

## Fury over failure to fund rail trail

Aslan Shand

The Mullumbimby, Byron, and Lismore chambers of commerce, along with local businesses and the Byron and Lismore councils, have said that they are incredibly disappointed and frustrated at the federal government's decision not to fund the latest applications for the Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT).

'There is serious frustration at the failure of the government to fund the link between the Tweed, Byron, and Lismore shires,' said Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community (MCCC) President Paul Prior. 'The rail trail will connect all these shires together.'

'This is a genuine kick in the guts to the business community, and the residents of our region,' said Matt Williamson, President of the Byron Chamber of Commerce (BCC).

'We have had to endure watching a clown show of local politicians hate on the rail trail, then backflip, then flip again, till finally common sense prevails, just to cop another kick, this time from a different level of government. Business is crying out for this to go ahead, the community is begging for it so please, let's just get this built.'

Lismore Chamber of Commerce (LCC) President Mike Ackrell told *The Echo*, 'It is just ridiculous. Why would you not do something that would actually promote the whole of the Northern Rivers, especially after the greatest natural disaster in history?'

'The economic benefit for it is so much greater than the price that they have to pay. The target they had for the Tweed section of the rail trail for the first year - they actually got to that target in the first two months!'



Two-year-old Obie is as keen to have the rail trail ready to roll (in his lifetime) as are Mullumbimby's Ruby Fisher; Pat Grier, President of Northern Rivers Rail Trail Supporters; BCC President, Matt Williamson; MCCC President, Paul Prior; Sharon McInnes; and (back row) Mullum High student Coren. Photo Tree Faerie

The federal government grant application that was rejected was for the design and construction of the Mullumbimby to Crabbes Creek section and the Lismore to Bexhill section of the NRRT.

Lismore City Mayor, Steve Krieg, Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, and Federal MP for Richmond, Justine Elliot, all said they were very disappointed, but would keep working towards getting the rail trail fully funded and built from Tweed to Bentley.

'It is bitterly disappointing that the proposed rail trail sections haven't been funded. We've felt that the last few years there's been great momentum towards this next stage of funding,' Eltham Pub owner Matt Rabbidge told *The Echo*.

'We see the rail trail creating an important link across the Northern Rivers, linking communities and developing new opportunities for lots of the smaller villages on the trail, us included.'

'For the pub, it's such a massive opportunity for locals and visitors alike. Hopping on a bike to ride across to Bexhill, Lismore, or even the other way to Bangalow would be a regular.'

'We are trying hard over this side of the trail and once it all links up it will tell a beautiful story for the entire area.'

### Have your voice heard

Pat Grier, President of Northern Rivers Rail Trail Supporters, told *The Echo* that they were taking this as an

opportunity to encourage everyone to make their voices heard about how much they want the rail trail.

'It's disappointing we didn't get the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (RPPP) grant but this shows the general public that this won't "just happen", we do need support from the community - from businesses, residents, visitors and local, regional and national politicians,' he said.

'The huge economic benefits of the rail trail can't be disputed - businesses are thriving, towns that were once unknown are bustling, new businesses are being established along the trail and Northern Rivers locals are being employed.'

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## Writers fest celebrates local authors

An extraordinary literary talent calls the Northern Rivers region home, and in celebration of its 30th year the Byron Writers Festival is celebrating with an incredible local lineup that joins Trent Dalton, Geetanjali Shree, Evelyn Araluen, Steve Toltz, Melissa Lucashenko and others.

Leading the local announcement is: Turia Pitt, who has written five best-selling books; Tricia Shantz who will launch her new book at the festival, *Musicland: When the Music Came to Byron 1970 to 1995*, a vivid account of the live music explosion that lit up the hills and valleys of the Shire; and 1993 Women's World Surfing Champion Pauline Mencer, who delivers *Surf Like a Woman*, a story of grit, passion and blazing a trail for women in a sport that too often overlooks them.

Romy Ash, whose debut novel *Floundering* was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin, Commonwealth Book Prize and Prime Minister's Literary Awards, returns.

