat training, or on missions. You had to have a crowbar to get him off the boat. So he really, really loved it, and we're going to miss him terribly.'

'Frank was a "yes" man. If you needed anything done, Frank would say "yes". He was very strong man, and it's hard to believe he's gone. So as you probably gather, we are hurting at Marine Rescue Ballina, and at Marine Rescue. This community is hurting, and I've been overwhelmed by the support that this community has shown us, both in words and in flowers, and

in offers of support.'

In a statement to the public, Bill's family said, 'Bill was a devoted family man who was incredibly proud to serve his community as a member of the Marine Rescue Ballina.

'We are devastated at the loss of a much-loved husband, father and grandfather, but take comfort from knowing that he passed doing something he loved. We are so proud of him.

'Our thoughts are with the entire crew and families involved, and we extend our sincere thanks to the first responders. We respectfully request privacy at this time to mourn our Bill.'

Frank's family have not made a public statement at this point. It is requested that the privacy of those involved and their families be respected during this difficult time.

Ballina MP Tamara Smith acknowledged the tragic loss in NSW Parliament.

'I offer Bill and Frank's families and loved ones my deepest condolences during this unimaginably difficult and painful time, and extend those condolences to the entire Marine Rescue community,' she told *The Echo*.

'Bill and Frank were

part of a highly skilled and dedicated crew who volunteer to help others at one of the eastern seaboard's most treacherous bars – an act that speaks to the very best of our community. Their loss is a profound shock for Ballina and a solemn reminder of the risks that our Marine Rescue volunteers take in keeping others safe.

## Vale Matthew Clayton

'I also acknowledge the death of the solo yachtsman, Matthew Clayton, and offer our community's sorrow at his passing.'

The yacht has since sunk and it is understood that inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the yacht's movements are ongoing under Strike Force Corta and that the matter is now before the coroner.

Minister for the North Coast, Janelle Saffin recognised the 'tragedy that is being felt right across our region'.

'I know our local crew from Ballina and have seen firsthand the selflessness and skill they bring to every call-out. These volunteers are our neighbours and friends. The Richmond River

bar is a formidable one, and this tragedy is a sobering reminder of the risks our first responders take to keep us safe,' she said.

The Marine Rescue vessel has been retrieved and will be part of the continuing investigation that will be done by both the New South Wales Police Marine Area Command and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

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

## Support for families

The Cherry Street Sports Club originally raised funds to buy the damaged \$1.4m boat, which was reportedly fully insured. They have now designated a new fundraiser with all funds raised going to Marine Rescue to assist the families in any way they need, a spokesperson for the club told *The Echo*.

'We've been inviting people to come into the club or head to our website page – [cherrysportsgroup.com.au/marine-rescue-donations](http://cherrysportsgroup.com.au/marine-rescue-donations) – to make a donation.'

So far they have raised \$34,041.00 to support the families of the Marine Rescue crew who have been impacted by this tragedy.

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## RFS Captain John Milford recognised

Aslan Shand

John Milford, Captain of the Wilsons Creek Rural Fire Brigade, has been in the Rural Fire Service (RFS) for about 34 years and when the 2022 floods hit he became a lynch pin in linking his local community. But for him it was 'just doing my job'.

For many others it was key to getting help, connection, water, food and fuel. From the first morning after the flood when John received a phone call from RFS FireCom, just before all the phones went dead, asking him to go and check on a fatality further up Wilsons Creek he didn't stop working on keeping his community as safe as he could.

With landslides across the road in both directions from his house, John started walking up the valley.

'On the way I found a badly injured woman and amazingly NSW ambos had walked along the ridges about 4km to help her,' he told *The Echo*.

'I walked with one of the ambos to show her a suitable helicopter landing place. The next day I was just able to get my ute around one landslide



Wilsons Creek RFS Captain John Milford. Photo supplied

so we could put the patient in the back and drive her to the landing site for evacuation by helicopter.'

### Connecting community

From that point on John guided police, ADF personnel, and the Fijian army volunteers throughout Wilsons Creek, Huonbrook, and Wanganui valleys, often on foot, as roads were blocked by landslides.

'Steve Brown was amazing. He just brought his diggers out and started opening roads. After Brown's earthmoving team were able to open access to some areas we were able to get

our Landcruiser firetruck out of the flooded fire shed and reach some more places in the valley.'

### Commendation

Last week John was awarded the 2026 St Florian's Day Award, Commissioner's Commendation for Service, for his tireless work following the 2022 floods.

'Captain John Milford sometimes walked 20 kilometres a day to check on residents and lead other emergency services in while providing information and critical supplies to isolated communities,' his commendation said in part.

John also received a regimental award from the ADF's second battalion of Australian combat engineers in recognition of his extraordinary work.

'Major Ben Turner invited me to have dinner with them and they presented me with the regimental medal. That meant a lot to me as my dad was a career naval officer.'

The Wilsons Creek RFS trains the first Sunday of every month. If you are interested in joining the RFS visit: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/join-the-nsw-rfs](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/join-the-nsw-rfs).

## Will transport plan provide missing links?

Paul Bibby

A draft NSW government transport blueprint has warned that deep 'transport disadvantage' is leaving many North Coast residents struggling to access jobs, healthcare, and education without a private vehicle, widening the divide between those who can afford to drive and those who cannot.

The Draft North Coast Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan, released by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) for public exhibition, paints a stark picture of a region heavily reliant on cars, with around 93 per cent of residents currently commuting by private vehicle.

### Poor public transport options

The report identifies Aboriginal communities, young people, older residents, and isolated rural towns as being disproportionately affected by poor public transport and limited travel options, warning that transport inequality is contributing to broader social and economic disadvantage across the region.

Ballina MP Tamara Smith said the problems outlined in the report reflected long-standing transport failures across the Northern Rivers.

'On the Easter weekend we got a glimpse of how things could be in terms of public transport in our region because we got some of the Bluesfest money,' Ms Smith said.

'What we saw over Easter was just gorgeous. We had much more regular bus services across the region. But it's not viable the rest of the time without that additional funding support.'

Ms Smith said poor public transport was particularly

affecting young people, low-income residents, and Aboriginal communities, including those struggling to obtain a driver licence under NSW's mandatory supervised driving requirements.

She said she had experienced the region's transport shortcomings firsthand while raising her daughter in the Northern Rivers.

'There were no buses. No options other than carpooling,' she said.

### Unrealistic bus travel times

The Greens MP also described carrying out her own 'experiment' by catching a commuter bus from Suffolk Park to Southern Cross University, a journey she said took one hour and 25 minutes compared to around 30 minutes by car.

'There's a lack of understanding on the part of the government about what would make the difference,' Ms Smith said.

'We are not being looked after in the way that we should.'

The government blueprint outlines a 20-year vision for transport across the North Coast, stretching from Tweed Heads to Port Macquarie, with a stronger emphasis on integrated public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure, climate resilience, and reducing dependence on private cars.

The strategy comes as Byron Shire Council prepares to publicly exhibit its own draft Byron Shire Integrated Transport Plan, which is intended to align with the broader regional blueprint.

A report to Byron Council's Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Committee said the new local plan had been developed in response

to 'significant growth pressures, evolving government policies on climate and transport, and changing community expectations.'

The Byron plan proposes expanded public transport services, on-demand buses, regional cycle links, and upgrades to emergency access routes, while also identifying investigations into traffic improvements on Ewingsdale Road, Bangalow Road, and Mullumbimby Road.

### More investment needed for change

Ms Smith welcomed the release of the draft regional strategy, but questioned whether it contained the scale of investment needed to significantly improve transport in the region.

'I welcome any investment. It's great to see that the government is looking into it but I don't see anything that's a game changer,' she said.

'We have a great transport minister in Jenny Aitchison, but I would just say, "Come and catch a bus around here and see what it's like".'

Ms Smith said even relatively modest improvements in weekend bus services between villages could have a major impact for both locals and visitors.

'Our community would love it, and what a gift it would be for our young people and also to tourists,' she said.

The state government is now calling on North Coast communities to have their say on the plan.

Community members can view the plan and provide feedback until Sunday, 14 June 2026 at [www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/sritp/north-coast](http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/sritp/north-coast).



## Get inspired at Sustainable House Day Sunday 17 May

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## Byron Chamber Business After Hours

The Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce is encouraging the business community to reconnect through its upcoming Business After Hours event as they shift focus into the winter season ahead.

'Hosted at Loft Byron Bay on Thursday 14 May, from 5pm to 7pm, the relaxed evening gathering will bring together local business owners and professionals for informal conversation and connection,' said Byron Chamber President, Matt Williamson.

'There's real value in creating space for people to reconnect outside the day-to-day pressures of running a business. These events help strengthen relationships across the community and keep local businesses engaged and connected.'



Meet other local business people at the Byron Chamber Business After Hours drinks this Thursday. Photo supplied

### Book now

Bookings and event information are available via the Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce website: [www.byronbaychamber.com](http://www.byronbaychamber.com).

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## Commemorate Nakba Day this Sunday

A community rally will be held this Sunday, 17 May, starting in Apex Park, Byron Bay opposite the Beach Hotel at 11am as part of a Nationwide Day of Action to mark the 78th anniversary of the Nakba.

May 15 is Nakba Day, from the Arabic word for 'catastrophe' and it is the date in 1948 when the mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians began during the Arab-Israeli war, forcing hundreds of thousands from their homes and land. It is commemorated every year around the world.

Since December 1948, the United Nations has called

for refugee return, property restitution and compensation and, despite countless UN resolutions, those rights remain denied.

### Family friendly

'It will be a family-friendly day in solidarity with the people of Palestine where we come together to remember – as well as advocating for justice for Palestine to our government, which is helping to support the ongoing Nakba,' says Subhi Awad, President of Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine.

'The genocide in Gaza continues, as does the illegal Israeli occupation and settlement of the West Bank,

none of which has ceased despite a so-called ceasefire,' says Subhi.

'Australia's government has faced growing calls to act – to sanction Israel and cease providing it with weapons or material support – the silence in the face of repeated requests to show moral leadership and compassion to Palestinians is complicity. We must keep speaking out and coming together like we will be on Sunday to show we are a community that feels so strongly about this and needs to see action from our leaders,' says Cate Coorey, Vice President of Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine.

## Beached Byron yacht to be pulled back out to sea

Hans Lovejoy

Jeff Sutton's yacht, *Wyuna 1*, ran aground on the beach at Byron Bay over a week ago. He's asked *The Echo* to pass on his apologies and to let people know it will be towed out to sea.

Jeff told *The Echo* he was sailing past Byron Bay 'in the early hours, a week or so ago, with 40 miles to go before arriving in Tweed Heads, the



Jeff with the stricken *Wyuna 1*. Photo Raphael Cass

end of a three-and-half-year sailing adventure.'

'My boom broke,' he said, which forced him to drop his anchor in the Bay. He went

ashore to get supplies to repair the vessel but heavy weather and rough seas ensued.

'I was away for a day and night, and the police contacted me at 7am to say it had run aground as the chain had broken.'

Help Jeff fund towing his boat at: <https://tinyurl.com/cz5wwzkc>.

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

## Gaza-bound humanitarian aid flotilla convenes in Turkey

Nearly 60 boats have crossed international waters from multiple ports to gather in Turkey as part of a sailing fleet trying to bring humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The response of the Turkish government to their arrival was unclear, representatives of the Global Sumud Flotilla said via media release on Sunday.

Organisers of the flotilla had planned for 79 boats to travel to Gaza but Israeli forces have already reportedly taken 22 boats as part of an interception near Crete.

Lawyer Greg Barns SC was quoted saying international law had been repeatedly violated by the capture and detention of supporters of Palestine in international waters far from Gaza, with authorities in Tunisia having jailed eight flotilla activists.

Activists said the actions came in response to 'acute pressure from Israel to disrupt the mission'.

Ten crew members from Australia have made it to Turkey: Neve O'Connor, Zack Schofield, Sam Woripa Watso, Anny Mokoto, Violet Coco, Helen O'Sullivan, Gemma O'Toole and Northern Rivers residents Surya McEwen, and Juliet and Isla Lamont.

### Aussie trio released from Israeli detention

O'Connor, Schofield, and McEwen rejoined the fleet after time in Israeli detention.



Global Samud Flotilla in Turkey May 2026. Photo supplied

Supporters said the trio had been part of a smaller fleet intercepted by the Israeli Navy last week as they tried to sail from Italy to Greece.

The return of two other crew members who have been in Israeli detention, Thiago Avila and Saif Abuke-shek, is yet to happen.

Israeli forces had agreed to their release, supporters said.

But the group held apprehensions about 'the grim, long-term impacts' of detention 'at the hands of Israeli captors'.

### Children suffering, amputations without pain relief

Mr Schofield said he was willing to 'face a beating' if it meant a chance of getting aid through to people in need.

Ms O'Connor said children were suffering food and medical shortages in circumstances of unconscionable deprivation.

'They have been forced to relocate so often that their tattered tents are now literally in the sea,' she said.

Sunday's update also referred to Dr Mohammed Mustafa, who last week shared eye-witness accounts of suffering in Gaza to, what supporters said was, a large audience in Sydney.

Dr Mustafa described operating without anaesthetics while surrounded by amputated limbs.

The experience prompted him to consider 'every rule of humanity' broken by Israel.

Mr O'Connor said he believed most Australians didn't support 'the casual brutality and cruelty of the Israeli government'.

'I was told that courage and mateship were core Australian values,' he was quoted saying, 'but it seems more and more like our government is terrified of offending a regime that just celebrated a new law to execute prisoners based on their race.'



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## Small halls the heart of their communities



The Eureka Hall Committee's Michelle Braiuka with artist Kate Geary and The Hon. Janelle Saffin at the start of the hall's 120th birthday celebrations which began with the inaugural art show. Photo Tree Faerie

### Eve Jeffery

The Eureka Hall is turning 120 this year and the community kicked off the celebrations with the inaugural Eureka Art Show on Friday evening with walls and plinths full of wonderful work, and the hall filled to capacity with celebrators.

Like all small halls, the Eureka Hall is another jewel dotted across the Northern Rivers. Also like all small halls there is always a challenge to maintaining the premises.

On the committee is Michelle Braiuka who says there are many hands helping to keep the venue afloat.

'We're celebrating 120 years - it's a wonderful celebration of community, and tonight, community connection through art.

'This marks the start of a year of celebrations. The art show is not a competition - artists needed to enter an expression of interest and we accepted 18 artists. Ten per cent of all the art sales over the weekend are donated back to the hall.'

### Relying on volunteers

Ms Braiuka said, like any region it's always a struggle to have people available to volunteer.

'But, we have a beautiful

community of people that are always willing to help out.'

Ms Braiuka said the hall is used for all sorts of events including weddings, meetings, and yoga on a regular basis. It's available for rent all year round.

Ms Braiuka, who curated the art show, said she doesn't have an art background, but she does have an art appreciation.

'I also recognise that we have so many amazing artists within this region that don't have a platform to actually show us their art. One of the artists, it's her first ever exhibition, she'd never had a platform. So that was actually the inspiration for why we started the show.'

### Local halls part of local communities

Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin, who opened the art show, expressed how important small halls are.

'Small halls are community. It's where community gathers. It's where they not only tell stories, they make stories, and they're repositories for stories. So if a hall connects everybody, it connects community and it shows care.'

Ms Saffin said there are so many things that happen in the halls.

'There's been this wonderful revival over the last few years, I think across the Lismore electorate where there's about 28 halls. With all of the extreme weather we've had they've become even more important as gathering places, and people are using them for disaster preparedness.'

Ms Saffin said the best way to support small halls is to support the committee.

'When they put out a call, respond to it, do what you can. You may not want to be on the committee, but when they ask for things to happen, help out. And I'm told that it happens really well here at Eureka.'

'You know, small halls are your halls - look after them. There's a lot of skill here. If you go to our little communities, in our villages, there's an enormous amount of skill and knowledge there.'

First time exhibitor, artist Kate Geary, said the show was a great opportunity.

'It's wonderful for me and other new and emerging artists to share their work alongside people with a more established practice - and to be able to do so, in this beautiful space, in the heart the community, is really special.'

To find out more about the Eureka Hall hire and celebrations, visit their social media page.

## Applications open for local health advisory groups

Local health authorities are accepting expressions of interest in advisory group membership for the Northern NSW Local Health District.

The district has community advisory groups throughout the region, operating in hospitals at Balina, Byron, Lismore-Casino,

Grafton, Maclean, Murwillumbah and Tweed.

The groups meet every two months to hear updates from across the district, share ideas and experiences, raise concerns, and contribute to special projects that help improve services.

More information is available via the Community

Engagement team at [NNSWLHD-engagement@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:NNSWLHD-engagement@health.nsw.gov.au) or phone 0418 341 992.

Apply online at: <https://engage.nswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/join-your-local-community-advisory-group>.

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



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Curiosity is the antidote to apathy and isolation in our young people. It stokes an inward capacity for them to relate to the wider world borne out of their own interest in it. We educate our children to carry forth a hope-filled heart and so that in time they can step into the world as the changemakers our world needs to build the future we want.

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## \$2bn for housing welcome, affordability is key

Aslan Shand

The federal government's Budget has committed \$2 billion for housing-enabling infrastructure, including \$500 million dedicated to regional Australia – over four years from 2026-27, to fund critical infrastructure and build up to 65,000 new homes.

This includes 'roads, drainage, water connections and community infrastructure that make new developments possible and liveable,' explained Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) President, Mayor Matt Burnett.

'This is a very significant investment, and it could not come at a better time. This commitment recognises that enabling infrastructure has been one of the biggest

barriers to increasing housing supply and affordability across Australia.'

### Affordability and liveability needed

While the ALGA has welcomed the commitment, Ballina MP Tamara Smith has told *The Echo* that, 'the type of housing, and who it is for, are the billion-dollar questions' that need to be answered.

'We welcome investment in infrastructure that will support our communities and future growth,' she said.

'With state and federal Labor's focus on housing supply the most important caveats are that we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to regulate that all new

residential housing be fit for the changing climate, be built away from high hazard zones, and be suitable for anyone to live and age in.

'We have seen that the state is selling Crown Land – the Commons – to private developers with no caveats around the design of homes and units whatsoever, and minimal or no requirement for genuinely affordable housing. That's not only a dumbass trade deal but it's robbing future generations. The failure to demand that developers future proof new homes for our climate and to deliver genuine, in perpetuity, and affordable housing on all Crown Land at state and federal level tells us of the capture of the old parties by the property industry.'

## Old Bangalow rail bridge gets new life

The upgrade of the Old Bangalow Road rail bridge in Byron Bay has been completed.

The old timber bridge, located along the non-operational Casino to Murwillumbah railway line, has been replaced with a modern steel arch structure and widened

to accommodate two lanes of traffic.

The upgrade increases the bridge's load limit to 42.5 tonnes, allowing heavier vehicles to cross safely and improving overall traffic flow

'The new bridge is safer, stronger, and easier to use for both drivers and

pedestrians. Projects like this show our ongoing commitment to improving regional infrastructure. It's about making travel safer and more reliable for everyone,' said Transport for NSW's Director Contract & Corridor Management Sam Knight.

## Clubs do Purple Friday to highlight DV

Eve Jeffery

Last Friday the Byron Bay Services Club stood with more than 200 registered clubs across NSW to turn purple as part of the first weekly 'Purple Friday – Clubs Say No to Domestic Violence' campaign.

The concept for Purple Friday was pioneered by Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina, after the death of local woman Lindy Lucena in 2023, with more and more clubs joining the movement, culminating in this year's state-wide event.

Staff at participating clubs will wear purple shirts, hats, and badges, and will be equipped to provide patrons with helpful information and practical resources – swiftly and discreetly. For those who don't feel comfortable speaking with a staff member, purple screens, posters, and other signage will be visible around participating clubs, displaying links to online support materials and phone numbers to call for advice and assistance.

ClubsNSW CEO Rebecca Riant says Purple Friday is about turning awareness into action, with club



Byron Bay Services Club's Maria King, left, and the Friday staff, are all very happy to be part of the Purple Friday – Clubs Say No to Domestic Violence weekly event. Photo Tree Faerie

employees right around NSW equipped to provide prompt and practical support.

### Breaking the silence

'The colour purple is a symbol of strength, courage, and dignity, and represents the club industry's commitment to breaking the silence around domestic violence and standing in solidarity with those affected.'

'Clubs have always been places where the community can come together, feel welcomed, and look out for one another, so it's natural that they play a leading role in an initiative like Purple

Friday,' said Ms Riant.

Byron Bay Services Club, Assistant Manager, Maria King, said she felt it was important that the club participate in this weekly event.

'We're spreading awareness – it's an industry initiative, and we're just wanting to come together in a united front against domestic violence.'

Members of the public are encouraged to visit their local participating club to show support and learn more about the initiative.

For more information or to find a participating club, visit [yourlocalclub.com.au/purplefriday](http://yourlocalclub.com.au/purplefriday).

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# Vale Robyn Gray

On 1 May, family and friends said goodbye to the founding president of the Brunswick Valley Historical Society (BVHS) Robyn Anne Gray (nee Harkness) OAM.

She was remembered affectionately by her life-long friend, BVHS member Helen L'Orange AM (nee Alidenes),

as intelligent, generous, and with a wry, understated sense of humour who always saw the lighter side of life.

After achieving two degrees and later a graduate diploma, working in Brisbane and Melbourne and taking a year to teach English in Italy she met and married her life

partner Christopher Gray in 1976. A year later they moved back to Mullumbimby where Robyn had grown up.

'Concerned that local history was being lost, she helped found what is now the Brunswick Valley Historical Society in 1982 and became its first president,' said Christopher during his tribute at her funeral service.

'One of her most

significant achievements was saving the old 1907 Mullumbimby Post Office from demolition. With a small group of dedicated volunteers, she helped raise the funds to move and restore it as a museum - creating a lasting home for the region's history.'

Robyn and Christopher made their home in Eureka for 40 years.

## Local media vital for accountability and connection

► Continued from page 1  
be commercially competitive in a world dominated by Big Tech like Google and Meta.'

'The cuts and closures have led to fewer regional issues, stories and perspectives being reported and, worryingly, less accountability reporting at the local level,' says ABC News Strategy Research Lead Dr Angela Ross.

The *Media innovation and the civic future of Australia's country press 2023* report found that audiences value original, locally-focused content but are frustrated by excessive syndicated material and multinational advertising. It also confirmed that print remains essential for rural communities. Research shows that audiences trust

local news providers more than they trust national and multinational news providers.

'Research shows regional Australians are screaming out for local news coverage. They trust local providers over the big city players and value the local journalists who often live in their communities and share their readers' concerns,' said University of Canberra's Caroline Fisher, in *The New England Times*.

'Research also shows those local news services are critical to healthy, connected and engaged communities.'

The Local and Independent News Association (LINA) has highlighted that 'Audiences often expect to access news content for free, but

news isn't free to produce. Due to the global collapse of traditional business models for newsrooms, publishers can't shoulder this cost alone. They are essential services and need support from the communities they serve to produce high quality journalism that helps people navigate their lives.'

While larger newspapers and media organisations are hopeful of assistance through the upcoming news media bargaining incentive, smaller, regional newspapers often receive little or no support through these measures.

'A strong democracy needs a strong and diverse media with public interest journalism at its heart,' says the Australia Institute.

'Yet Australia's media ownership is among the most concentrated in the developed world, giving private corporations and individuals excessive political and ideological influence. In an era of disinformation and the domination of Big Tech, the role of the media in serving the public, not vested interests, has never been more important.'

As Ms Fisher points out, 'There is no silver bullet to fix the financial challenges faced by regional news outlets.'

'All news media outlets need to look at funding solutions that include traditional advertising, subscription, donations, crowdfunding and value-adding.'

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**Report on native logging forestry released**

The NSW govt has received a report on its native forestry logging activities, with a new Independent Forestry Panel report revealing divisions and common objectives across industry, environmental groups and regional communities. Dailan Pugh from environment group North East Forest Alliance, said 'With 70 per cent of submissions expressing support for ending native forestry, it confirms that most people want an end to this archaic and destructive industry.'

**Consultants hired for Tweed's vacated floodplains**

A 'resilience-focused master plan' and 'specialist consultants' were announced on Friday for a new South Murwillumbah flood buyback precinct, more than four years after the 2022 disasters.

**Aus Post parcel centre for Casino**

The first sod was turned on a new 2,700 sqm Australia Post Parcel Delivery Centre in Casino on Wednesday. Richmond Valley Council say it's part of the Richmond Valley Regional Job Precinct.

**Museum in a caravan travels to remote schools**

A vintage caravan packed with interactive exhibits, historical objects and immersive storytelling is making the rounds of the North Coast, bound for some of the most remote classrooms in NSW.

**Renewed appeal: missing woman – Murwillumbah / Dungay**

Police are renewing their appeal for information to locate a woman reported missing from Murwillumbah area earlier this year. Yvonne Whear, aged 73, was last seen driving along Queensland Road, Murwillumbah, on Thursday, 19 February, 2026.

**Man airlifted to hospital after motorbike crash**

A man in his twenties has survived a motorbike crash near Woodenbong over the weekend. Emergency services say they were called to the crash around 12.30pm on Saturday 9 May.

www.echo.net.au

**Preschool teachers rally in Lismore**

Community preschool staff, represented by the Independent Education Union, rallied in Lismore on Thursday morning calling on the NSW government to fund fair pay rises in the lead-up to its June budget.

Scores of early childhood teachers and educators, parents, children and supporters, dressed in pink, gathered in Lismore's Spinks Park, then marched to The Quad for a rally and speeches from local preschool teachers and parents.

A similar rally was held in Sydney at the same time.

'Preschool teachers and educators need the NSW government to boost funding for community preschools in the June budget so they can be paid fairly for providing high-quality education,' said

IEUA NSW/ACT Branch Acting Secretary, David Towson.

The union and preschools have been calling on the NSW government for more than two years to fund pay rises that properly value the work of preschool staff.

'Community preschools are overwhelmingly staffed by women and there has long been a gender-based undervaluation of our work,' said Clunes Community Preschool teacher, Melinda Gambley. 'To start fixing this, community preschool staff need a 15 per cent pay rise.'

'In February, the Fair Work Commission (FWC) recommended that the NSW government review and boost funding for community preschools to lift pay and conditions for teachers and educators,' said Gambley.

**Love Lennox festival needs business support**

Organisers of the annual Love Lennox festival say they are again scrambling to raise funds for this year's event on Saturday 13 June, which is now at risk of not going ahead.

Dean Talbot, events and sponsorship manager from the town's business chamber, told *The Echo* the event is in its 12th year, is run by volunteers and is not-for-profit.

'The Lennox Chamber devised the concept to stimulate the economy on a non-holiday, non-school holiday, off-peak, winter time,' he told *The Echo*.

'The goal of the event is to highlight Lennox Head businesses and celebrate community.'

'Airbnb stepped in 2025 to save us with \$15,000, yet locals were outraged!'



Photo supplied

'This year I'm struggling to fill this funding gap, and replace Airbnb.'

Ballina Shire Council and Ballina Toyota are their major supporters, he said.

'Costs include marketing, stage hire, backline support crews, entertainment and insurance, etc.'

'We need a "White Knight" or two to get us over the line,' he said. Given the uncertain economic future, Dean said, 'Now is a time that the community needs to get together and show support.'

Local businesses who can help with the event please call Dean on 0415 121 796.

**Palestine supporters occupy Treasurer's Logan office**

On Monday, around 30 protesters, including members of Northern Rivers For Palestine occupied the electorate office of Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers.

The group issued a statement saying they strongly objected to the Albanese government's 'excessive weapons spending', while Australians were without homes, health-care and disability support.

It's understood the treasurer, due to deliver Australia's next financial year budget tomorrow, was elsewhere.

Organiser and Palestinian Subhi Awad said Australian taxes were subsidising death and destruction, instead of providing hospitals and homes. The protest was also an act of solidarity with the Samud flotilla trying to reach Gaza with humanitarian aid.

**Former councillor joins protest**

Banners were hung at the treasurer's electorate office reading 'Flotilla sails while government fails' and

'End the occupation' and paper boats representing the intercepted flotilla boats were displayed at the entrance.

'Australian humanitarians have been illegally kidnapped, beaten and abused for trying to deliver life-saving aid,' Mr Awad said.

'Instead of advocating for the safety of Australians, the government has sided with those hurting them,' he said.

Former Byron Shire Councillor and Lebanese

Australian, Cate Coorey, was also at the protest and was calling for sanctions against Israel.

'The government has committed \$425 billion over the next decade for the Australian Defence Force, and has moved to cut NDIS participation by 160,000 people,' a statement from the pair read.

'The National Agreement on Social Housing is around \$1.8 billion per year.'

'This record military spending dwarfs what the

government is committing to essential services.'

As well as sanctions, protesters called for Australia to stop exporting components used in weapons systems to Israel and for protection of Australians participating in the flotilla.

The statement reads, 'Activists reported being beaten with rifle butts, batons, fists and feet while held on an Israeli vessel... 22 of 58 flotilla vessels were sunk or vandalised in international waters.'

**Innovative flat-pack design bridge installed in Tweed Shire**

An innovative bridge is being installed at Rowlands Creek, in the Tweed Shire hinterland.

Tweed Shire Council said in a media release that it is the longest of its type for the Tweed Shire, describing it as 'a flat-pack design that cuts construction time in half and keeps jobs local.'

'Helping to protect threatened species near a National Park boundary, the bridge is engineered to withstand the kind of floodwaters that destroyed the previous culvert crossing,' they said.

Council says work started in February and completion is expected in June, weather permitting.

'At a remote site like Rowlands Creek, constructing a bridge would normally take several months. Using a



Bridge construction at Rowlands Creek, between Main Arm and Uki. Photo Tweed Council

prefabricated flat-pack design has cut the overall construction time in half, with the bridge span itself completed in just two weeks.'

'Mullumbimby-based Ireland Civil is doing the installation as part of a \$2.1 million contract, covering three bridge replacements

across the Shire. Because the complex fabrication is handled off-site by Inquik Bridging Systems, local crews can take on the build without specialist equipment.'

Kurt Heidecker, Tweed Shire Council's Project Director of Flood Restoration said, 'This bridge has prefabrication

that changes what's possible in remote locations, is engineered to withstand floods that can strip a landscape bare, while not affecting native species. There's more going on here than most people realise,' he said.

Tweed Council say, 'The Rowlands Creek site borders a national park, adding an extra layer of environmental responsibility to the project.'

'The bridge has been designed and built to protect the giant barred frog and the southern purple spotted gudgeon fish, vulnerable and threatened species found at this crossing.'

'The previous flow through culvert pipes created a narrow, fast channel that small fish and amphibians couldn't swim against. This new open bridge span

preserves natural water flow, allowing species to move freely through the waterway.'

'The bridge is replacing a structure that didn't survive the floods, and the site tells the story. Cleanup workers arriving on site after the 2022 flood described a landscape stripped of all vegetation by floodwaters that were unbelievably deep, fast and of high velocity.'

'This new bridge is designed for that. The abutments are drilled into rock. Massive boulders line the banks for scour protection. And when floodwater rises, the bridge goes under with it — protected by galvanised steel formwork that absorbs and spreads the impact when debris strikes, rather than damaging the concrete bridge abutments.'

## Who should pay for housing infrastructure?

Paul Bibby

Byron Council has moved to impose the maximum developer contributions currently allowed under NSW planning rules, backing a draft infrastructure funding plan that could see new housing developments charged up to \$20,000 per dwelling.

Councillors voted unanimously at their 30 April meeting to back the draft Byron Shire Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2026, which Council says is needed to maximise funding for roads, parks, transport projects, and community infrastructure required to support future growth.

Council's own report states the proposed single, shire-wide catchment model 'provides the maximum revenue possible for Byron Shire as a whole'.

Under the draft plan, contributions for new three-bedroom homes would total \$22,479 per dwelling. Non-residential developments over \$200,000 would attract a levy of one per cent of development cost.

The proposed plan would replace Byron Shire's existing seven-catchment model with a single Shire-wide system, meaning developer levies collected in one part of the Shire could potentially help fund infrastructure projects elsewhere.

Byron's Deputy Mayor, Jack Dods, described the draft plan as 'a really important document', saying it represented a major improvement on the previous contributions framework.

'It's really critical in ensuring that Council is collecting the necessary contributions to keep public infrastructure in line with growing communities,' Cr Dods said.

He argued Byron Shire's

soaring property prices justified Council taking a strong approach to developer levies.

'The cost of real estate in this town is phenomenal, and therefore I think it's very reasonable and there should be a strong onus on Council to try and collect as much money, and raise as much revenue from those developer contributions as possible,' he said.

### Future growth

Council argues the overhaul is also necessary because of the projected growth in the region and the associated infrastructure demands.

The draft strategy forecasts more than 4,200 additional dwellings and major population growth over the next 15 years, placing additional pressure on transport networks, open space, water supplies, and community facilities.

More than \$175 million worth of projects have been identified in the draft works schedule, including the Byron Bay Foreshore Upgrade, a proposed Shire-wide library, upgrades to key intersections in Suffolk Park, Ewingsdale, and Mullumbimby, the Mullumbimby to Brunswick Heads cycleway, and improvements to 27 bus stops.

Cr Dods highlighted a series of projects, including the proposed Burringbar Street footbridge in Mullumbimby, upgrades to the Byron Bay pool precinct, Federal village main street improvements, another master plan for Tweed Street in Brunswick Heads, and shared path connections linking Bayside Brunswick Heads to the town centre.

'These aren't insignificant budget items,' he said. 'They're in many cases hundreds of thousands, and often millions, of dollars that

we're going to collect from developers to put towards these really critical and really important visionary projects.'

### Public exhibition

Before the formal exhibition period, Council undertook an extensive consultation process that included workshops across the Shire, online engagement, meetings with special interest groups, and sessions with local high school students.

According to the engagement report, there was 'broad support' for the proposed one Shire-wide catchment model and general agreement that residential developments should pay Section 7.11 contributions while non-residential developments contribute through Section 7.12 levies.

Community feedback highlighted priorities including pedestrian safety improvements, footpaths and shared paths, beach access upgrades, park improvements, and upgrades to intersections in Ewingsdale, Suffolk Park, and Mullumbimby.

The question of whether higher developer contributions ultimately flow through to homebuyers is likely to become a key issue during the next public exhibition period.

While councils argue the charges are necessary to ensure growth pays for growth, the development industry has frequently argued that rising infrastructure levies contribute to increasing housing costs and can make some projects less financially viable.

The draft plan will now go on public exhibition ([www.byron.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/)) or at least 28 days, with submissions to be reviewed before the matter returns to Council for possible adoption in June ahead of a proposed 1 July commencement date.

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# A future with One Nation

**I** want my country back. I want to bring back prosperity.' As we listen to the strains of Pauline Hanson and her calls about how existing parties have 'run this country into the ground' following the One Nation win in the Farrer by-election I want to reflect on how her good mate Donald Trump has made America great again (MAGA).

*One Nation, like other right-wing movements such as MAGA, has a simple strategy of blaming it all on the 'government', and on 'migrants'.*

– Aslan Shand, editor

Frustration at the high cost of living, increased fuel prices, a sense that there is a lack of major party response to genuine community concerns, and that it is refreshing to hear someone 'say it like it is' has driven the Hanson win in the Farrer by-election.

It's understandable that people who are struggling blame the government, or at least what used to be the two major parties before Abbott, Dutton, Ley and Taylor/Hastie wrecked the Liberals. But why support One Nation? After all, One Nation voted to cut benefits like the aged pension and let the biggest corporations pay less tax.

Pauline Hanson has links to Trump and supports the Iran war, even though the 'battlers' One Nation professes to care about are hardest hit by the fuel and fertiliser price hikes. Hanson has billionaire backers like Gina Rinehart and she also leads a lavish lifestyle at public expense. Isn't that the sort of stuff that upsets One Nation voters?

We have the chance to reflect on the outcomes in the US of unfettered right-wing, autocratic, and racist government, and it is not good. It has led to mass deportations, including children and babies, and the killing of American citizens by ICE (though as One Nation is not in government this is unlikely at this point in time). It has led to increasing corruption, a reduction in the rights of free speech, attempts to gut education, and the war with Iran that is having devastating consequences on the world economy, including Australia.

One Nation, like other right-wing movements such as MAGA, has a simple strategy of blaming it all on the 'government', and an 'out' group – first Asians, then Muslims, and now we are just going for a catch-all called 'migrants'. This is the rhetoric of fear, it is the way to split communities and demonise people, it is destruction – not community building.

The overwhelming message of One Nation is that 'there are too many foreigners here, taking our jobs and houses' and also 'they don't want to assimilate', which is opposite to the actual reality on the ground.

According to the OECD: Findings on the effects of migration on Australia's economy, 'Migration boosts the employment of the Australian-born population and does not affect its wages'. Data from the Australian

Bureau of Statistics shows that over a ten-year period, migrants successfully integrate into Australia.

Why would people possibly think that One Nation offers a viable solution to the issues we are facing which are primarily around income and resource scarcity, a result of an unequal economic system that has more to do with the income gap between the highest and lowest earners in our country (and the systems that favour the high earners, not the battlers) than immigration?

One Nation has generally voted against federal action on public housing. There is no evidence they support first-home-buyers to access their super to help purchase their first home and One Nation voted against the Help-To-Buy Bill for first-home buyers.