Fungi filmmakers and co-authors Stephen Axford and Catherine Marciniak present *Planet Fungi: A Photographer's Foray*, a visually stunning journey into the hidden world beneath our feet. You will also be able to engage with Kirra Pendergast, author and *Guardian* columnist Julianne Schultz, author Tristan Bancks, former political journalist Sonya Voumard, crime writer Nicholas Timms, and award-winning journalist and novelist Sarah Armstrong just to name a few.

The complete festival program will be announced on 17 June. Find out more and pick up your tickets here: [www.byronwritersfestival.com](http://www.byronwritersfestival.com).

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Home sweet home-improvements ► p22

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## Make your voice heard and save SGB's Helen St Bridge

Aslan Shand

The South Golden Beach Community Association (SGBCA) and locals are calling on Byron Shire Council (BSC) to include the repair of the Helen Street Bridge in their operational plan for the next financial year.

They say ongoing neglect by BSC has led to the bridge being at risk of closure due to resulting deterioration.

'A SGBCA representative went to the recent Place Plan and budget meeting and was informed that the much-needed repairs on the bridge are not in the operational plan for this year and may not be in the 2026-27 plan. Staff indicated that if the bridge continues to deteriorate, it may be closed,' local resident Maggie Smith told *The Echo*.

'This footbridge was such a good idea,' another local said. 'It makes it possible for a whole huge catchment area across the canal in North Ocean Shores and South Golden Beach (SGB) to actually walk to the beach away from busy roads. My teenage daughter and her friends, who can't drive, use it all the time.'



The Helen Street Bridge is a vital link for the local community. Photo supplied

Angela Dunlop, Secretary of the SGBCA said, 'We fought for 14 years to get the Helen Street Bridge built. In 2009, we asked experienced, retired bridge engineer, Tony Baggio, for help and he generously provided an excellent affordable design pro bono thereby saving Council many thousands of dollars. We handed Council a total design and certification package with costings. They just had to put it out to tender and choose a builder. Unfortunately, many of the timbers that were used were sub-standard, and Tony's inspections of the bridge prior to completion in 2010 revealed many construction

faults including timbers with large cracks which should have been rejected by the project manager.

'Since then, we have been trying to get Council to correct the faults and replace the substandard materials. Little has been done other than to cover rotting timbers with metal plates.'

### Key infrastructure for local community

The Helen Street Bridge was identified as point five on the place plan actions for the New Brighton, South Golden Beach and Ocean Shores 20-year vision place plan adopted by BSC in October 2025.

Multiple people have contacted *The Echo* to highlight the important role the bridge plays for everyone in the local community from teenagers, kids and parents on the school run, to parents with prams, to the elderly.

'From both a physical and social perspective this bridge is a huge asset for our community,' said Ms Dunlop.

'It has improved social connectivity and fostered a stronger community spirit. This asset should have been protected and maintained by Council staff as a priority. Unfortunately, this is another example of Council abrogating its responsibility to maintain our Shire's precious infrastructure.'

'I remember what it was like when there wasn't one, it sucked,' said Ms Brown.

'So Council is happy to spend big on parking spaces with garden beds in every other locality but not on this infrastructure which is an integral part of our community and lifestyle?'

You can make your voice heard on the importance of funding repairs to the Helen Street Bridge by going to <https://yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au>.

## Shop local and support your local businesses

Aslan Shand

Local Mullumbimby businesses say they have been facing a challenging time and are encouraging locals and visitors to shop local.

A mix of rent increases, road closures, and a challenging current economic market is which has seen an increase in the cost of living and fuel prices is having a significant impact on local shops.

Sally Green who has been running KIN Collective in Mullumbimby says that she can't keep going and will be closing in June with a final two week art exhibition in her shop space as a final goodbye.

'I think the camel that broke the straw that broke the camel's back was the Byron Shire Council closing the road into town before Christmas,' Sally told *The Echo*.

'We managed to survive Covid and a flood but the Byron Shire Council was the one we couldn't survive. The impact of the road closure was massive, as that was the time of year that many local shops make the money they need to see them through

leaner times.