In September 2024 Hanson opposed 'the introduction of a bill to prevent price-gouging by massive corporations'. She has almost always voted against increasing funding for public schools and there is no evidence that she has ever supported more fee-free TAFE places and described cutting existing student debt as 'ridiculous'.

When it comes to childcare Senator Hanson has voted consistently against support for childcare, including the Early Childhood Education and Care (Three Day Guarantee) Bill 2025. She voted against paid parental leave equality for both mums and dads.

When it comes to energy security in Australia Hanson has voted against decreasing subsidies for fossil fuels for her mates like Gina, or increasing investment in renewable energy. And aren't we all enjoying the outcome of that decision as the international supply of oil is being strangled by her great mate Trump.

It is hard to say what One Nation is fighting for. There is plenty that they are not fighting for – when it actually comes down to how they vote, and who they vote for – which is when their choices really make a difference. It doesn't seem that over the last 30 years Pauline Hanson and One Nation have ever really walked their talk!

It will be interesting to see how long One Nation's newest recruit David Farley lasts in the party if he actually tries to use evidence-based, logical responses to policy suggestions.

Aslan Shand, editor

# Who wins: David or Goliath?

**D**avid Attenborough reaching one hundred years of age feels reassuring. I grew up with him and he undoubtedly shaped my love of nature. In many ways he's the original influencer, staring down the barrel of the camera from exotic locations with an unparalleled dedication to his craft. It's as if nature is talking through him.

Despite the decades of enchantment, he has also witnessed the enormous destruction and loss of the natural world. He has given stark warnings about the climate crisis and spoken honestly about the profound grief and deep sadness it causes him. He's a wise man with the curiosity of a child, and an elder, weeping quietly into his cup of tea.

He's not alone. Young and old, we all share the complex trauma of being alive amidst the ongoing loss and fragility of our world. We feel the utter frustration and powerlessness as successive governments keep failing to act on critical issues we face.

Some genuinely try to make a difference. Independent senator David Pocock is one; he cares about people and the planet. He is engaged in a real David and Goliath battle trying to make the gas industry pay its way.

The gas industry is making a motza selling our common resource while paying relatively little tax. Pocock's popular request for a 25 per cent tax on gas export profits flushed out the government and opposition and reveals where the power resides.

The gas goliaths hit back hard and threatened to pack up and leave. The government wilted under the heat and ruled out a tax. As a sop to those suffering under the deepening cost-of-living crisis, they meekly announced a policy to secure domestic gas supply and lower prices.

The government's policy requires, wait for it, opening new gas fields in Victoria and NSW, while ensuring east coast gas producers reserve 20 per cent of their total export production for the domestic market to create a surplus and reduce prices, starting in July 2027. It's fossil fuel



*If billionaires bearing gifts for the people seems too good to be true, then it is.*

– Jo Immig

business as usual, not a win for people or planet.

As Australian politics continues to circle around the plug hole, according to the recent V-Dem Institute report, it's sobering that in 2026 autocracies now outnumber democracies around the world. Global freedom has declined for the 20th consecutive year, and along with Bulgaria and Nauru, the US has declined in freedoms more than any other country.

While Australia is still a functioning democracy, our freedom score has a downward trajectory. Being tied closely to the US is infecting the body politic and pulling us dangerously closer to the politics of fear, hate, and division.

Look no further than the Farrer by-election last weekend which saw the One Nation candidate win the long-held Liberal seat to gain their first federal lower house seat. Never forget Pauline Hanson and Gina Rinehart cosied up at Mar-a-Lago. The MAGA-style rot is setting in as the hand of Trump grabs our parliament by the pussy.

## Screaming into the void

People clearly want change, and humanity is desperately searching for a new paradigm, but the angry void created is being deftly exploited by those with nefarious agendas. If billionaires bearing gifts for the people seems too good to be true, then it is.

As US Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) recently said, 'There's a certain level of wealth and accumulation that is unearned. You can't earn a billion dollars. You just can't earn that. You can get market power, you can break rules, you can abuse labour laws, you can pay people

less than what they're worth, but you can't earn that.'

The billionaire tech bros' panoptic vision for a world controlled by testosterone, iffy ideas, and artificial intelligence, is freakishly sinister. These men and their corporations don't give a jot about the planet or human rights.

Palantir Technologies' CEO Alex Karp recently released a manifesto, and his dystopian vision is described as 'anti-democratic and nihilistic in its worldview'.

Palantir, a defence contractor, specialises in creating detailed profiles of people using large datasets. According to Digital Rights Watch, they then provide surveillance capability to their customers including the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and US Immigration and Enforcement (ICE). Amnesty International claims Palantir is facilitating human rights abuse.

The Australian government has over \$60 million in Palantir contracts in defence and national security intelligence.

We could learn from the Artemis II astronauts who travelled to the far side of moon and experienced the profound isolation and starkness of space. When they looked back at Earth, they didn't see artificial lines on a map to wage war over or resources to exploit for profit. The 'out of body' experience they had gave them the opportunity to see their Earth home as a living, unified, fragile planet, with dynamic weather patterns and a surprisingly thin atmosphere, floating in the darkness of space.

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



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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 Coeltho  
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

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**Council rate rise**

The *Echo's* article highlighting the financial plight of our Council should give every ratepayer cause for concern, given we are not living in a low-rates shire.

How can it be that insolvency is being discussed?

Unfortunately, the proffered solution of just raising rates is no long-term fix.

Surely, the root causes should be addressed rather than taking the lazy approach of just throwing more money at it and hope the problem goes away or is left to future administrations.

I imagine that staffing costs constitute a good proportion of the total budget. Nowhere in your article did I see any suggestion that these costs should be looked at. Perhaps it's here that closer inspection is needed.

Large organisations, like Byron Shire Council, grow fat and bloated over time.

With insolvency being touted, surely now is the time to engage an external organisation, devoid of political agenda, to run the rule over staffing levels and recommend a more efficient structure for the benefit of all ratepayers.

**John Quinn**  
Byron Bay

**Fiscal constraints**

Byron Shire Council claims 'tight budget restraints from road, drainage and waste management' as the reason for rate rises.

This shouldn't surprise anyone, considering it takes this Council 12 months to build a roundabout (on Bayshore Drive), when the average time across the EU, USA and Canada for roundabout construction is between two weeks and two months – depending on the scale of the project.

Even in bureaucratic Australia, the average time for roundabout construction is three months.

Then there's Asian nations that can build a roundabout in days, usually overnight, with minimal disruption to traffic.

I dare say, most of Byron



Cartoon by Jess Hardwood

Shire Council's budget is spent on waste (with little management)?

**Simon Alderton**  
Sunrise, Byron

**DA awareness**

Dear mayor, councillors and general manager, I am writing to request that you initiate the process to reinstate the weekly advertisement of Development Applications (DAs) on exhibition in *The Byron Shire Echo*.

I understand that Byron Shire Council has previously paid *The Echo* to advertise DAs. I also understand that, in an interview conducted by members of Community Action Byron Shire (CABS) prior to the Council election, the candidates agreed that DAs should be advertised in *The Echo*.

I am calling on councillors to progress this commitment.

As a widely-distributed and free publication, *The Echo* is an important way for our community to be informed of DAs lodged with Council, and have the opportunity to make submissions in a timely way during the exhibition period.

Many members of the community are concerned that Council is receiving large numbers of DAs, some of which are seeking approval of developments that do not comply with current planning requirements.

The publication of the DAs in *The Echo* would

enable the community to be kept informed of proposed developments, and have the opportunity for consultation and input on developments that may affect the character and amenity of our Shire.

Thank you for your assistance in enabling our community to have a voice in the future of our Shire.

**Kay Collins**  
Byron Bay

■ Council used to pay to advertise DAs with *The Echo* many years ago. After they withdrew that advertising, we ran them for a long time for free. Last year, former mayor Jan Barham paid for DAs to go in for several months out of her own pocket. Community Action Byron Shire (CABS) interviewed all the councillors prior to the last election and they apparently agreed that DAs should be advertised in *The Echo*, but none of them have pushed that forward since their election.

– Letters Ed

**Feminist/humanist**

I am seriously thinking of no longer calling myself a 'feminist' and instead seeing myself as a 'humanist'.

Some forms of feminism aren't really addressing the underlying issues.

Why do some men behave so terribly? Could it be that they are suffering too, and that there are not enough programs for boys and men to help address their suffering and harmful behaviours? We are all human first.

There are still many good men. How can we bring out the better side of human beings, including men and boys? Beyond labels and gender, don't most of us want to see less violence and inequality and focus more on possible solutions?

**Claire Vickery**  
Brunswick Heads

**Praise for Mandy**

Mandy Nolan is to be commended for her excellent Soapbox article in the *Byron Shire Echo* on 5/5/26, 'Why Only Nature Can Save Us'. Thank you Mandy, for reminding us all of the nurturing and recuperative power of nature!

**Brian Weavers**  
Ballina

**Suffering in the Park continues**

I am writing again to *The Echo* with a 'different perspective' than those who have been unhappy with me for expressing my views.

Their stories and grievances with the current president of Suffolk Park Community Association (SPCA) have been given a lot of coverage over a number of weeks.

I acknowledge the common grievances that ex committee members have with the president of the association.

We know they did struggle with a new style of leadership, referencing it as chaotic, among other things. I think it's worth pointing out that sometimes, after a period of inertia, change can be chaotic.

The communication from the president was fast and furious in the first few months. It was his attempt to engage with what had become a deeply rooted mindset of resistance to change within the association. His enthusiasm and persistence were a lot for them to handle.

We often resist change and become overwhelmed when it comes at such a fast pace. The fast pace of change required by many in the community was not received well by the committee members who ultimately resigned.

► Continued on page 14

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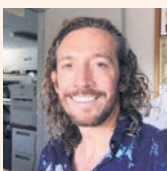


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► **Continued from page 13**

Although the president, in his new role, attempted to deal with these resignations constitutionally, in a diplomatic manner, for the good of the association, it has been interpreted as threatening.

Now that their reasons for resigning have been explained, perhaps they and the Suffolk Park community can move forward?

I want to thank the current executive of Suffolk Park Community Association (SPCA) and new committee members for continuing to make representations and connections with councillors and Byron Council staff on the various issues our community has.

SPCA and committee meet regularly and communicate with a growing membership via email, online surveys, and newsletters. These changes are to be applauded and are proving to be successful.

One example was the recent public survey done by the association. It was published widely to gather residents' opinions and provided information about meetings with the architect and planners for the proposed development in Clifford Street. The SPCA web page had almost 1,000 hits.

A lack of engagement with the broader community has been a failing of the Suffolk Park Progress Association (SPPA) before the new leadership was voted in.

It was noted by the outgoing, previous president of the association that the goals of the association needed to be redefined and membership needed to be increased.

This is what has been happening in recent months.

Concerns about conflict of interests declared from the president and secretary have been used to discredit these two hardworking people. When thoroughly inspected, these concerns are invalid.

Many people in various types of organisations need to declare conflict of interest. They carry on with their duties transparently and excuse themselves from discussion, voting, and decision-making when required.

I really appreciate *The Echo* publishing a photo of Mayor Sarah Ndiaye and councillor David Warth with SPCA committee members in last week's paper. This meeting was an alliance between Suffolk community associations to inform Sarah and David of the common goals we have to address road and drainage infrastructure as well as environmental concerns we have as a small coastal village.

**Gael Nash**  
 Suffolk Park

**Disrespecting ANZACs**



I'm not sure who is responsible, but about a week after each Anzac Day, the floral wreaths are removed from the Byron Bay Memorial Gates at the Recreation Grounds, and dumped beside the two wheelie bins nearby.

Not only is this illegal dumping, it also seems disrespectful to those who placed the wreaths there for those whom they are remembering.

Sure, they need to be removed at some point, but surely there is a more gracious, and responsible way to do this?

**Phoebe Havyatt**  
 Byron Bay

**Battery revolution**

The battery revolution will bring a grim demise for the grid a lot faster than cars trod on the horse.

**Sapoty Brook**  
 Main Arm

**The battle for Byron and our train!**

We all know people are saying the demographic is changing – Hollywood has arrived in Byron etc, but a lot of people forget our real community is still there, and it's our real community who attract the tourists that bring millions of dollars into our town.

The healers, the hippies, the alternative lifestyle and most of all the paradise of Byron's natural environment.

I've lived in Byron Bay about 30 years, but I was living in Burringbar when the Tweed Rail Trail was decided by Tweed Council.

I went to all the meetings – public meetings for the train in Murwillumbah, Council 'community' meetings, local Burringbar meetings etc, and what I saw was an example of this battle.

I was there at the Tweed Council meeting when Mayor Chris Cherry and Councillor Katie Milne virtually begged the four others to choose the win-win option of dual use, and not build the trail on the track.

Tweed Council called a meeting in Burringbar Hall – I went along. The meeting was led by a Council rep, with a NSW gov't rep. I asked: 'Is this

a community consultation meeting?' Council rep: 'No! The Council decided not to do community consultation, this is a meeting with landowners bordering the railway.'

He said, 'It's already been decided by Council!'

Later I went to the bathroom and as I walked past a little old man and a little old lady – obviously long-term Burringbar folk. They whispered to me, 'ask everyone who wants to keep the train tracks?'. I whispered 'okay!' I went back to my seat near the front and called out, 'Hands up who wants to see the train tracks stay in place?'

Every person in the room – all Burringbar residents put up their hands, except for two people who sat at the front next to the NSW gov't staff member – two bike shop owners.

Those four men chose to ignore the room full of residents – no community consultation was undertaken! This is against the actual requirements for rail trails. It's obvious that the concept of rail trial was created to utilise tracks in towns that are decreasing in number – country towns sometimes die away as residents depart for the cities. Not here in Byron!

The story of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail has been spattered with deception – catch cries like 'the train will never come back' is an outright lie which seems to purposely omit the fact that without too much trouble

the solar train came back at a cost of only \$3 million.

It is misinformation to say 'it would cost billions' etc, and 'the track is a wreck' etc.

Former Byron mayor Simon Richardson told me the research showed the track in fairly good condition. Actual train engineers Northern Regional Railway Company completed the recent degradation study helped by local community with their bare hands clearing the track to show a cost of only about \$20 million to bring back Byron to Mullum train ([www.nrrc.com.au/post/lismore-to-yelgun-degradation-study-now-complete](http://www.nrrc.com.au/post/lismore-to-yelgun-degradation-study-now-complete)).

Since when are the Council the enemy of local community who want to see services resume to provide for the whole community?

The motion which passed at Byron Shire Council's February meeting destroyed the 'dual use' policy created by former mayor Richardson.

Our Byron community, like that little old man and the little old lady in Burringbar – some are elderly, some are disabled. some are youth – they never had a public voice – most have never written or spoken to councillors.

That is why Council community consultation is required! The original BSC community consultation clearly showed the majority want dual use.

A current councillor admitted he'd never heard of that actual Community Consultation 2019 (MURC- Multi Use Rail Corridor), which cost the ratepayers – I don't know – maybe \$100,000?

I am writing to give voice to the voiceless. In over 30 years in the area, I have never written to *The Echo* to support the majority, the 'have nots', the elders, the mothers, the children who want and need public transport.

Thank you to councillors David Warth and Michelle Lowe for voting against this motion. I am calling out to every single person who cares: please write to your councillors now – please let them know you want to keep the train tracks – even if its your first time ever! Email addresses are on the website: [www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au).

**Judith Shelley**  
 Byron Bay

**Take the blinkers off**

It is quite evident there's increased antisemitism across Australia, in fact the world. The Royal Commission is asking 'Has it increased?'

Sadly, Blind Billy or Blonde Barbie could tell you that.

The Royal Commission ►

► should stop immediately, or ask the real question: 'What is causing this increase in antisemitism?'

The Royal Commission should be looking at all racist, sexist, homophobic and religious-based actions and associated hate crimes, not just those against Australia's fabulous Jewish community.

We were all shocked when Hamas attacked Israel and killed over 1,000 people. This increased compassion for the Jewish community.

Subsequent events reversed this. The Zionist state sponsored decimation of Gaza's innocent population ('back to the stone ages', as Trump said about Iran).

There are ongoing targeted attacks by the armed forces after three years, and a make-believe ceasefire amid ongoing restriction of aid, food and humanity.

This inevitably turned a once-positive feeling for the Jewish community into a building hatred.

It did not stop there. The Zionist apartheid regime in the West Bank (designed to stop a two-state solution) involves the murder of civilians, journalists and medical staff plus theft of land and houses, deaths in numbers more than the 2023 Hamas

attack. Like Vietnam and Tiananmen Square, it's on the TV, and has sickened thinking Australians.

All Australia's political parties (Greens excepted) show their lack of moral leadership by their failure to condemn the Israeli government (perhaps for fear of being seen as antisemitic). We hated the Germans pre-WW2, because of Hitler's similar actions.

The state government laws to stop protests about the Gaza and Lebanon position have further exacerbated this situation, and has resulted in limited free speech.

The continued bombing of Lebanon and its hospitals schools, journalists and infrastructure plus the annexation of Southern Lebanon, despite a supposed ceasefire that included Israel, the USA and Iran, only exacerbates the problem, as their agreements are nothing but 'weasel words'.

There are calls by Zionists and lobbied parliamentarians to make the below statements, hate crimes, and I call it out as a breach of free speech.

Being pro-Palestine is not antisemitic. Being anti-Zionist is not antisemitic.

**Bruce Porter**  
Brunswick Heads



Emma Bellamy writes, 'With all the shenanigans in Suffolk Park, I wanted to point out that this set-up worked perfectly fine at Sunrise until a roundabout was built - maybe a bollard is the solution?' Photo Emma Bellamy

### ISIS brides

With all the concern about de-radicalising the children returning to Australia whose parents had connections with ISIS, an estimated 1,000 Australian dual citizens serve, or are, active reservists in the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), with some serving in Gaza.

Their participation in the IDF and the resulting atrocities in Gaza and Lebanon in this illegal war initiated by the US and Israel, should be investigated by our government for breaches of international law and war crimes calls. Suffice to say the government has been totally silent on this.

Given the millions spent on the latest Royal Commission and the alleged rise in

antisemitism, when will we hear mainstream media discuss or question Australia's involvement in genocide through the supply of weapons and technology, or the broader Jewish community condemn the actions of the Israeli government?

**Rod Murray**  
Ocean Shores

### Too late to object

Thank you to *The Echo* team for providing a free and informative local newspaper.

As I'm taking the time to read the last edition, I am feeling quite angry at the article about the constant fight local communities have to put up with developers.

I am a former Byron resident, who had to move

to another town, like many others, when the prices of rentals and properties have gone up artificially and beyond any reason.

Still, I care about our small beach towns.

I feel very sad to hear about this titanic project at the corner of Jonson Street.

Why not remove the public swimming pool to build another giant building as well? Where do we stop?

If there has been a nine-metre height limit since the 1980s, how can a higher building be built? I just don't understand how it works.