'I know several businesses who are holding on by a thread.'

With the upcoming closure of Bridglands Betta Electrical many local businesses have highlighted the importance of what it is that makes Mullumbimby such a vibrant and important town.

'It is the individuality of the businesses in Mullumbimby that make the town thrive,' said Stephanie Davies from Silver Lining.

'If we lose that, we are risk of ending up with just generic shops and losing the unique character of our town. The reason we all live here and make lives here is very connected to the character of our town and an important part of that is shopping local and supporting local businesses.'

Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community member Jenelle Stanford told *The Echo* that they are right behind shopping local and 'we encourage all businesses to join the MCCC so that we can be a stronger voice and work together to keep our town and businesses strong and vibrant.'

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## Old and Gold treasures in Brunswick Heads

The annual Old and Gold Festival is on again in Brunswick Heads on 6 June. The all town garage sale gives everyone the chance to rummage, discover, and enjoy hunting for their most treasured gift, or delight in their most exotic find.

'Old and Gold has been running for 22 years and was originally started as a stimulus package for the residents and businesses during the quiet winter period. It now seems that due to the economic climate and the installation of parking meters affecting our local businesses that a stimulus is once again very important for Bruns,' said organisers.

'With a lot of local festivals falling by the wayside like the Blues Fest, Falls Fest, and Streets Alive event in Brunswick Heads, and no



Trying their 'old' on, youngsters Isla, William and Aaliya dressed up to show Dave Ryan, Sam Pedlow, Cherie Heale, James Aris, and Todd Buckland, they are 'gold' at a sneak preview of the 6 June main event. Photo Tree Faerie

government support, it falls on our local businesses and the community to support the event and keep it going. A huge thank you to our

principal sponsors, Hotel Brunswick, *The Echo*, Old Maids and Stone & Wood. Community groups also benefit from the day with

Treasure Trove at the public school, Rotary BBQ, CWA Devonshire Tea and market, and the Visitor Centre. Don't miss out on the fun.

## Santos Sessions bringing community together in Mullum

Local kombucha maker Jake Miller grew up in the house behind Santos Organics in Mullumbimby and remembers jumping over the fence to play in the garden and enjoy a few carob treats. Now he is coming together to reinvigorate the Santos garden with the launch of the free Santos Sessions – bringing together people, local music, nourishing food, conscious business, and shared community values with the first event on Thursday, 4 June from 2pm.

They will also have rising Australian musician Katie Milea playing from 4pm to 8pm.

The event will also launch Maintaining Eden cafe at Santos which is under new management, and is looking to take place at the beginning of each season.

'We are inviting people back into our Santos garden so it once again becomes the centre of the community, a meeting place, a place for people to engage,' Rob



Jake, Rob, and Millie are gearing up for the launch of Maintaining Eden cafe and the Santos Sessions garden party. Photo Tree Faerie

Baldwin, General Manager of Santos Organics told *The Echo*. 'We are looking to bring the local community together to support each other.'

With great food, drinks, and spirit, Jake from North Wall Kombucha, and Maintaining Eden cafe are inviting everyone to come and engage with community to reconnect and celebrate local music, food, creativity and

culture throughout the year.

Having grown up with homemade kombucha on the bench as the go-to drink, it was when Jake and his family were back living in Brunswick Heads that he began experimenting with making kombucha. Now he is supplying his locally made kombucha throughout the Northern Rivers.

'Santos Sessions feels like

a really natural collaboration,' said Jake. 'It's about bringing together local music, great food and good people in a way that supports the wider Northern Rivers community while creating something people genuinely want to be part of.'

Make sure you don't miss out and book ahead for this free community event at: [www.santosorganics.com.au](http://www.santosorganics.com.au).

## Activists say 'no' to largest coal mine in NSW history

It is rumoured that local Northern Rivers activists were involved in the latest Rising Tide action in Newcastle, once again having a close call with police.

A line of kayaks blockaded the port at about 8am on Sunday which led port authorities to halt the arrival of two inbound coal ships.

'There was a standoff, with tug boats intimidating

the kayakers and trying to break the line of kayaks but the line held,' said one of the local activists who was in the line but asked not to be identified.

### Biggest coal mine in NSW history

This action was timed around planning approval being sought for Hunter

Valley Operations (HVO) coal mine.

'It's not a new coal mine but a huge expansion near an existing mine,' said a Rising Tide spokesperson.

'The expansion alone would be the largest coal project in NSW history at a time when climate impacts are becoming more severe, and the rest of the world is moving away from coal. The

Minns Labor government's own Net Zero Commission has said that there can be no new coal if it is to meet its legislated emissions targets, so they can't seriously be considering this expansion.'

Rising Tide say they are planning to escalate small and large actions in response to the proposed expansion of the HVO coal mine.



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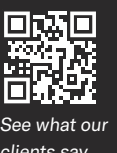
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## Success for shoppers and S.H.I.F.T.



The S.H.I.F.T. Project's Julie Wells (second left), and clothing sale organisers – Linda Grace, Leslie Ford and Annette Campbell, and the marvellous volunteers who worked for days and weeks and months to make the annual sale a record-breaking success. Photo Tree Faerie

## Palestinian life explored in *All That's Left of You*

The intimate story of eight decades of Palestinian life is explored in the acclaimed new feature by Cherien Dabis, *All That's Left of You*, screening in Byron Bay on Friday, 29 May.

Distributor of the film and founder of Cultural Media, Palestinian Naser Shakhtour, told *The Echo*, 'There's a reason films like this find their audience in places like Byron, people here show up for art that actually means

something.'

'Australian audiences have been hungry for this kind of storytelling – sweeping, intimate, and completely uncompromising. It's the kind of film that stays with you for weeks.'

Shot across multiple countries after the production crew was evacuated from Palestine mid-filming, 'the film bears witness to history, not through politics alone, but through the

texture of a family's survival,' say promoters.

'Following its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival, selection as Jordan's official entry for the 98th Academy Awards, and Audience Award at the Sydney Film Festival, Cultural Media, a social impact initiative promoting Palestinian art and culture, and Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine are proud to show this astounding film,' said a spokesperson.

## Rough sleepers: numbers down for second year

Byron Shire along with Ballina, Inverell and the Tweed Valley all saw a downward trend in the number of 'rough sleepers' during this year's annual street count between 23 February and 19 March.

The Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre (MDNC) and Byron's Fletcher Street Cottage welcomed the reduction in rough sleeping numbers across Byron Shire for the second consecutive year. Rough sleepers fell from a high of 348 people in 2024 to 245 people in 2026.

'It is encouraging to see the positive impact that coordinated local responses and frontline support services are continuing to have within our community,' said Damian Farrell, Manager of Fletcher Street Cottage.

Mr Farrell said ongoing community support remains essential to sustaining

frontline services in the Byron Shire.

'The reduction in Byron Shire demonstrates what is possible when coordinated, place-based responses are properly resourced,' said MDNC's Courtney Reid.

### Long-term impact

'However, we remain deeply concerned about the sustainability of these outcomes beyond 2026. With the pod villages scheduled to close by the end of the year, there is a real risk that a number of highly vulnerable residents may transition into homelessness. Many residents are older people living with disability, chronic illness and complex support needs, requiring ongoing wrap-around support to maintain housing and wellbeing.'

'While specialist services continue to play a critical

role, from July there will be a significant gap in accessible, place-based generalist support and case coordination services in Byron Shire operating out of trusted community spaces where people naturally seek help, such as neighbourhood centres. These supports are often the glue holding complex systems together and are essential in preventing people from falling through the cracks,' she said.

'Long-term housing outcomes require not only housing supply, but sustained investment in community-based support infrastructure that enables vulnerable people to remain connected, stable and supported.'

Neither Fletcher Street Cottage or MDNC receive ongoing state or federal government operational funding.

## Chambers and locals call for action on rail trail

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'Show your support by adding your name at [www.northernriversrailtrail.com.au](http://www.northernriversrailtrail.com.au) support,' he said.