We already had a similar case of height-limit exceedance happening last year.

My disappointment came to a peak when I read the last sentence of the article - 'Submissions on the DA close on April 29'.

Wait a minute, did I miss the article last week? What's the issue's date? 29 April!

I just hope late submissions are accepted indeed.

I wish I had the info before, how did I not see or hear of it before? I must have missed the info in another issue right? It would be such a high-impact project on the town. I can't imagine what it's like for people who don't read local news.

**Cecile Julia**  
Lennox Head

### Whale of a time!

Congratulations to Winter Whales, Byron Surf Club, volunteers, water safety, and all the sponsors for pulling off yet another incredible Big Swim.

I was frothing to see the ocean of community, locals and visitors coming together to commune with nature, swim and pod together in a vibrant spectrum of green, yellow pink and yellow caps! There were rainbows at times!

There was no trace left, leg bands were recycled and buoys retrieved. There were smiles and adrenaline, as people of all ages swam together. It was truly regenerative! While a shortened course owing to swell, it was as just as exhilarating.

It was so well organised with kayakers, swimmers and boats on the ground and in the sea. I was so proud of our those in our community that take volunteering so seriously yet with such joy and ease. I loved hearing swimmers from all around the compass fall in love or reclaim their love for our beach, notice the birds in the dunes or see past local acquaintances.

Well done and hope to see more swims! I absolutely loved it and the joy of all those around me.

**Alison Drover**  
Broken Head

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# What is an acceptable housing outcome for the Mullum Hospital site?

Yuti Maclean

There was a very worthwhile meeting at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club recently, organised by the Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA), concerning the fate of the old hospital site.

MRA's Dale Emerson, MC for the night, asked for questions rather than complaints, and there were some good questions.

A few comments:

There were about 100 people with an obvious skew towards grey or white hair.

Why aren't younger people stepping up to influence the future of our town?

My suspicion is that the dreaded social media has severely limited the apparently available free time of younger people, and so who wins on the decision to leave the cocoon of screen browsing versus going to a public meeting? Zuckerberg.

It's totally another subject, but it seems to me that social media is generating a whole generation of people who are only half here.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye was there, and a team of very



Photo from Site Strategy and Urban Design Protocol – Former Mullumbimby Hospital Site.

switched-on ladies, who had already perused the proposal and had some very relevant things to share.

## Communication lacking

Looking and listening, it became apparent that there still exists a yawning gap in communication between the three stakeholders:

The first is us – community.

The second is Council, and the third is the state government.

A number of people

complained about the unreadability of the info on the Council website related to the development.

It was also mentioned several times that the planners seemed to presuppose that it should be an attractive 'package' for a developer to swoop in and make a healthy profit.

I just don't understand why this idea should be followed at all.

This parcel of land was gifted to the Council 125 years ago, and we have been custodians ever since.

## Are the community's views being ignored?

Cr Elia Hauge was very enthusiastically encouraging us to make submissions about what we'd like it to be, but after the huge effort MRA did to point out the inadequacies of the Mullumbimby Station Street affordable housing idea over a carpark, and the way all of our submissions seemed to be sidelined in the deciding Council meeting, it's kind of understandable that some of us think our submissions won't be taken seriously.

## Developer vs local management

I emerged from the meeting enthusiastic for local management of the project, rather than a developer taking over.

I have read of similar community-managed projects in Europe, and MC Dale did a quick calculation of an

ownership cost of \$375 per ratepayer.

I'm a bit more entrepreneurial, and think we could work with an expert in project costings to get a closer approximation of all-up costs, and from that, look at the viability of locals-only shares in the whole project.

Mayor Ndiaye has apparently looked at a similar idea, but said (in a few obfuscatory phrases) that in Australia that it was 'too hard'.

The land, as I understand it, is owned by Council, but a lack of foresight has left us with a \$6m to \$7m bill for asbestos remediation.

So that is why I think we could create a local investors' group to at least evaluate what is involved.

Then we heard about the planners we paid for a plan to allow some 250 dwellings.

## No car spaces

Sounds good, right? Hmm. In their Melbournian wisdom they added that there should be no car spaces.

Er... as was also pointed out – we're talking about low-income owners, and the planners recommended bikes, thinking a retiree would be okay pedalling the 5.6km to, and from, Woolies while carrying their weekly shopping on their bike.

The plans also showed access to buses – which as one speaker pointed out, just isn't going to happen.

I asked if the 250 dwellings (I think that was the figure) the planners envisioned would be greatly reduced if cars were allowed, with car access and car

spaces. Yes, it was said, that would affect everything.

So if I've got it right: We pay a Melbourne company to create a plan that precludes car use. They make a plan based on that. Er... we got a totally useless plan.

Dumb question perhaps, but – didn't we see what they had created before we paid them for something totally useless? Now what? How do we alter the plan now without going out to tender again and getting a new plan with car access? Or am I missing something?

Again – this is important to Mullum's future and the capability of Mullum to help residents find accommodation in a vastly inflated real estate market. If we could work to create an investment plan for locals, the whole project would be a supporting part of local life rather than yet another sell-off to a hit-and-run developer.

In summary – my thanks to all participants, and this is my warning to non-participant locals:

If this goes the way of an outside developer, don't moan when your kids have to leave town to find a home.

We have to accept the assurances of the councillors present that submissions are important, and I'm asking you to go there, have a think about it, and make a submission.

Just keep it simple. No jargon needed. Just tell Council what you think. That's why we have a Council!

The link is [www.yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au).

Feedback closes 27 May.

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- [yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-developer-contributions-plan](http://yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-developer-contributions-plan)
- Kevin Craft
- 02 6626 7000
- [DeveloperContributions@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:DeveloperContributions@byron.nsw.gov.au)

**We're updating our Developer Contributions Plan and want your input.**

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**BYRON**  
AND Beyond

# Questioning Byron's sustainability

Brooke Crowle

'I can smell the world's resources in here,' my daughter said, turning up her nose.

We are standing in a homewares shop, the kind that feels both curated and chaotic.

Surrounded by potato peelers in primary colours, avocado slicers, shelves of reusable cups with chunky silicone lids, melamine kids' dinner sets and rubber gadgets with mysterious tentacles.

A treasure trove for shoppers, but a cornucopia of quiet environmental cost.

At only 19, she knows the world is in trouble. All she can see is extraction, production, shipping, and waste.

Her comment echoed the urgent plea of activist and author Bob Brown during his tour for optimism.

He argued that humanity already has more than enough – we must turn towards a more sustainable, simpler existence.

Our attachment to materialism, he warned, is pushing the biosphere to its limits. 'We must shift away from rampant consumption and focus on protecting the environment.'

## Is Byron sustainable in practice?

What does sustainability actually look like in Byron Bay and across the Shire?

It's easy to point to the visible wins. Byron Shire Council has banned balloons and



The environmental cost of modern living. AI image

other single-use decorations on Council-managed sites – no small step, given balloons are among the most harmful forms of plastic debris for marine life.

The Byron/Bangalow and Mullumbimby farmers' markets, with the help of Council, have embraced a circular model, with vendors operating on reusables and minimal waste – a system that proves change is possible.

But beyond these successes, gaps remain.

In the tourism and short-term rental sector, bottled water and heavily packaged products are still the norm, adding to tourism-driven waste. While many cafes now encourage reusable cups, convenience still dominates.

Addressing this across the Shire will take more than policy – it requires targeted education to shift behaviour at scale. The privilege is all ours, as we walk into a cafe, receive a damn fine coffee, and toss the cup in the bin minutes later.

There is evidence of this everywhere – overflowing

bins along the beach front, visitors clinging onto plastic water bottles as they take in the views from the lighthouse and takeaway packing filling up town bins.

## What about the built environment?

As new developments move away from the beachside aesthetic Byron was once known for, concrete is setting a new precedent – often in the form of tropical brutalism.

It may signal modernity and a kind of misplaced status, but it comes at a cost: concrete's reliance on vast quantities of sand and aggregate has made it one of the most resource-intensive materials on Earth, and cement production is responsible for around seven to eight per cent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

No one is suggesting a return to a pre-colonial landscape, though the idea has appeal. But the pace and style of urbanisation in this fragile coastal region is

raising concern.

Population pressures are real, yet much of the development in town and West Byron fails to respond thoughtfully to the local environment.

For years, we've heard that buildings in Byron Shire should be exemplars – structures that reflect not just aesthetic ambition, but environmental integrity.

Homes and developments that are efficient, climate-responsive, and grounded in place.

That standard shouldn't be aspirational. It should be expected.

## How can Byron be the 'sustainable'?

With each passing day, the contradiction becomes harder to ignore: are we a community that believes one thing while doing another?

One that champions environmental values while normalising high-consumption living? We are the people who choose where to buy our coffee and what cup we use. Businesses make daily decisions about materials and sustainability.

Developers and house flippers shape outcomes through design and supply chains.

Byron Shire Council sets local policies and framework that hopefully strengthen our community-led aspirations.

My daughter has left the shop, uninterested in stuff.

For her, the question isn't whether we can do better – but when.

# Tweed-Byron Police wrap: 29 April to 5 May

Over the week of 29 April to 5 May, Tweed-Byron District Police say 40 people were charged with a total of 64 criminal offences.

They are as follows:  
Domestic violence: 15 people (13 males, two females) charged with 21 domestic violence-related offences, including assault occasioning

actual bodily harm, hinder or resist police, assault police, stalking/intimidation, damage and destroy property, use carriage service to menace, possession of an unauthorised firearm, and contravene apprehended violence orders.

Traffic: five charges for traffic-related offences, including police pursuits, mid

to high-range PCA offences, learner driver not accompanied by a licensed driver or tester, drive while disqualified, and use of a motor vehicle with an obscured or defaced number plate.

Property: five people charged with property offences, including shoplifting (three), trespass (one), and possessing goods suspected of being stolen (three).

Drugs: nine people charged with drug possession offences.

Significant arrests include a 57-year-old man who was charged following an incident at Byron Bay Hospital on Sunday, 3 May.

Police allege the man made threatening and intimidating comments toward hospital staff and refused

repeated directions to leave after receiving medical treatment.

Police attended shortly before 8pm, and arrested the man at the hospital entrance. He was charged with intimidation and offensive behaviour and has been issued strict bail conditions to appear at Byron Bay Local Court on 11 May.

Another significant arrest was a 22-year-old Kingscliff woman on her learner plates, who was charged following police pursuit in Murwillumbah on Sunday, 3 May.

Police say the vehicle crossed into Queensland and was located abandoned in Coolangatta. The driver was identified and issued with a Field Court Attendance Notice.

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**BYRON DOG RESCUE**

## Byron Shire Rebels secure second consecutive clean sweep

Hywel David

The afternoon kicked off with a dominant performance from the Men's Rebel Colts, who defeated the Moonshiners 53-6.

The Rebels' attack proved relentless, crossing for nine tries in total. George Morgan and Tucker Groves both secured doubles, while Quinton James, Chase Wilson, Ewan Murgha, Hunter Moon, and Guy Henry all added to the scoreboard. Aiden Broadhurst capped off the effort with four successful conversions.

### Winning women

The winning streak continued with the Women's Rebels, who recorded a 36-5 victory over Mullumbimby. The Rebels' backline showed impressive depth, with tries coming from Indigo Simpson, Faith Taylor, Claudia Gonzales, a second from Faith Taylor, followed by Rosalie Trainer and Evie Eastwell. Kari Massey converted three tries to seal the win.

The Men's First Grade fixture against Lennox Head was defined early by the



Rebels players celebrating a try. Photo supplied

Rebels' scrum dominance. After winning an early opposed scrum, the home side pinned Lennox in their own half. Prop Oisin Canney opened the scoring with a pick-and-go try, followed by a second identical effort shortly after. Samuel Valpy converted both.

The pressure remained constant, and Canney secured a first-half hat-trick after scrum-half Ben Wright found him with a sharp pass to hammer through the Lennox line. Valpy again added the extras. Despite the Rebels winning another opposed scrum, Lennox

Head managed to build their way to the Rebels' try line and find their first points through a try from a lineout. The conversion was missed, leaving the score 21-5 at the half-time whistle.

The second half began with rising tensions as a show of pushes and pulls briefly stopped play. Afterward, Luc Lévêque extended the lead with a try scored directly from a scrum, followed by a second effort where he pushed past several defenders to cross. Captain Will Hawkings successfully converted the latter.

Lennox Head began to

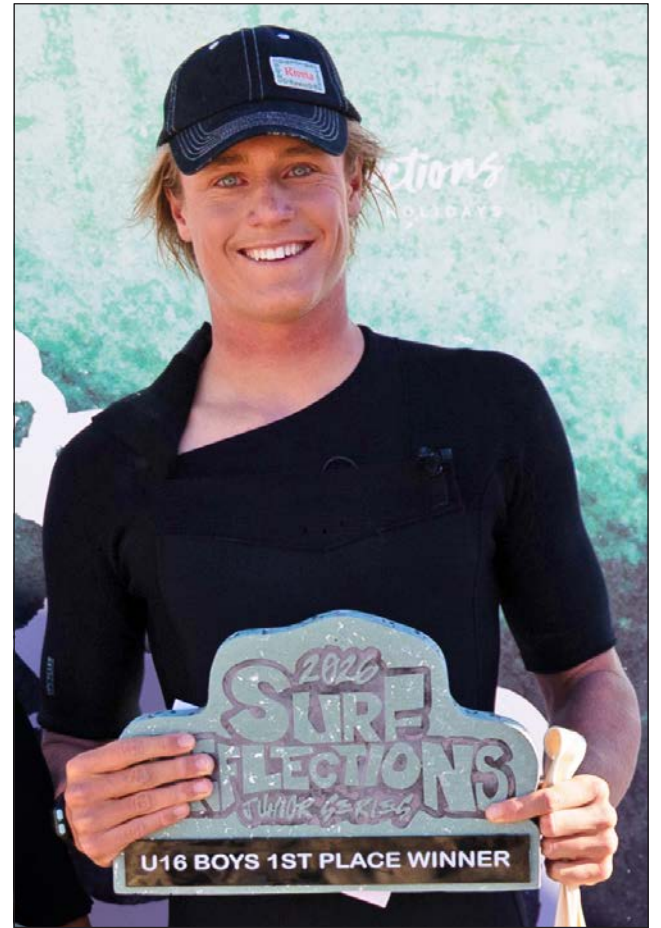
build momentum following the restart. After a period of sustained pressure on the Rebels' 22 line, the visitors crossed for their second try, which was successfully converted. The match took a physical toll on the home side, as a series of head knocks and injuries reduced the Rebels to just 12 men on the field. Lennox soon added a third try out wide after a shift through their backline.

Despite being three men down, the Rebels' defence showed immense grit. Lisandro 'Lichi' Ardeti prevented a score with a vital try-saving tackle, and the remaining defenders managed to hold Lennox up over the try-line during a subsequent attack. However, with the defence stretched thin, Lennox eventually broke through for their fourth try in the final minutes.

### Man of the match

The Rebels' early lead proved insurmountable, and the home side held on for a gritty 33-22 victory to complete the sweep. Luc Lévêque was awarded man of the match for his relentless work both in defence and attack.

## Hugo Spierings wins again



Byron Bay Boardriders' Hugo Spierings won the U16 boys event again, after triumphing in Bonny Hills in February, at the Surf Reflections Junior Series on the New South Wales Mid North Coast this weekend. Photo supplied

## All pass first JWK grading



Jin Wu Koon Karate had it's first of three gradings for the year on Wednesday, 6 May with nine juniors and four seniors qualifying for the grading and all passing. Sensei Ric Light continues to guide students from 7 to 70 in this traditional Japanese approach. Photo supplied

### Send us your sport stories!

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

## Byron High School success at State Swimming Championships

Byron Bay High School had multiple swimmers competing at the recent NSW CHS State Swimming Championships.

They took multiple students who competed in individual and relay events.

'Our Byron Bay High School swimmers competed at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, proudly representing the North Coast team,' said the school on social media.

Lawson won first place in the 16-years boys 50m freestyle and placed second in 100m freestyle, 100m



Lawson won the U16 50m freestyle. Photo supplied

butterfly. Mattia also took a first place for the 13-years boys in the 200m freestyle and placed second in the 100m freestyle.



Mattia won the U13 200m freestyle. Photo supplied

'Congratulations to all our swimmers - just making it to state level is a fantastic accomplishment! These results highlight the

dedication of our athletes, their coaches, and the wider community,' said the school.

'Best of luck to Mattia and Lawson as they now progress to the NSW All Schools Championships in May. We'll be cheering loudly for you!'

The 16-years boys relay (Lawson, Jake, Dylan, Mattia) came tenth in NSW, the 13-years boys relay (Michael, Mason, Aoi, Spike) came 17th in NSW, and the 15-years girls relay (Amelia, Eve, Gracie Rose) were exhibition swimmers at the state championships.

## STARS BY LILITH

This week's slightly slower celestial momentum in indulgent Taurus extends an invitation to enjoy the good things of life: food, friendly get-togethers, nature's endlessly generous offerings...



TAURUS THE BULL

**ARIES:** While this week's Aries agency, tempered by Taurus caution, lightened and brightened by Gemini humour, is a pretty winning astrological recipe, Mars in your sign requires you to find the sweet spot between self-assertion and teamwork, to align your goals with the bigger group vision so everyone wins.

**TAURUS:** This week's focus on financial security suggests making spending and saving pleasurable by supporting ethical businesses. Then when the Sun and Mercury in your sign are joined by this weekend's annual Taurus new moon, tune into the practical magic of your body and the important things it's telling you.

**GEMINI:** We all know by now that digital distractions are designed to magnetise our mental real estate - our attention - away from what matters. This week's good news is your ruler, Mercury in its most persistent and purposeful, confident and logical placement bringing the gift of stability and practical planning. Don't waste it.

**CANCER:** There isn't anything better for your body, mind and spirit than time spent in nature. Every day, amid individual and global struggles, we can be nourished by the world around us. At back-to-basics weekend new moon, reassess what's most important to you as conditions change and priorities rearrange.

**LEO:** This week's predominance of planets in the first three zodiac signs highlights Leo's personal sector of colleagues, ambitions and winding up life cycles. But no need to go all *Game of Thrones*, majesties: think more along the lines of grateful goodbyes, because changing professional landscapes need sensitive handling.

**VIRGO:** With your ruler Mercury in its least flexible mode, it's important to keep an open mind for overcoming any resistance to new and different ways of operating. Weekend new moon asks the questions: What old way of working are you ready to release, and what new service wants to be expressed through you?

**LIBRA:** While the current Sun and Mercury reward steady, repetitive effort, your guiding planet Venus just wants to socialise, party and shop for the latest up-to-date styles and fun stuff. Which means this week's Libran balancing act is weighing luxe comfort spending against pragmatic realities - good luck with that.

**SCORPIO:** It's natural to want to maintain a familiar, manageable world, but when circumstances change it's also necessary to recognise where we resist the new and uncertain. This week's astrology asks which areas of your life need adjustment, so you can step more confidently into unknown territory, unfamiliar risks, and opportunities?

**SAGITTARIUS:** With Mercury passing through one of its bluntest communication styles, and your planet leader Jupiter in its most sensitive and easily offended placement, best resist the temptation to drop truth bombs. To paraphrase the famous stoic Marcus Aurelius, you always have the option of not having an opinion.

**CAPRICORN:** With your planet ruler Saturn, in the zodiac's most driving sign for the foreseeable future, you won't want to feel driven, so allow yourself to be drawn towards something new that feels a bit different, not the same old expectations. And incorporate some cruising and schmoozing this week, hardworking Capricorns.

**AQUARIUS:** Even though you're a fixed sign, Aquarians are the zodiac's least likely people to resist change. This week's astrological energies are asking you to consider the fact that others who are more attached to the status quo than you are in their own process, moving at their own particular timing.

**PISCES:** This week's Piscean assignment in life's mystery school is to turn your inspired ideas into practical plans. And with Mercury energising the zodiac's most tenacious, practical and determined sign, there's plenty of celestial assistance available for Pisceans who can do the hard yards and keep their eye on the prize.

# Good Taste

## Dining Guide

Check the vital details of some of the region's finest foodies.

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Friday – Sunday 7am – 8:30pm

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[www.threeblueducks.com/byron](http://www.threeblueducks.com/byron)

#### NO BONES BYRON BAY

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**Open:** Sun – Thurs 5pm – 9pm  
Fri & Sat 5pm – 10pm

**Address:** 11 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay  
[nobones.co](http://nobones.co)

### ROCA BYRON BAY

Latin fusion restaurant blending deeply rooted Latin American traditions, with innovative techniques and a flair for presentation.

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**Address:** 14 Lawson Street, Byron Bay  
[www.rocabyronbay.com.au](http://www.rocabyronbay.com.au)

### FOREST BYRON BAY

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

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[crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest](http://crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest)

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# Delicious Costanzo Apples

Allie Godfrey

As the seasons change, a diverse range of apples and other fruits begin to arrive, each offering unique flavours, textures, and uses in the kitchen.

We spoke to Costanzo Apples, owned by Andy and Michelle, along with Yvonne, who has worked the stall there for many years, about what apple varieties are in season and what fruit we can expect next.

Among the early highlights are the Kanzi and Modi apples. Kanzi apples are crisp, juicy, and perfectly balanced between sweet and tart, delivering a refreshing crunch with every bite. Modi apples are equally eye-catching, with their deep red skin and firm flesh. Their flavour is smooth and slightly aromatic, with a gentle peachy, rosy note that gives them an elegant, almost floral taste.

As the season progresses, more well-known varieties come into play. Pink Lady apples are a favourite for their firm crunch and bright sweetness, making them ideal for snacking. Granny Smith apples, with their sharp, tangy flavour, are



Michelle Costanzo knows her apples (and pears). Photo supplied

perfect for cooking and are often used in classic dishes like apple crumble and pies. Sundowner apples, closely related to Pink Lady, offer a similarly sweet profile with a slightly softer acidity. Envy apples, known for their large size, are exceptionally juicy and sweet, with a satisfying crisp texture.

Beyond apples, the farm also produces a variety of pears and other fruits. Packham pears are initially

crisp and refreshing but soften over time, developing a smooth, buttery texture and gentle sweetness. Bosc pears have a firmer flesh and a richer, slightly spiced flavour. Quince may also appear during the season, often used to make quince paste, which pairs beautifully with cheese.

Apples are incredibly versatile and enjoyed in many ways. From comforting desserts like apple crumble

and strudel to savoury dishes such as pork stew, they adapt to a wide range of recipes. They can also be added to salads with walnuts and greens or simply sliced and paired with peanut butter for a quick, nutritious snack.

■ Find Costanzo Apples every Tuesday at New Brighton Farmers Market from 7am to 11am and every Friday at Mullumbimby Farmers Market from 8am to 11am.

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## The apples and oranges fallacy



Because *The Echo* cares, we answer the big questions, such as, 'Why can't you compare apples and oranges?'

The fallacy of false equivalence could be explained as: 'If A is the set containing c and d, and B is the set containing d and e, then since they both contain d, A and B are equal'. For example, 'If apples and oranges both contain seeds, apples and oranges are equal!'

This can also happen in journalism. Relentlessly critical journalism focusing on negatives (flaws) makes people think that 'all politicians are as bad as each other'. This acts to give really bad politicians a free pass, because all people have some flaws, but voters fail to distinguish between the nature, frequency and magnitude of the different flaws.

Enjoy the  
**Good Life**  
anytime!

Lots of tasty morsels online at:  
**Echo.net.au**

# BANGALOW BILLYCART DERBY



## SUNDAY MAY 17 The Summerland Bank Bangalow Billycart Derby

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

Have you got the need for speed, and ready to have some good 'old fashioned' fun? Bangalow's much-loved and long-awaited day of the year is back, bigger and better than ever. Yes, it's here again, The Summerland Bank Bangalow Billycart Derby hosted by the Bangalow Lions, where Bangalow loves to show how it's done. Whether you are a participant, or a spectator, come and enjoy everything this special day in Bangalow has to offer.

With up to 350 thrill-seeker challengers of brothers and sisters, mates, father and sons, mothers and daughters, local schools, The Summerland Bank Bangalow Billycart Derby will give the crowds a day everyone will enjoy. There is still time to register, if you are thinking of a last-minute bit of fun, so jump online now or register on the day.

As well as the races, the Grand Street Parade will be making lots of noise with a feast for the senses at lunchtime, 12.30pm. Not to be missed! Ch9 Big Dog, a Willy Wonka performance, Lismore Pipe Band, local emergency vehicles, our very own local Sikh entourage and other local community groups will be parading down the main street of Bangalow.

This year the novelty Race will be renamed as the 'Campo Cup Novelty Race', in honour of an ex-Lion, Paul Campton 'Campo', who was tragically killed in Bangalow last year

The Bangalow Lions have had a chat with the weather gods and the word is the weather will play nicely! So come along and enjoy what this wonderful town and their people have to offer.

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# BANGALOW BILLYCART DERBY

Join us at Common Tuck for brews and bites.

A special pop up at Tuckshop with Common People beers for the Bangalow Billycart Derby, from 12pm



Grab a sausage or steak sandwich from Bangalow Lions 'world famous' Barbecue. Pop into Bangalow Primary School 'Pit Stop' fundraiser, for more food offerings, games, carnival style rides and lots of family fun.

As always 'Safety First', so if you are participating, helmets on! Knee pads and elbow pads are also a welcome add-on. There has never been an accident but many a few scrapes. Safety, safety, is the order of the day! The participating billycarts have a vigorous safety check prior to the races, done by our long-standing scrutineers. The website [bangalowbillycart.com.au](http://bangalowbillycart.com.au) will guide you through the rules, regulations, and some handy tips from some frequently asked questions.

**See you there!**



Derby rules and event program on following page



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**When:** Saturday 30th May 2026, 8am-1pm  
**Where:** Bangalow Showgrounds

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- Vet advice, treats & giveaways

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[www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Furry-Friends](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Furry-Friends)

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## Derby rules

- It is your responsibility to be in the right place at the right time. We do not delay races.
- A separate entry form is required for each billycart in each race category.
- Helmets are compulsory and protective clothing is recommended.
- All billycarts will receive a minimum of two runs – the first is a practice.
- If entrant and billycart fail to arrive at the start line the race will commence on time.
- The same billycart cannot be used more than once in the same race category.
- Billycarts entered into age categories 5–15 years – driver and passenger must be within the same age category.
- All billycarts will start from a standing start.
- No outside assistance is allowed at start line or whilst racing.
- No pedalling, pushing, paddling or propulsion of any kind is allowed.
- Billycarts must proceed under their own weight, but rocking is permitted.
- Drivers and passengers must remain seated whilst racing.
- Billycarts must travel in a straight line, no swerving, weaving or turning from side-to-side.
- Any billycarts that crash will be disqualified. At the discretion of the organisers any billycart crashed into may receive another run, time permitting.
- Tag team rules – three competitors per team, comprising three legs using the same billycart, ie. the first leg team member rides billycart down the hill over the finish line, second team member runs the billycart on foot back up to the start line and tags the third member who rides billycart down the hill over the finish line.
- All judges' decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- A billycart or driver may be disqualified at any time at the discretion of the Chief Marshall.
- Unsafe billycarts, dangerous driving or bad conduct by participants will not be tolerated and may result in immediate expulsion or possible disqualification from the event for the whole day. The Chief Marshall's decision (or that of their delegate) will be final and binding.
- All billycarts and drivers must be available for scrutineering between 7am and 8.30am at the top of Byron Street, Bangalow. Late entries will not be accepted.
- The Committee reserves the right to rearrange or cancel events.
- Three (3) wheeler billycarts can only enter as 'professional' or 'novelty' category billycart.
- No refunds.
- All participants enter at their own risk.
- Please note that this event is meant to be a fun day for everyone and participation, not winning, is the desired outcome. It is designed primarily for the thrills and laughter of the day, rather than as a sporting competition. Please be patient and understanding and have a great time!

## Event program

<b>7-8.30am</b>	<b>Registration and scrutineering</b>
<b>8-8.45am</b>	<b>Practice runs</b>
<b>9am</b>	<b>Races begin!</b>
<b>9am</b>	<b>5-7 year old – traditional/homegrown</b>
<b>9.20am</b>	<b>8-11 year old – traditional/homegrown</b>
<b>10.20am</b>	<b>12-15 year old – traditional/homegrown</b>
<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Parent/Child – traditional/homegrown</b>
<b>11.45am</b>	<b>Schools Challenge</b>
<b>12.10pm</b>	<b>Mothers Challenge – Any billycart</b>
<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Trophy presentation – morning events</b>
<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>Street parade and lunch</b>
<b>1.15pm</b>	<b>Mens Shed Challenge – homegrown</b>
<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>Open – traditional/homegrown</b>
<b>2pm</b>	<b>Junior – professional</b>
<b>2.20pm</b>	<b>Open – professional</b>
<b>2.45pm</b>	<b>Tag Team – any billycart</b>
<b>2.55pm</b>	<b>The Campo Cup Novelty Race – Special Billycart</b>
<b>3pm</b>	<b>Trophy presentation – afternoon events</b>
<b>3.15pm</b>	<b>Street clean up – all welcome!</b>

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Community newspaper distributed free throughout Byron Shire and beyond every Wednesday.

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The North Coast's independent and free online daily news service.



### Do Byron like a local!

Check out The Echo for all the current events and goings on, plus lots of goodies such as:

- Weekly gig guide
- What's on event page
- Market guide
- Art gallery listing
- Restaurant guide



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# THE SCOOP

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



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02 5643 9240  
[www.dcalaw.com.au](http://www.dcalaw.com.au)



## VIRIDIAN ADVISORY

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

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

A financial review can often uncover simple ways to ease the pressure. Meeting with Alana Pincombe for a financial review can help you take practical steps to gain peace of mind, confidence, and plan how to stay ahead if rates move again. This is where having a local adviser in your corner really matters.

One good conversation can make all the difference. Get in touch with Alana today:

0491 204 142  
[apincombe@viridianadvisory.com.au](mailto:apincombe@viridianadvisory.com.au)  
[viridianadvisory.com.au](http://viridianadvisory.com.au)



## JIN WU KOON KARATE BYRON BAY

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

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



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

Ewingsdale Hall  
0490 849 295  
[jinwukoonkarate@gmail.com](mailto:jinwukoonkarate@gmail.com)  
[jinwukoonkarate.com.au](http://jinwukoonkarate.com.au)



## WILDBILLY BOOKS & BRUNS BOOKS

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



**WildBilly Books: 11 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay**  
50m down from the Surf Club  
**BrunsBooks: 9 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads**  
on Fingal Street opposite the school  
0493 355 719  
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# THE SCOOP

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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Newcastlepermanent.com.au, or by calling 13 19 87.  
Newcastle Permanent, part of Newcastle Greater Mutual Group Ltd ACN 087 651 992, Australian Financial Services Licence/Australian, credit licence 238273.



## NEWS FROM JONSON LANE TRADERS

Jonson Lane traders have you covered as the weather cools.

Byron-born Nagnata's seamless activewear and denim inspired streetwear continues to garner international acclaim. Their textile innovation, using superfine Australian merino wool in place of synthetic materials, has helped revolutionise the activewear industry. And with Sydney-born Venroy and Byron's Deiji Studios also at Jonson Lane, the precinct offers both contemporary and classic clothing for men and women.



Aldo roasts his own high altitude spray-free Peruvian coffee for Blue Arrow Coffee, open 7:00am to midday. Or try their nurturing hot chocolate made with Peruvian cacao, maca and reishi.

And at cocktail hour perhaps a soul warming Banana Old-Fashioned, Tiramisu Martini or apple pie from at Pixie Food & Wine. There's also the ever popular Light Years and the hatted Parisian-inspired Bar Heather.

@jonson.lane  
139 Jonson Street Byron Bay  
Jonsonlane.com.au



## BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Courses are filling fast this term, with only a few places left across a vibrant mix of learning opportunities.

There is something for everyone, from Confident Trading for those wanting practical insight into money and markets, to Guitar for anyone keen to pick up or return to playing music. Creative Writing with Mark Isaacs encourages storytelling and developing a personal voice, while How Music Works unpacks the structure behind the songs we hear every day. Floristry is offered across beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, inviting learners to explore colour, texture and seasonal blooms to create beautiful arrangements. Metal Fabrication and Welding offers a hands-on workshop experience focused on working with metal in a creative setting. For practical skills and pathways into work, accredited training starts soon including Intro to Massage, First Aid, RSA, and Digital Skills for Work, with fee-free places available if eligible\*. Now is the time to join Byron Community College.



**\*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.**  
[www.byroncollege.org.au](http://www.byroncollege.org.au)  
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## VITALITY VETCARE

Vitality Vetcare provides compassionate veterinary care that considers the whole patient. The newly refreshed and equipped clinic offers a calm, welcoming environment for animals and their people.

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**4a Ballina Road Bangalow**  
 02 66870675  
[vitalityvetcare.com.au](http://vitalityvetcare.com.au)  
[Info@vitalityvetcare.com.au](mailto:Info@vitalityvetcare.com.au)



## TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

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

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

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

**Contact your local Private Wealth Advisers**  
**Jake Blumberg on 0412 285 029, [jblumberg@ords.com.au](mailto:jblumberg@ords.com.au)**  
**Sam La Cava on 0413 717 528, [slacava@ords.com.au](mailto:slacava@ords.com.au)**  
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# THE SCOOP

## FURRY FRIENDS FESTIVAL IS ON SATURDAY, 30 MAY

The fabulous Furry Friends Festival is back at the Bangalow Showgrounds on Saturday, 30 May, 8am to 1pm.

This FREE event is proudly hosted by Byron Shire Council, and everyone's invited!

Bring your furry best mates along (on a lead, please!) and head straight to the Doggy Arena, where you'll find trainer demos, tail-wagging games and friendly competitions.

Stroll through the Paws and Claws Market with 40 pet-loving stalls bursting with giveaways, tasty treats and expert pet tips.

Make a morning of it with delicious food stalls, free kids' face-painting, and a playful photo booth – perfect for snapping some paw-some memories with your pet.

Join the celebrations and help support responsible pet ownership in the Byron Shire at the Furry Friends Festival 2026 – all welcome!

**Furry Friends Festival**  
**Saturday, May 30, 8am to 1pm**  
**Bangalow Show Ground**



## LISMORE GEMFEST



One of the largest gem shows in Australia, the 34th Lismore Gemfest is on this Saturday 16, and Sunday 17, May!

With 140 stallholders selling everything from crystals to jewellery, fossils to lapidary equipment, there's something for everyone.

There will be fossicking for small gems on the hill, a lapidary demonstration in the pavilion and a colouring competition, with great prizes to be won.

Three lucky-gate-prizes will be drawn at Gemfest on Sunday at 3pm and the lucky winners notified – see Facebook page for prizes.

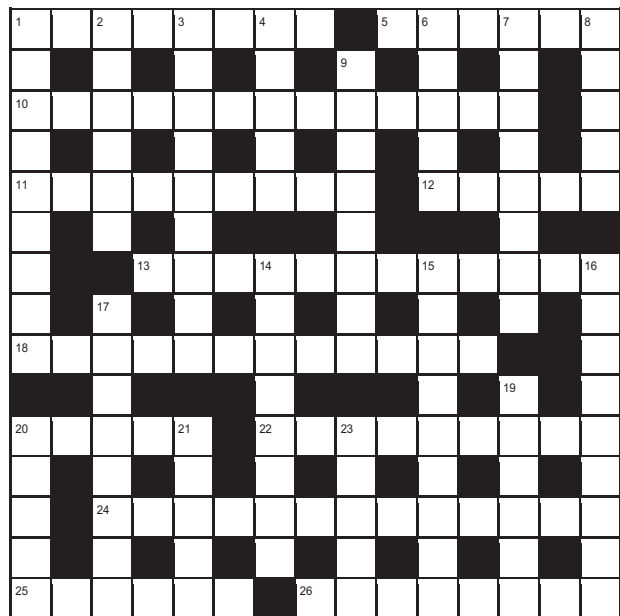
A free shuttle bus will loop between Lismore Transit Centre and Alexander Parade on both days.

A large number of food and drink stalls onsite will cater to a variety of tastes.

The perfect family day out!