### Business action

Jenelle Stanford from the

MCCC told *The Echo*, 'some frustrated businesses are discussing how they can help get the project started and make it clear to all levels of government that this is really important for our local community and businesses.'

'Some businesses are even talking about pledging money to help get this started,' she said.

If want to find out more contact MCCC via their website: [www.mullumbimby.org.au](http://www.mullumbimby.org.au).

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## Council says potholes on Wilsons Creek Rd will be fixed

Frustration has been expressed by locals at the potholes already appearing in the recent \$10.7 million upgrade to Wilsons Creek Road.

‘Within one week of completion it was evident where the potholes were going to emerge. Within a month the road had quite a few potholes in it already. How can so much money be spent on a second-rate road? It is really disappointing for residents of the valley,’ said one local who asked not to be named.

After contacting a range of

government bodies including Traffic for NSW (TfNSW) it turns out that Byron Shire Council (BSC) built the road and are responsible for maintaining it.

‘Whenever major work is done on infrastructure, like roads, there is a time afterwards when defects may present themselves,’ a spokesperson for BSC told *The Echo*.

‘Rectification of defects is factored into the project budget or could be a matter for the contractor.

‘Staff want to assure residents that problems that are presenting will be fixed, however, as most people know, it has rained almost every day for the last five weeks so there has been no opportunity. Some stretches of the road have experienced stripping and will be resealed by the contractor. Where scouring is evident, it has been repaired.

‘As soon as things dry out the contractor, and Council, will be back to rectify problems. Things like potholes are not uncommon, especially

for an area like Wilsons Creek where the geotechnical conditions are challenging.

‘Staff have identified some potholes in adjacent sections of the road that were not a part of the project although attempts were made to stabilise them. In other areas rock mattresses were laid to reduce potholes forming but these mattresses need to start and end somewhere and there is still a risk of weak points adjacent to them. These problems will also be rectified.’

## Byron mayor puts hand up to run for state against Mandy Nolan

Aslan Shand

Byron Shire Greens Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, has confirmed with *The Echo* that she is putting her hand up for Greens preselection for the state seat of Ballina following Greens MP Tamara Smith announcing she would not be contesting the seat in the 2027 state election.

She joins Mandy Nolan as the second Greens member of Byron and Ballina to say they will be running for preselection for the seat in the next election.

Cr Ndiaye was elected as

mayor of Byron Shire in September 2024 and has faced some key community push-back against the introduction of a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in Byron Bay, turning the Mullumbimby carpark on Station Street into housing, and the management of the road closure and roadworks on the key access and egress route for Mullumbimby, Mullumbimby Road.

Ms Ndiaye has said on social media that her experience in local council means she ‘can walk in on day one and get to work’.

‘I’ve demonstrated that

I can work with people for the greater good of our community, bringing people together, not dividing them.’

The next NSW council elections are in 2028. Cr Ndiaye clarified that she would be eligible to retain her position as mayor to the end of her term if she was elected as MP for Ballina.

Ms Nolan, who had already put her hand up for preselection a week ago, has previously run against Labor’s Justine Elliot twice, unsuccessfully, for the Federal seat of Richmond.

‘I have been in service to

the community for over 30 years, raising difficult issues in the public sphere,’ said Ms Nolan on her social media.

‘We are in troubling times. People no longer trust the major parties. The Greens are a progressive alternative to the rise of One Nation, focused on genuine solutions, not slogans, blame and hate.

‘Right now we need the politics of kindness and compassion and the commitment and determination to advocate for our community.’

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

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# Damning report on project delivery as RA expands

Aslan Shand

As the damning NSW Auditor-Generals report into the NSW Reconstruction Authority's (RA) handling of its two key programs, the Resilient Homes (RHP) and Resilient Lands Programs (RLP) came out RA announced that Kate Fitzgerald has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer.

While RA has now, four years later, begun to get on top of actually delivering relief and assistance to those directly impacted by the devastating 2022 floods they have so far failed to deliver any 'homes or lots through the RLP'.