**Lismore Showgrounds**  
[www.lismoregemfest.com.au](http://www.lismoregemfest.com.au)  
 116 Alexandra Pde, North Lismore





**Cryptic Clues**

**ACROSS**

1. Alarmed and driven after dawn (8)
5. Distorted image around Papa in spring menace (6)
10. Review about temperature or reverse reflection (13)
11. Desk space has joint openings (9)
12. Groove is not endless chanting (5)
13. Cardinal points to hide maturity in daily reports (4,8)
18. Prison rat in Benny Goodman hit (4,4,4)
20. Pained cry after a century in furniture (5)
22. Find fault with green fruit tree (9)
24. It reduces flammability from disorganised trader consumed by stinging insect (4,9)
25. Network hardware measures after a fashion (6)
26. Historical Brit rom-com cut short and edited correctly (8)

**DOWN**

1. Left with stumbling words after rod for enforcers (9)
2. Stirring song moved the man (6)
3. Saw part smaller and ineffectual (9)
4. Pass beginner driver after old sports subject (5)
6. Foreign deception an exterior (5)
7. Sounds like rock style, ultra mixed-up, not right, but on schedule (8)
8. In the midst of fear there is our home (5)
9. Implement steamship in short class with choice words (8)
14. Mathematical function to fix easy gig (8)
15. Name anger components for personality system (9)
16. Slippery eel cerebral, is also basic (9)
17. Absorbed exercise without order given (8)
19. Renovate and elevate boyfriend (6)
20. March around for a spell (5)
21. Household women are surrounded by empty heroism (5)
23. Decree before surgery for participant (5)

**Quick Clues**

**ACROSS**

1. Surprised (8)
5. Bird related to crows (6)
10. Self-examination (13)
11. Convenient features of office furniture (9)
12. Incision (5)
13. Reportage (4,8)
18. Famous Big Band era song written by Louis Prima (4,4,4)
20. Two-seater, perhaps (5)
22. Fruit tree of the genus *Malus* (9)
24. Substance used to suppress flames (4,9)
25. Internet connection devices (6)
26. English statesman (8)

**DOWN**

1. Nitpickers (9)
2. Patriotic musical composition (6)
3. Without power (9)
4. Drive out (5)
6. Extraterrestrial (5)
7. Not fashionably late (8)
8. Soil (5)
9. Sharp instruments (8)
14. Paid post involving minimal duties (8)
15. Shape with nine sides (9)
16. Rudimentary (9)
17. Swamped (8)
19. Inform with the latest news (6)
20. Delight (5)
21. Section of a Muslim palace (5)
23. Cast member (5)

**Last week's solution Mungo #16**



**Introducing *The Echo's* new crossword setter, Emma Briggs**

Emma has worked in a variety of fields, including journalism, book sales, hang-gliding and children's entertainment, but her longest job was working on Greenpeace ships. She spent 15 years as a deckhand and bosun, mainly on the *Rainbow Warrior*, sailing around the world campaigning for the protection of our oceans, forests and climate.

For the past ten years or so she has become more involved in grassroots environmental activism, volunteering for organisations such as Frontline Action on Coal, 350.org, Rising Tide and the Climate Justice Alliance. She has been based in Byron Bay since 2001 and currently works from home part-time, training AI. In her spare time she is the Convenor of the Byron Environment Centre, and enjoys writing and compiling crosswords.

For examples of her varied written work, see her website: [www.emmabriggs.net](http://www.emmabriggs.net)

# From Sapphire to Trailblazer – The Story of Aunty Dr Naomi Mayers OAM



There is a story that we need to know. A great spirit who moves on the breeze. Who rests on Bundjalung country. Not that this fiercely visionary woman rested much! This woman of goanna and turtle dreaming who belongs not to one place, but to all places. All nations. Who dedicated her life to her community with compassion informed by powerful political advocacy.

She was a nurse who helped found the first Aboriginal community-controlled health service – one of the key first steps in addressing colonisation, and the consequent health and social disparity. Her work changed lives. Her work made history.

Her name is Dr Naomi Mayers OAM, or Aunty Nay. A proud Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri woman, born in 1941 on Erambie Mission just outside of Cowra in country NSW. While Shepparton was her hometown, a few weeks ago she was laid to rest here in Mullumbimby, on Bundjalung country interred with her partner of over 50 years, Sol Bellear, Bundjalung man, and a legend of the land rights movement. This was where she asked to be buried. Her story has become part of our story now.

The premier of NSW acknowledged Dr Naomi's passing along with Aunty Ann Weldon, her dear friend and colleague who passed just days after her, as two 'titans in the Indigenous rights movement.' They certainly were.

Dr Naomi Mayers was 84 at the time of her death. When Aunty Nay was born, Aboriginal people could not vote. That right came when she was 21. As a non-Indigenous person, when I read her story I was blown away by the power of this woman I never met. I can barely fathom what adversity and prejudice she pushed back on. And how she found this relentless courage to reform a racist system. And succeed.

First she did it with music. Naomi Mayers was one of the Sapphires. Yes. The first popular all-female Aboriginal singing group – the one Tony Briggs made a film about. Indigenous performers faced so many barriers in the 1960s – this was her training ground for her life's work in health. She already had the experience of facing adversity, pushing back, and rising to the top. There's another film, not yet made. It's what happened after the Sapphires! The Redfern years!

About how she became a nurse. How she met an African-American roller derby champion and had her son Joseph. Later partnering with Sol Bellear, with whom she had their daughter Tamara, and embarked on founding a political movement. It was her work with the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service that they honoured by saying: 'One of her legacies will be self-determination and community control, which she never deviated from as she continued to



Photos by Jeff Dawson

**'I was blown away by the power of this woman I never met. I can barely fathom what adversity and prejudice she pushed back on. And how she found this relentless courage to reform a racist system. And succeed.'**

support many Aboriginal communities across Australia.'

As a young woman, Naomi Mayers started with the Aborigines Advancement League in Victoria, one of the oldest continuing community-controlled organisations. It would have been their early years, but it was here where values about self-determination, self-sufficiency and self-management took root. Promoting Aboriginal culture and identity was at the core – and this is the vision Naomi walked forward with her work, helping establish AMS in Redfern, and the beginnings of the Aboriginal Children's Service and Aboriginal Housing Company, then as a board member of the Aboriginal Legal Service and as a representative with ATSIC.

Aunty Nay saw the intersection between housing and health for her community, and was a founding member of the peak body representing 146 Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations – NACCHO – the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.



Aunty Nay was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 1984 and in 2023 she was given the National NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award.

I spoke with her son Joseph who remembered growing up with his remarkable mum who held a doctorate in Aboriginal Affairs and was later awarded a Doctor of Letters in 2017.

'As kids we couldn't watch Tarzan, or play cowboys and indians. Instead we played 'demonstrations,' shared Joseph.

He shared beautiful reflections of his selfless mum. About people who would visit and end up living on the couch for a year. 'She had this formidable reputation. She was hard but fair. And kind.'

Dr Naomi Mayers OAM 'Aunty Nay' had her funeral service on Friday, 17 April in Redfern. She was farewelled in Shepparton the week after, before coming here, to her final resting place in Mullumbimby with Uncle Sol.

Ironically the woman who started her career on tour, ended it with a tour! Something Joseph acknowledged. There were just so many parts of her story to tell.

'We shared our Mum with a lot of people,' said Joseph.

Aunty Nay's life is a profound lesson in leadership. In doing what it takes to make real change. One life that has transformed thousands.

And now, she is with us. Dr Aunty Naomi Mayers OAM, it is our honour and our privilege to have you choose this place as your final one.

Respect.

■ 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.

# Filter Off

beauty  
style  
fashion  
grooming



## Hemp Culture

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

40 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby  
@hempculture\_au  
hempculture.com.au



## ZÓCALO

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

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

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@shopzocalo



## Temple of the Sun

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

3 Ti-Tree Place, Byron Bay  
templeofthesun.com.au



## Stewart's Menswear

Right now, it's still quite warm in Mullumbimby, but the Northern Rivers has a way of turning quickly. One week it's warm and sunny, and the next you're reaching for an extra layer.

Stewart's Menswear has just welcomed a fresh range of new arrivals built around that idea. Flannelette shirts, and corduroy or cotton overshirts make easy outer layers for those in-between days, while organic cotton singlets and tees provide a comfortable, breathable base underneath.

Nothing complicated. Just well-chosen pieces that work together and earn their place in the wardrobe.

The new range is available now in-store in Mullumbimby and online at [stewartsmenswear.com.au](http://stewartsmenswear.com.au), with click-and-collect available for locals.

52 Burringbar St Mullumbimby  
02 6684 2148  
stewartsmenswear.com.au

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 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



MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA  
 SATURDAY 6 JUNE, CLUB BYRON

## Swinging Through the Decades

*The Echo* is marking an incredible milestone – 40 years of independent community journalism – with a vibrant anniversary celebration and awards night set to be one of the standout events of the year.

Held at **Club Byron** on **Saturday, 6 June**, this unforgettable evening will transport guests back in time with a glamorous 1930s-inspired theme, 'Swinging Through the Decades.' Expect an atmosphere of vintage elegance, lively entertainment and community spirit, all brought to life with a modern twist.

Headlining the night is the electrifying **Melbourne Ska Orchestra**, delivering their signature high-energy big brass band sound. Guests will also be treated

to dazzling cabaret performances, and exciting prizes throughout the evening. Club Byron will be providing delicious food, sparkling cocktails and more.

The celebration will shine a spotlight on the region's most inspiring individuals and businesses, with 'The Echo's Community Awards', MC'd by Mandy Nolan and presented in the publication's uniquely bold and entertaining style.

Reaching 40 years as an independent print publication is no small feat. At a time when media outlets around the world continue to face significant challenges, *The Echo* remains a vital voice for its community. Over the past decade alone, more than 200 local and regional newspapers across Australia have closed

as traditional revenue streams have shifted in the digital age. Through it all, *The Echo* has continued to publish the stories that matter – stories that inform, challenge and connect the community.

This milestone is not just a celebration of the past, but a commitment to the future. *The Echo* has recently launched a supporter drive, inviting readers and local businesses to help ensure the paper remains strong for the next 40 years. Much like community radio, this initiative calls on those who value independent journalism to play a role in sustaining it ([www.echo.net.au/support-us](http://www.echo.net.au/support-us)).

While the mission is serious, the celebration is all about fun. This anniversary event is an opportunity for

the community to come together, reflect on four decades of storytelling, and celebrate the people who have shaped the region along the way.

Guests are encouraged to dress to impress, bring their dancing shoes and join in what promises to be a truly memorable night.

**'Swinging Through the Decades' The Echo 40th Anniversary & Awards Celebration is on Saturday, 6 June at Club Byron (Byron Bowling Club).**

**Tickets: \$55 + bf, available via Humanitix.com at <https://events.humanitix.com/the-echo-s-40th-anniversary-and-awards-celebration>.**

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

**THENORTHERN.COM.AU**  
 @thenorthernbyronbay

<b>THUR</b> 14 MAY	Front Bar: Ino Pio 6pm DJ Quendo 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8.30pm
<b>FRI</b> 15 MAY	Front Bar: Bredda Brothers 7pm, DJ Jamie Lowe 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8.30pm
<b>SAT</b> 16 MAY	Front Bar: Kane Muir Band 7pm DJ Oren Selecta 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
<b>SUN</b> 17 MAY	Front Bar: Jordy Quinn 5pm, Vinyl Sunday ft Sunny Side Up 8.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
<b>MON</b> 18 MAY	Front Bar: Lachy Dwyer 6pm, DJ Izzy Vox Duelling Piano Bar 9pm <b>BACKPACKER MONDAYS</b>
<b>TUES</b> 19 MAY	Front Bar: Marshal Okell 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
<b>WED</b> 20 MAY	Front Bar: Ino Pio 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

# Eclectic Selection

## What's on this week



Join **The Bredda Brothers Trio** for a session packed with energy, eclectic sounds, and a whole lot of fun – they'll mash up classics from the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s, and 2000s with dance bangers, drum & bass, and their own original tracks, all delivered with their signature twist – reworking the songs you love into something completely fresh.

**Saturday from 7pm at The Northern, Byron Bay. Free show.**



**Leigh James** sings and plays guitar effortlessly, as if music was as natural to him as breathing – he has a keen ear for the right sound and volume. A true professional with a sparkling talent.

**Saturday from 6.30pm at the Murwillumbah Services Club. Free show.**



**Cass's** award-winning songs remind you that if your champagne glass isn't already full, then it's at least half-full (and definitely never empty). She writes songs steeped in the optimistic power of a well-lived woman: the one you've been, the one you are becoming, or the one you're meant to be.

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



**Cinnamon Sun** oozes a comforting, conscious vibe that will have you transported to a Tahitian bar under the orange setting sun, with all worries lost. The 'Sun is the evolution of one man's global solo roots journey, now enriched by a dynamic collective of talented musicians. The project has sparked a fire that wants to keep burning.

**Sunday from 5pm at the Kingscliff Beach Bowls Club. Free show.**



The straight-talking, hip-swinging, raw and raunchy jazz and blues of the **Trombone Kellie Gang** could get the most tired of feet moving – the band is fronted by the infamous Trombone Kellie, with gutsy vocal delivery and blues trombone-playing – the Kellie Gang plays this weekend at the Ballina Blues Club.

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



**Graeme Townsend** plays classic tunes, entertaining audiences with his unique take on familiar favorites and hidden gems, setting the perfect mood, with a versatile song selection and fun performances.

**Saturday from 5pm at Salt & Stone, Fingal Head. Free show.**



### He earned his stripes

Like many blues musicians before him that cut records later in life, for years the only places you could hear **Kane Muir** were live in local bars, or on street corners playing his own brand of blues-rock atop his suitcase drum. He earned his stripes from years as a busker travelling the world. In New York he played in the city's subways for a year, he's played New Orleans street corners and Berlin squares. Since his return to Australia, he has been touring up and down the East Coast playing in venues and living in his moving house-truck.

**Saturday from 7pm at The Northern, Byron Bay. [www.thenorthern.com.au](http://www.thenorthern.com.au).**

**MISEX SPACE RACE 1980**

**BEACH HOTEL**  
SUN 17 MAY 2026  
BYRON BAY NSW  
W/- THE HIGH ROLLERS  
DOORS 4PM | FREE ADMISSION | [MISEX.COM.AU](http://MISEX.COM.AU)

Logos: TriplePeak, GREAT SOUTHERN HEIGHTS, NSW, FEEL NEW SOUTH WALES, ARIA, NITE-RITZ

**THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN**

THE EPIC JOURNEY OF A QUANTUM SHIFT

Screening of Dean Jefferys' epic 2-hour documentary, 10 years in the making + Q&A

The psychedelic Toads, the Whales and the Sun are offering insights to humanity in these critical times

**Byron Bay, Palace Cinemas 2 screenings:**  
May 13<sup>th</sup> 6pm and May 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm

**Threeways Cafe, Wilsons Creek, Mullumbimby:**  
dinner and outside screening May 15<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm

Watch trailer, get tickets + more info:  
[www.toadwhalesun.com](http://www.toadwhalesun.com)

Back by popular demand for one unforgettable season.

**ELTHAM**

**Love for one night**

A NORPA production at the Eltham Hotel  
**27 Aug – 12 Sept**

QR code, Tickets → [norpa.org.au](http://norpa.org.au), Eltham, NORPA



## Just one night

*Love for One Night* returns to the Eltham Hotel for a strictly limited season from **27 August to 12 September 12** and if the 2022 run is anything to go by, tickets won't hang around.

Conceived and directed by NORPA Artistic Director **Julian Louis**, the production takes over the entire Eltham Hotel, bar, beer garden and upstairs rooms, transforming it into a wonderland of the everyday.

Five actors play 24 characters across a series of interwoven love stories: a single mum with an incurable romantic streak, childhood sweethearts bickering over schooners, two men who fell for the same woman. The stories, pulled straight from the fabric of the Northern Rivers, are funny, tender and achingly real. A live band, live camera projections and an audience seated in the pub carpark under the stars complete the picture.

The original season carried extraordinary weight. It opened in September 2022 as the Northern Rivers was still reeling from the devastating floods that had torn through the region and gutted NORPA's home at Lismore City Hall. What emerged was something more than theatre, a communal exhale, a love letter to a community still finding its footing.

The production went on to win the 2023 PAC Australia IMPACT Award, with *The Guardian* calling it 'a gift' and *Australian Stage* declaring it 'pure gold'.

For anyone who was lucky enough to catch NORPA's *Love for One Night* at the Eltham Hotel back in 2022, you know exactly what that feels like. For everyone who missed out, and there were many, given that it sold out almost instantly, this is the news you've been waiting for.

Ticket options range from general admission to on-stage table seating right amongst the action – a group of four right on the stage, seated at picnic tables at actor level, as close to the action as it gets. It is genuinely one of the more fun ways to experience live theatre in this region.

**Love For One Night, The Eltham Hotel, 27 August to 12 September 2026. Prices start at \$30 for under-30s, with full-price tickets from \$69. For tickets and more information go to [www.norpa.org.au/events/love-for-one-night](http://www.norpa.org.au/events/love-for-one-night).**

# 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](mailto:studiomanager@bayfm.org)



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

## INTERVIEW



## RUTHIE FOSTER

**Grammy Award-winner Ruthie Foster's rich storytelling and authenticity have captivated and inspired audiences worldwide. Raised in gospel-steeped East Texas, her eclectic and vibrant musical journey includes performing in the US Navy band Pride before signing a development deal with Atlantic Records. Ruthie's command of guitar and piano, along with her powerhouse vocals see her blend blues, folk, and gospel into a unique sound. After five previous Grammy nominations, she won her first Grammy in 2024 for *Mileage*.**

**Foster is in Australia on a tour that will culminate with a stellar performance at Blues on Broadbeach. *Seven* spoke to Foster in Melbourne at mid-tour after stops in WA, Geelong and 'Tassie' – spoken like a true Aussie.**

### Have you been to Australia very often?

I used to come a lot. I started about 15 years ago coming here on my own, then with a small band, then there was a big gap because I just wasn't able to come down. I started back last year.

### You are touring a new album?

I had one last year that won a Grammy, *Mileage* won the 2025 gong for Best Contemporary Blues Album, so we're still touring that one.

### How awful to win a Grammy – haha?

Yeah, that was pretty sweet! And I have a new one that's going to drop later on this year that's called *Just Say Yes*. So that's going to be my next one.

### Is there something different about coming to Australia and the audiences here?

You know, there's such appreciation for whatever I do, whether it's something new or something from the last 11 albums that I've put out, there's just such a huge outpouring of love and appreciation, especially since I've been here – and a week after I landed I got really, really sick with tonsillitis and I've had such a beautiful outpouring of love and support and a great team who lifted me up and are getting me through that.

### Is there anyone on the Blues on Broadbeach bill that you're looking forward to seeing?

Oh yeah – The Teskey Brother, those guys.

### Has your reality matched the vision you had of your career when you first started?

I think it has. Yeah, I did have a vision, you know. I think, as a young person, you see something... you know, I have a daughter, and I still remember her doing this. When I took her to see *Annie*. I remember her pointing to the stage and saying, 'I want to do that'.

As a young person you see something that resonates with you. I knew it was something in the music industry. I knew that I had a place here. That there was a seat waiting for me somewhere. I knew that.

So I just got busy saying 'yes' to everything I could, including running sound learning, learning about sound equipment, and it has all benefitted me. Yeah, every single class I've ever taken in music – I took commercial music – every class I benefit from, even when it comes to being able to communicate with my band, when it comes to key changes and time signatures and all of that.

### So now that you've got the seat at the table, does it feel comfortable? Are you where you need to be right now today?

That changes day to day. I'm human, you know, and I have my, what do they call it? 'Under the weather days', or 'over the moon'. I'm always trying to find a place to ground. But, overall yes, I know I'm at the right table.

### What is your current earworm?

Oh my gosh, you know, right now it is probably Brandi Carlile. Vocally there's a lot going on, I'm fascinated by what she does with her voice.

### What's inspiring you right now?

### What's getting you out of bed?

What inspires me to get out of bed to perform music? Gosh! I have a high-schooler. I'm trying to get her through high school. You know, if it's not me or something that inspires me, I do tend to go to my kiddo and that alone gets me out of bed.

### Are you having enough fun?

Yeah. I find fun. But you know, for me, having downtime is what's big for me. And in that downtime is when I find time to do the things that I like to do – really I like to read, I like my quiet time, I enjoy my own company. It's nice to have the morning to myself. You actually get up and have a quiet breakfast – have a great conversation with a wonderful waiter. You know, that kind of thing.

**You can catch Ruthie Foster at Blues on Broadbeach on Friday and Saturday – for more information, visit [bluesonbroadbeach.com](http://bluesonbroadbeach.com).**

Seven days of entertainment



## Looking forward to nature

Australia now has its first competitive award dedicated exclusively to nature and environmental documentary filmmaking. The **Bangalow Film Festival** is proud to introduce a new initiative in 2026, the **Green Frame Nature Documentary Award**, celebrating cinema that connects us to the natural world.

Across the festival's program, five outstanding Australian and international feature documentaries will screen in competition, each offering a powerful and deeply human perspective on nature, environment and our place within it.

Competing for both a Jury Prize and an Audience Award, these films form a vital new strand of the festival, placing the Northern Rivers at the centre of a conversation that has never been more urgent.

The films are: **A Life Illuminated** – a cinematic portrait of pioneering marine biologist **Dr Edie Widder** and her lifelong mission to discover and document new forms of bioluminescent life in the deepest oceans. Through her work, the film reveals a hidden world of light beneath the surface and the importance of protecting it. **Screens on Saturday, 13 June at 3pm.**

**Supernature** – filmed exclusively on Super 8, this global journey spans 25 countries, observing everyday moments between people and the natural world. It's a quiet reminder of our shared connection to nature, and to each other. **Screens on Sunday, 14 June at 5pm.**

**Trade Secret** which will also host a **Q&A** – a gripping exposé of the polar bear fur trade, revealing how conservation, politics and commercial interests collide in ways the public was never meant to see. The film follows the systems behind the trade, raising urgent questions about transparency, ethics and responsibility. **Screens on Friday, 19 June at 5.30pm.**

**Our Wolves – In A Landscape Of Fear And Love** – an award-winning documentary set against the dramatic landscapes of Northern Italy, tracing the ecological and human tensions that emerge following the reintroduction of wolves. **Screens on Saturday, 20 June at 3pm.**

**Whispers in the Woods – Vincent Munier** returns to the Vosges forests of his youth, this time with his son, retracing the lessons once taught by his own father. Following three generations, the film captures a quiet process of watching, listening and learning, set against the rhythms of the natural world. **Screens on Sunday, 21 June at 1.30pm.**

You can see all five films competing for the **Green Frame Nature Documentary Award** for \$99 with a special festival pass available at <https://tix.bangalowfilmfestival.com.au/Passes/Green-Frame-Nature-Documentary-Pass>.

# GIG GUIDE



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

## WEDNESDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JORDY QUINN**
- 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**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**

## THURSDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOSE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JEROME WILLIAMS BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **SCREENING – SPACES IN BETWEEN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO + DJ QUENDO + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 8PM **TEMPLE OF FIRE**
- YELLOW FLOWER CAFE, SUFFOLK PARK, 6.30PM **ROD MURRAY**
- FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL 5PM **ANTIGREGORIAN**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 6PM **DADDY LONG LEGS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **MEG CARLIN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **SELENE**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S QUEEN**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**

## FRIDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SUPERCHEEZE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ALLY PALMER + METHYL ETHEL & THE BELAIR LIP BOMBS WITH YELLOW THE SUN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **WILD WOMEN: PRETTY AUDACIOUS**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **CINNAMON SUN**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ NAT WHITE**

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BREDDA BROTHERS + JAMIE LOWE + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 6PM **ADAM BROWN**
- FEDERAL HALL 7PM **WRIGHT & GRAINGER'S SELENE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ JAX FAE**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S QUEEN**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ AKASHIC RECORDS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **BALCONY BEATS + KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- PEARCES CREEK HALL 7PM **WRIGHT & GRAINGER'S SELENE**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **CHECKERED PAST**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **INO PIO**
- HOTEL LISMORE 5.30PM **YOLAN + DJ SONNY**
- HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, UKI, 7PM **ENCHANTED EVENING – STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **SI HOPMAN**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 5PM **ROCKIN' RON**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **MIRRORBALL EXPRESS**
- THREWAYS OF THE VALLEY, WILSONS CREEK, 5.30PM **SCREENING: THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **MI-SEX**

## SATURDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SONIC FX**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **BEN WALSH + LACHIE DWYER DUO + GOLDEN FEATURES + DJ MISH KELLY**
- BYRON THEATRE 8PM **TEARDROPS ON MY DILDO: THE ENDURANCE EDITION**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DEEP PEPA + DJ DAVI BAGMA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR BAND + OREN SELECTA + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 6PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **ALBY DAMN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **JOABE**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **WILD WOMEN: PRETTY AUDACIOUS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ DARLAN**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **PIANO BAR W/ JOHN**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S QUEEN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **THE DUSTIES**
- THE ALLEYWAY, BARRINGBAR, 6PM **DJ BAMBOOZLE, DJ LEISURE SUIT LIPPO, DJ FRANKENFURTER & DJ FAHRENHEIT**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **DJ BEATDUSTA**
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, 6PM **JAZZ DADS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **CATH SIMES**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **MILO GREEN**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM BAND**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **MAPLE GLIDER + TESSA FLEUR**
- HOTEL LISMORE 9.30PM **PUSH**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **JOCK BARNES**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 2PM **JOE CONROY, 5PM GRAEME TOWNSEND**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **SOUL'D**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **ELVIS LEAVES HIS MARK**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 12PM **THE WEARY WIZARDS FEDERATION + THE CHRIS CORNELL COLLECTION**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **HELLIONS**

## SUNDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **KANE MUIR DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **MI-SEX + THE HIGH ROLLERS + DJ LONGTIME**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JORDY QUINN + VINYL SUNDAY FT SUNNY SIDE UP + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 5.30PM **ANNA STANTON**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 3PM **FRANK SWABY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **MOONTIDE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 5PM **MOORT: CALLING DINGO BACK TO COUNTRY + WOOLEEN: UTILISING DINGOES AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL**

- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S QUEEN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM **YAZMINDI**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **ADAM BROWN**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT TROMBONE KELLIE GANG**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **CASS EAGER**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 3PM **MANDY HAWKES TRIO**
- UKI MARKET 8AM **MURRAY KYLE & FINN WHEATLY**
- THE BURROW, CABARITA, 4PM **BURNING HANDS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **CINNAMON SUN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **CHRIS PALMER**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **TRACY VAUGHAN + MR JOHN**

## MONDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GLEN PRICE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MILO GREEN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LACHY DWYER + DJ IZZY VOX + DUELING PIANO BAR**

## TUESDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHAL OKELL + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **RAFA THE PIANIST**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6.30PM **SUSAN CHOI IN CONVERSATION**

## WEDNESDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TIM STOKES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SCREENING: THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- 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

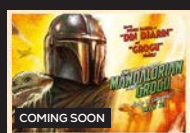


It will appear in the paper, the online gig guide and on Bay FM  
email [gigs@echo.net.au](mailto:gigs@echo.net.au) with the details

## PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES  
THURSDAY MAY 14  
TO WEDNESDAY MAY 20



### PALACE BYRON BAY

#### SPECIAL SCREENINGS

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND (IM) CULT VAULT  
Mon: 6:30PM

H IS FOR HAWK (CTO) GOLDEN CLUB PREVIEW  
Wed: 1:00PM

PARIS OPERA BALLET: LE PARC (CTO)  
Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM

THE RICHEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD (IM) ADV SCREENINGS  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:20PM

TOP GUN - 40TH ANNIVERSARY (PG)  
Daily: 11:00AM

#### FAMILY FILMS

SHREK 25TH ANNIVERSARY (PG)  
Fri: 12:45PM, Sat, Sun: 10:45AM

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE (G)  
Daily: 10:30AM

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG)  
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues: 10:30AM, 1:20PM, 6:00PM, Sun, Mon, Wed: 10:30AM, 1:20PM

THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE (PG)  
Sat, Sun: 12:40PM

#### ALL FILMS

A PRIVATE LIFE (IM) NFI  
Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 5:50PM, Sat, Sun: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 5:50PM, Wed: 10:50AM, 3:45PM, 5:50PM

BILLIE ELISH - HIT ME HARD AND SOFT: THE TOUR (PG)  
Thurs, Tues: 3:30PM, 8:20PM, Fri, Sat: 8:20PM, Sun: 8:10PM, Mon, Wed: 3:30PM

IN THE GREY (MA15+) NFI  
Daily except Sun: 12:45PM, 3:40PM, 8:20PM, Sun: 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:20PM

IT'S NEVER OVER, JEFF BUCKLEY (IM)  
Thurs, Mon, Tues: 12:40PM

LIFE COULD BE A DREAM (IM) NFI  
Daily except Sun, Wed: 2:50PM, 4:40PM, 6:30PM, Sun: 3:10PM, 5:00PM, 6:50PM, Wed: 1:30PM, 3:40PM, 6:30PM

MICHAEL (PG)  
Daily except Wed: 10:40AM, 3:15PM, 5:50PM, 8:30PM, Wed: 3:15PM, 5:50PM, 8:30PM

MORTAL KOMBAT 2 (MA15+)  
Daily: 8:30PM

MOTHER MARY (MA15+) NFI  
Daily: 10:30AM, 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM

OBSESSION (MA15+) NFI  
Daily except Sun: 1:00PM, 8:20PM, Sun: 1:00PM, 8:40PM

PIKE RIVER (MA15+) NFI  
Thurs, Mon, Tues: 10:50AM, 12:50PM, 5:50PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:50AM, 12:45PM, 5:50PM, Wed: 10:40AM, 12:50PM, 5:50PM

PROJECT HAIL MARY (IM)  
Daily: 8:00PM

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (IM)  
Daily: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 2:50PM, 3:20PM, 5:20PM, 6:00PM, 7:50PM, 8:30PM

### BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

IN THE GREY (MA15+) NFI  
Daily except Tues: 2:40PM, 7:30PM, Tues: 5:15PM, 7:30PM

MICHAEL (PG)  
Daily: 11:50AM, 4:45PM

MORTAL KOMBAT 2 (MA15+)  
Daily: 5:00PM

MOTHER MARY (MA15+) NFI  
Daily: 10:00AM, 7:20PM

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (IM)  
Daily except Tues: 2:15PM, 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:20PM, Tues: 12:15PM, 2:30PM, 7:20PM

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG)  
Daily: 9:50AM, 2:45PM

THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE (PG)  
Daily: 9:45AM

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE FOR ALL GERMAN FF SESSIONS, PLEASE VISIT [GERMANFILMFESTIVAL.COM.AU](http://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 Classies also appear online:  
**www.echo.net.au/classified-ads**

# Echo

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

### CENTRE FOR SALE

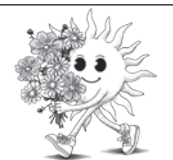
The Centre for Mind Body Wellness, a well-established health clinic in the heart of Mullumbimby, is now for sale. Purpose-built fitout, existing practitioner base and beautiful rooms.

Contact Lauren at [centreforinbodywellness.com.au/lauren](http://centreforinbodywellness.com.au/lauren)

## SHORT TERM ACCOM.

**HOUSE FOR RENT 26 May-end August**  
1bdrm + study. Separate elec/water. 2 mins walk into Mullumbimby. References required. Enquiries 0418827524

## WANTED TO RENT



**Hello community**

Creative, grounded and respectful, looking to rent a cabin or studio around Mullumbimby / Byron Shire, or open to a house-sitting opportunity for winter. Easy-going and happy to help with gardens or property care if needed.

Alexandra - 0421 921 538

## TO LET

**CARAVAN:** low rent in exchange for yard work. Goonellabah. No smoking, alcohol or drugs. Must like dogs. Txt 0407857738

## 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

## NEW TINY HOME FOR RENT

Mullumbimby Creek. In quiet bush setting with own yard/garden. Off-road parking. Single storey with kitchenette and bathroom. Suit single professional \$450pw incl. all bills and internet. Call Anna 0404 085 622

**SPACIOUS, LIGHT** 2 bed, 1 bath in Suffolk Park. Suit couple or parent & child. No pets please. Seeking quiet tenants, as owners live next door. Initial 6-mth lease \$500pw incl power & water. Email: [mirandajane@fastmail.com](mailto:mirandajane@fastmail.com)

## TO LEASE

**BYRON** ind. 2nd floor w/house space for long lease. 3 rooms, large floorspace + lounge area, balcony, car space. \$550pw. For more info please txt 0424906036

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

## UNIT AVAILABLE –

### OVER 55's MACKILLOP PLACE, BANGALOW

A unit will shortly become available in our self-care residential facility in Bangalow. 2 bedroom unit in a block of 8. Combined lounge/dining area, modern kitchen and bathroom with a single lock up garage.

Enquiries to:-

**Geoff Gill – 0428 536 902 or Will Danaher – 0410 515 474**

## 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 the Saturday May 23rd in Byron on the anniversary of her death in Melbourne May 23rd 2025. For details email Abbe at [abbeholmes3@gmail.com](mailto:abbeholmes3@gmail.com)

### WHERE TO GET THE ECHO

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



### Safer Drivers Courses for Learners

Earn 20 hours of logbook credit if you are under 25 and have completed 50 logbook hours.

Bookings:  
[bys.org.au/safer-drivers-course-for-learners](http://bys.org.au/safer-drivers-course-for-learners)

## 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

### HYPNOSIS & NLP

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

## DEATH NOTICES

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Andrew Nicholas Wotton** 22 Nov 1977 - 6 May 2026



Age 48 years

Cherished son of Peter & Jackie. Loving brother of Stephen, Mark & Monica. Supportive father of Ashton & Grandfather of Hunter. And adored uncle of Jacob, Nakiah, Indira & Sierra.

To his friends, family & community, thank you for all of your love, support & most importantly your contribution to his life.

Loved by all who knew him. Service to be held at

**The guardian Funeral Home, Kalinga Street, Ballina Friday 15 May 2026, 2pm.**

And moving to the Ballina RSL River Street Ballina. All welcome.

## FUNERAL NOTICES



### ROCHE, Maurice James "Jim"

3 April 1939 – 6 May 2026

Passed away peacefully on 6 May 2026, aged 87 years.

Beloved partner of Joan.

Much loved father and father-in-law of Nikki and Melita, and Kristen and Anthony.

Adored grandfather of Griffin, Dasha, James, Sophie, Danielle, Teagan and Mitchell.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend a Funeral Service to celebrate Jim's life to be held at:

*Tweed Heads Memorial Gardens*  
176 Kirkwood Road, Tweed Heads South  
Friday, 15 May 2026  
Commencing at 2:30pm

The service will be followed by refreshments at the Memorial Gardens.

All welcome to attend.

No flowers by request.

Donations to Legacy Australia in lieu would be appreciated.

In loving memory of "The OG"

### Simon David Ulyatt

25<sup>th</sup> January 1971 – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026



*You gifted love, warmth, joy and laughter to all you met, and left the world a better place because of it.*

Simon passed away peacefully, in hospital, in the company of family. Cherished son of James and Annette. Much loved brother of Marcus, Linda & Samantha. Adored Uncle of Ashley, Laura & Kaliah.

Family and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Simon's life at St Finbarr's Catholic Church in Byron Bay at 11:00am on 20 May 2026.

Please wear bright colours. In lieu of flowers, the family request that you join us for refreshments at the Byron Bay Services Club immediately after the service and bring your fondest memories of Simon to share. The service will be livestreamed.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS 6684 6232

## 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

### SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

**6681 3140**  
Mobile 0417 698 227



### HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

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

Fully insured • Free quotes

**0427 347 380**

## COMPUTERS

> WINDOWS 10, 11 LAPTOPS

> Free upgrade to Linux

> Details at

> [linuxisgood.com](http://linuxisgood.com)

## FOR SALE

### FIREWOOD

Pick-up/delivery. Seasoned. All quantities  
[byronbayfirewood.com.au](http://byronbayfirewood.com.au)  
0401 739 656

## WANTED

### TREE FERNS

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

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

## GARAGE SALES

### ORCHID SALE

9AM-1PM. Sat 16th May. 38 Alison Ave, Lennox Head. 0416052876. Cash only. 200+ flowering-size plants

## Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

**0408 210 772**

### TREASURE HUNT + cool stuff

SATURDAY 16 MAY

LULU'S CAFE · MULLUM

VINTAGE · CLOTHES · BOOKS

BITS & PIECES · TREASURES

## 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

Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School has the following exciting opportunities:

**High School English Teacher**

Temporary Part Time Hours (0.7FTE) and Casual Strings Specialists

Applications considered upon receipt with final deadline of **29 May 2026**.

For the Position Descriptions and details on how to apply, please refer to our website  
[www.shearwater.nsw.edu.au/work-at-shearwater/](http://www.shearwater.nsw.edu.au/work-at-shearwater/)

## WORK WANTED

**REPUTABLE CLEANER AVAILABLE**  
If you're time-poor or just tired and need a hand around your home, call me for: a one-off clean; weekly; fortnightly; or just when you need it. I will make your home sparkle while you relax. I have been servicing the Byron Shire and surrounding areas since 2023. I bring all of my own products and gear and I'm fully insured. References available. My hourly rate is \$60. Too good to be true? Give me a call or txt Tina on 0400015939

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

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**NOW RECRUITING**

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

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

**ANIMAL LOVERS!!**

Volunteer to make a real difference to neglected, abused & unwanted farmed animals. Regularly or occasionally. Help with animal care, building, admin, grant writing, transport.  
[volunteer@owlandpussycat.org.au](mailto:volunteer@owlandpussycat.org.au)

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

## TUITION

**Adobe Tutoring**

Experienced Professional Tutor

- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

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

## BIRTHDAYS



Happy 3rd Birthday Remy Love, Mum And Dad

## PETS

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



**BAILEY**  
Bailey is tired of waiting. She watched her lucky brother Luca, (advertised last week), walk out the door with his new family & she's now feeling a little glum. Bailey is a beautifully natured girl & is very loving. Please don't let her wait any more.

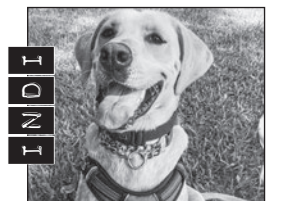
To meet Bailey, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.  
**OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm  
Thurs 3-5pm / Sat 10am-12 noon**  
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook!  
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation  
Number: R25100222



**LUCY**  
Lucy is a sweet 7-month-old Staffy X pup with a loving, playful personality. He walks well on a lead, is toilet trained and loves people & other dogs. Full of energy and curiosity, he'll thrive with ongoing training and guidance. Smart, loyal and eager to please, Lucy responds well to praise and treats. Best suited to a home with teens or adults, he's ready to bring love, fun, and companionship to his forever family.  
Rehoming #R251 00 00 00

**NRAS**  
Northern Rivers Animal Services  
T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au  
W: [www.nras.org.au](http://www.nras.org.au)



**INDI**  
Indi is a 2 year old, Bull Arab Dane / mastiff bloodhound x. She is a playful and affectionate girl who adores everyone she meets. Being a large dog, she will need a home with plenty of space to stretch her legs and enjoy life.  
M/C #991003002444239  
Location: Murwillumbah  
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.  
<https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

Visit [friendsofthepound.com](http://friendsofthepound.com) to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.  
ABN 83 126 970 338



**Who gives a Cluck? #52**

**Adopt a Rooster.**  
Mika was rescued from an abandoned golf club on The 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/](http://www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/)  
[whogivesacluck.org](http://whogivesacluck.org) | @whogivesacluck

## Byron Dog Rescue (CAW)



**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](http://byrondogrescue.org)**  
MC: 991003002588255



**WALTER**  
Meet fun loving Walter, who's just 10 months old, and still waiting to be adopted. Sleek and handsome, with a leopard like coat (looks part Bengal) Great temperament, easy to handle, likes people, affectionate, and just LOOOVES to play! He would suit an active household, kids especially will love playing with him! He's been with us too long now - can you find a place in your life for this wonderful furry character?  
Desexed, vaccinated, microchip  
9001649002387369 D.O.B 1/6/25  
See more on our FB page

**To make an appointment**  
0403 533 589 • [Billinudgel.petsforlifeshelter.net](http://Billinudgel.petsforlifeshelter.net)

## ONLY ADULTS

**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

**BI MALE ESCORT**  
38yo locksmith. 0480 779 325  
[couplesempowerment.global](http://couplesempowerment.global)

Need proper erotic relaxation?  
**Tantric Massage**  
Men, Women, Couples. Ph 0480779325

## SOCIAL ESCORTS

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



## SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
13	W	6:20 17:04	2:04 14:20	05:00 1.53 17:50 1.53	11:21 0.37 23:43 0.54
14	TH	6:20 17:04	3:06 14:53	05:50 1.52 18:37 1.69	12:00 0.29
15	F	6:21 17:03	4:12 15:29	06:39 1.49 19:25 1.83	00:40 0.46 12:39 0.24
16	SA	6:21 17:03	5:22 16:12	07:29 1.44 20:12 1.94	01:35 0.40 13:19 0.21
17	SU	6:22 17:02	6:36 17:03	08:18 1.38 21:00 2.00	02:30 0.36 14:01 0.21
18	M	6:23 17:01	7:50 18:03	09:09 1.30 21:50 2.01	03:28 0.34 14:46 0.24
19	TU	6:23 17:01	8:59 19:10	10:02 1.23 22:43 1.98	04:27 0.35 15:35 0.30
20	W	6:24 17:01	10:01 20:21	11:00 1.18 23:37 1.90	05:27 0.38 16:29 0.38
21	TH	6:24 17:00	10:52 21:31	12:02 1.15	06:27 0.42 17:29 0.47
22	F	6:25 17:00	11:35 22:38	00:34 1.80 13:13 1.15	07:27 0.46 18:36 0.56
23	SA	6:25 16:59	12:11 23:40	01:33 1.70 14:26 1.20	08:24 0.48 19:52 0.63
24	SU	6:26 16:59	12:43 23:40	02:32 1.60 15:34 1.28	09:17 0.48 21:09 0.66
25	M	6:27 16:58	13:12 23:40	03:30 1.51 16:35 1.38	10:04 0.46 12:20 0.67
26	TU	6:27 16:58	13:40 23:40	04:24 1.43 17:27 1.49	10:45 0.44 23:23 0.65
27	W	6:28 16:58	14:09 2:30	05:13 1.37 18:12 1.58	11:23 0.42

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

## The Echo's Market Guide

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

**MONTHLY MARKETS:**

**1<sup>st</sup> SATURDAY:**  
Brunswick Heads Markets - 8am-2pm

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY:**  
Byron Community Market - 8am-3pm  
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY:**  
The Channon Craft Market - 9am-3pm  
Chillingham Markets - 8am-1pm  
Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets - 8am-2pm  
Tabulam Community Market - 9am-1pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> SATURDAY:**  
Mullumbimby Community Market - 8am-2pm  
Murwillumbah Makers & Finders - 9am-2pm  
Salt Beach Markets, Sth Kingscliff/Casuarina - 8am-1pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY:**  
Federal Village Market - 8am-2pm  
Uki Buttery Bazaar Market - 8am-2pm  
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm  
Lismore City Bowlo Markets - 9am-1pm

**4<sup>th</sup> SATURDAY:**  
Kyogle Bazaar - 9am-2pm

**Last SATURDAY:**  
Evans Head Rotary Market - 8am-1pm

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY:**  
Bangalow Market - 8am-2.30pm  
Nimbin Markets - 9am-3pm  
Murwillumbah Showground Market - 8am-1pm

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY (in a 5-Sunday month):**  
Coolangatta Arts & Crafts Markets - 8am-2pm

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY:**  
Nimbin Markets - 8.30am-3pm

**FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:**

**Each TUESDAY:**  
New Brighton Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Lismore Organic Market - 7.30am-10.30am

**Each WEDNESDAY:**  
Murwillumbah Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Nimbin Farmers Market - 3pm-6pm  
Newrybar Hall Twilight Market - 3pm-7.30pm

**Each THURSDAY:**  
Byron Bay Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Lismore Produce Market - 3pm-6pm

**Each FRIDAY:**  
Mullumbimby Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Evans Head Farmers Market - 2.30pm-6.30pm

**Each SATURDAY:**  
Bangalow Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Durambah Rd Farmers Mkt (Tropical Fruit World) 8am-11am  
Uki Farmers Market - 8am-1pm  
Lismore Farmers Market - 7.30am-11.30am  
Byron Twilight Market (Oct to Apr) 4pm-9pm

**Each SUNDAY:**  
Ballina Farmers & Producers Mkt - 7am-11am

**Each SATURDAY:**  
Bangalow Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Durambah Rd Farmers Mkt (Tropical Fruit World) 8am-11am  
Uki Farmers Market - 8am-1pm  
Lismore Farmers Market - 7.30am-11.30am  
Byron Twilight Market (Oct to Apr) 4pm-9pm

**Each SUNDAY:**  
Ballina Farmers & Producers Mkt - 7am-11am

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

## On The Horizon

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

### Mullumbimby CWA

At the monthly meeting on 13 May at the Mullumbimby CWA rooms from 10am, the guest speaker will be Dean Standford from Mullumbimby Fire and Rescue. His topic will be fire safety in the home. Guests are welcome to attend. For more information on Mullumbimby CWA, contact secretary Jenny Barlow on cwamullum@gmail.com.

### AI workshop May 12

The upcoming Collective Mullumbimby Chamber catch up, to be held at Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club on May 12 from 5pm, will be about AI. Organisers say 'AI is quickly becoming a practical tool for small businesses, helping owners save time, lighten the load, and stay competitive. Learn how AI can help with making marketing easier; turning big documents into useful business tools; and cutting down repetitive admin. Save time on customer enquiries, booking responses, staff training materials, and everyday business processes. Discover practical, real-world ways local retail and service businesses can start using AI right now!'

### Free connect at Belongil

A free community (connect) event will run for the following four Mondays, starting 11 May from 8am at Belongil Beach. Led by mental health worker/ yoga, breath, meditation facilitator Kali Jade, the morning includes a short meditation and mantra, then a walk to The Wreck and back, with the option to have a cuppa at the Treehouse Cafe. Aimed for peeps who are alone/dysregulated/or wanting sober events to connect at. Email hello@kriyamethod.au.

### Byron Bay Library in May

For Law Week, a free seniors information session will be held Thursday 21 May from 3 to 5pm. Come along and be informed about planning ahead with wills, power of attorney, guardianship and advance care directories. Afternoon tea provided, followed by a Q&A. The Author Event on Thursday 28 May 3pm will feature Maggie Walters with Alan Close. Join award winning author Maggie Walters in conversation about her new book *Fractured Motherhood: when love, trauma and parenting intertwine*. This is a powerful and deeply personal memoir exploring trauma, adoption and the enduring possibility of healing. Afternoon tea provided. Bookings call 6685 8540 or online [www.rtl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rtl.nsw.gov.au).

### Clarks Beach Dunecare

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday 17 May from 9am to 12 noon, meeting in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarks Beach. We plant in the sand dunes from Clarks Beach to Main Beach. From 12 noon to 1pm, enjoy a delicious free barbecue and be in the draw to win one of four excellent prizes. It's good fun. Inquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Peter 0488 715 565.

### Lismore rainforest walk

Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens open day, Sunday 24 May, 9.30am to 1pm. Taking place on Bundjalung Country. 313 Wyrallah Road, East Lismore. Meet at the Visitors Centre - native plant stall open from 9.30am with great advice and sales of healthy local rainforest plants. Guided walks, cake and coffee stall, card and book sales. Educational displays. Children's activities - spotto, floral art, craft, yoga. Bookings essential by emailing membership@friendslrbg.com.au. (Please give a contact number and say which walk and time you'd like). Numbers limited, cost \$5 per person, children free. Meet at Visitor's Centre, 10 mins before walk please. Wear sturdy shoes and hats.

## 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
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ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS) .....	6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS .....	6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE .....	6622 1233
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**Deadline:** For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**  
**Line ads:** \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid  
**Display ads:** \$70 per week for colour display ad.  
 Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.  
 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.  
 New ads will be placed at end of section.  
**Contact:** 6684 1777 or [adcop@echo.net.au](mailto:adcop@echo.net.au)



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# Sweeping panoramic views at 'Glenelg'

'Glenelg' is a landmark 1902 Queenslander, situated at 2 Bent Street in Murwillumbah's prestigious Hospital Hill enclave. Commanding the premier elevated position in this revered neighbourhood, the property occupies a generous 1,410m<sup>2</sup> allotment that borders a council reserve and a quiet no-through road. This strategic location ensures rare privacy and an oasis of peaceful tranquility, while remaining just 300 metres from the award-winning dining options and vibrant amenities of the Murwillumbah town centre. The home offers breathtaking, sweeping panoramic views across the township, the Tweed River, the Wollumbin Caldera, and the Springbrook Ranges.

The residence itself is a beautifully restored masterpiece of heritage elegance, defined by wide wrap-around verandas, generous interiors, and refined period details. It offers remarkable flexibility, currently configured with a stately



three-bedroom upper residence and a fully self-contained one-bedroom apartment below. This setup provides excellent separation for multigenerational living or continued operation as an iconic short-term holiday rental, complete with a strong brand, business infrastructure, and forward bookings for immediate income potential. Further enhancing its value are council-approved plans for a master ensuite, a swimming pool, and a lock-up garage, alongside its official dual-occupancy status.

The grounds are a true botanical masterpiece, featuring established exotic and native gardens that serve as a haven for local birdlife. The owners have meticulously maintained the foundation works of previous collectors, including rare plants sourced from far and wide, most notably a stunning Kentia Grove with palms from Lord Howe Island. Accessible pathways meander throughout the estate, leading to a dedicated courtyard area at the top of the garden – a perfect vantage point for enjoying

spectacular sunsets over Mt Warning and looking south down the Tweed River.

Practicality meets high-end design in the utility spaces. A large lockable room serves as a dedicated workshop and storage area. The expansive laundry room has been thoughtfully renovated with non-slip floor tiles, white subway wall tiles, and exposed copper water pipes. It features a custom-made Ironbark and Bloodwood timber cupboard housing a vintage double

concrete laundry tub with brass mixer taps. This rare property offers a unique opportunity to transition from admirer to custodian of a preserved 1902 masterpiece.

- Address: 2 Bent Street, Murwillumbah
- Auction 29 May, 1 pm, on-site
- Contact Agent: Wally Trankle  
Ray White Rural Murwillumbah  
0417 622 842  
raywhiteruraltweedvalley.com.au



## AUCTION

### Iconic Murwillumbah Landmark - Dual Living Period Residence with DA

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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.

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**Address**  
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**View**  
By private appointment

**Wally Trankle**  
0417 622 842  
wally.trankle@raywhite.com



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### Elevated Hinterland Living with Sweeping 270° Views

3 bedrooms 2 living areas 2 bathrooms 2 car spaces

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
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- Prime location just minutes to Ballina, beaches & M1 access, offering lifestyle + convenience

PRICE | Contact Agent  
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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 areas 3 bathrooms 2 car spaces

733M<sup>2</sup>

- 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 16th May 10 - 10:30am



Renee Schofield  
0400 028 594



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660

9/27 KALEMAJERE DRIVE, SUFFOLK PARK



### Turnkey Beachside Suffolk Living in Private Gated Estate

3 bedrooms 1 living area 2 bathrooms 2 car spaces lift

567M<sup>2</sup>

- Stylish split-level home with lift, vaulted ceilings, and light-filled interiors
- Sparkling pool, lush gardens, and expansive covered decks for seamless indoor-outdoor living
- Private gated estate with exclusive beach track access to Tallow Beach
- Turnkey coastal retreat moments from Suffolk Park shops, cafes, and local amenities

PRICE | \$2.65M - \$2.85M  
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Sharon McInnes  
0408 659 649



Paul Banister  
0438 856 552

12/12 BROWNING STREET, BYRON BAY



### Contemporary Style and Central Location

4 bedrooms 1 living area 2 bathrooms 2 car spaces lift

419M<sup>2</sup>

- Capture the best of Byron Bay lifestyle on the edge of the Golden Grid, and minutes to town
- Bright, beautifully designed four-bedroom, family sized space and effortless indoor-outdoor coastal living
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OPEN | Thurs 14th May 12:30 - 1pm  
Sat 16th May 10 - 10:30am



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- 18 Seaview Dr, Banora Point. Sat 9–9.30am
- 236/1 Mariners Drive West, Tweed Heads. Sat 9.45–10.15am
- 2/38 Garrick St, Coolangatta. Sat 10–11am
- 6/88 Pacific Pde, Bilinga. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 6/241 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 7/20 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 11.30am–12pm

**First National Byron**

- 6A Kumbellin Glen, Ocean Shores. Wed 10–10.30am
- 12 / 12 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 12.30–1pm
- 103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11–11.30am
- 10 / 47-49 Shirley Street, Byron Bay. Fri 12.30–1pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 2–2.30pm
- 23 Anne Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 3–3.30pm
- 2 / 122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 7/27 Kalemajere Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 9–9.30am
- 195 North Teven Road, Teven. Sat 10–10.30am
- 5 Koala Close, Ewingsdale. Sat 10–10.30am
- 37 Tristran Parade, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 10–10.30am
- 3/40 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 12 / 12 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 73 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 32 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1/6 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 6A Kumbellin Glen, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30–11am
- 9 / 27 Kalemajere Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am

- 3 Hayter Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 3 Blue Water Place, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 23 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.15–11.45am
- 6 Muli Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 61 Bentwing Place, Tintenbar. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 20 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 5 Botanic Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 18 Heritage Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 892 Main Arm Road, Main Arm. Sat 12.45–1.15pm
- 7 / 37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 10 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 1 / 6 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 2–2.30pm

**Harcourts Northern Rivers**

- 213 Skyline Road South, Wyrallah. Sat 9.30–10am
- 2/21 Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar. Sat 10–10.30am
- 23 Fern Street, Lennox Head. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 4/61-63 Crane Street, Ballina. Sat 11.30am–12pm

**MANA RE**

- 9/33 Redford Drive, Skennars Head. Sat 9–9.30am
- 16 Berrimillah Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 7 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shore. Sat 10.30–11am
- 33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 16 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 10 Canowindra Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 59 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 12.30–1.30pm

**North Coast Lifestyle Properties Mullumbimby**

- 2/12 Condon Drive, East Ballina. Sat 12–12.45pm
- 519 Cross Road, Numulgi. Sun 2–2.30pm

**Raine & Horne**

- 837 Nobbys Creek Road, Nobbys Creek. Sat 9–10am
- Panorama Estate: 2981 Kyogle Road, Kunghur. Sat 9–12.30pm
- 1243 Kyogle Road, Uki. Sat 11am–12pm
- 629 Tumbulgum Road, Tyalgah. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 3221 Kyogle Road, Mount Burrell. Sat 1.00–1.30pm
- 8404 Tweed Valley Way, Eviron. Sat 1.30–2pm

**Real Estate of Distinction**

- 6439 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 10.30–11am
- 3/23 Poinciana Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am–12.15pm
- 6 Angus Kennedy Close, Lennox Head. Sat 1.30–2pm

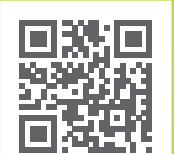
**Tim Miller Real Estate**

- 31 Charlotte Street, Bangalow. Thur 11–11.30am
- 186 Repentance Creek Road, Goonengerry. Sat 9.30–10am

**New Listings**

**MANA RE**

- 146 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores
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The Echo has been there for all these key events including the final goodbye to the old Byron Community Centre. Here Echo photographer Jeff Dawson, in his unique style, has taken a photo of the photographer Marc Gerritsen taking the photo. Help keep The Echo strong and reporting on all our local community events by buying it a coffee once a month at: www.echo.net.au/support-us. Photo Jeff 'I Was Never There' Dawson

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‘Once men turned their thinking over to machines in the hope that this would set them free. But that only permitted other men with machines to enslave them.’ – Frank Herbert

‘Idiotic space men and women in a space ship where we poison the oxygen that we breathe. Now the only way of stopping that is by getting together and deciding we are not going to do stupid things. That means democratic politics.’ – Yanis Varoufakis

Crossword fans note that we have a new crossword setter gracing our pages this week. Local writer Emma Briggs is kindly providing a batch of her cryptics – see page 28 for her bio, and the first of her puzzles.

Michael West Media has announced that BHP is suing them ‘to muzzle media coverage of a wage theft case. Why we are standing up to the \$300bn multinational colossus? #auspol #pressfreedom,’ they ask.

As independent senator for the ACT, David Pocock, has pointed out, ‘There are more than 2,200 people with ‘privileged access all areas lobbyist passes’ to Parliament House. At a time of intense lobbying on issues like making sure Australians get a fair return for our export gas, that should concern all of us.’ www.canberratimes.com.au/story/9182651/david-pocock-2000-orange-pass-holders-hidden-in-parliament-house. Go to www.passregister.com.au to call on your MP to disclose who they are giving access to.

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