The report stated that, 'The Resilient Homes and Resilient Lands Programs were not effectively planned' and that 'The Reconstruction Authority has not effectively administered the Resilient Lands Program'.

The RA has delivered 793 buybacks and 35 house relocations and speaking to *The Echo* Kristie Clarke Executive Director Adaptation and Resilience at RA, said that they were 'about 70 per cent through the overall \$880 million spend and 75 per cent through the current allocated time for the program'.

A key issue for many people who were impacted by the 2022 flood was that even if they had a desire to move their home to safer ground it was incredibly challenging when the RLP had failed to deliver any land

for them to move to. This led to some people selling on their properties which removed those properties from the buyback and relocation programs and meant that housing is more likely to remain in high-risk flood areas and continue to be on sold.

'I think that there was not enough communication and awareness of the long-term nature of the delivery of the programs, and that is something that we are working on to be able to better communicate with communities,' Ms Clarke acknowledged.

For those who have stayed the distance, the RA is now prioritising properties that are part of the RHP for access to some of the upcoming land releases they are facilitating.

Of significant concern is the recent change of permitted use of some of the buyback sites with Lismore MP, Janelle Saffin announcing on 16 May that the RA are looking at the possibility that some bought-back sites may also be used for commercial or industrial purposes.

## Building on buy back land

While the RA is saying that no residential development is allowed on bought-back sites and 'flood risk is strictly managed,' what determines flood risk appears to change depending on the council area.

'The reasoning behind that decision is that we've

been working closely with the Natural Emergency Management Agency to be able to have the flexibility to work with councils and community about the future use,' said Ms Clarke.

They said 'manageable flood risk' would be 'determined in conjunction with the councils and through the local planning arrangements. It's not necessarily a difference between the local government areas in terms of their approach; it will be about how local councils apply the different approaches within each local government area.'

Since its inception as the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) in response to the 2022 floods, the scope of the NSW RA has been significantly extended. It is now an organisation that 'works proactively to reduce the impact of floods, fires and other major disasters, while coordinating recovery efforts to ensure communities can rebuild stronger.'

Ms Fitzgerald clarified that while they continue to deliver the RHP and RLP, RA now has more funding through the grants program for community infrastructure work including in water, wastewater, sewerage works as well as 'infrastructure programs that go to the mitigation or hardening up of infrastructure for future floods. The other frame of work we have from a mitigation perspective is in relation to the disaster adaptation plan work that we're doing now,' she said.

# Blazing her own trail in emergency service

Inspired by a lifetime surrounded by emergency responders, 17-year-old NSW State Emergency Service (SES) Mullumbimby Unit volunteer Scarlett Rushton is proudly following in her family's footsteps to serve her community.

Scarlett joined the NSW SES following the 2022 floods that impacted Mullumbimby and much of the Northern Rivers. 'The floods were devastating - they affected everyone in some way,' she said.

Scarlett's father, Josh, is the Station Captain at Fire Rescue NSW (FRNSW) Station 388 Mullumbimby, and growing up around the station left a lasting impression.

'I feel like I grew up at the Mullumbimby fire station,' Ms Rushton said. 'As a kid, I'd hear sirens and try to guess which service they belonged to. Dad's firefighters have been like a second family for as long as I can remember.'

## Giving back

From helping out at community events to seeing emergency responders in action, Scarlett developed a



NSW SES Mullumbimby Unit member Scarlett Rushton. Photo supplied

deep connection to Mullumbimby and a strong desire to give back.

'Growing up in an environment where people are always training and responding to save lives, protect property and help the community has been a big inspiration to me and it's what I would like to do in the future. I'm now in the SES and it makes me incredibly happy,' she said.

When Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred threatened the region in March 2025, Scarlett was on hand to help - this time proudly wearing her SES uniform. 'I was assisting the

community to prepare, but now I was doing it as part of the Mullumbimby SES Unit,' she said.

Balancing volunteering with full-time school commitments hasn't always been easy, but Scarlett says the experience has been extremely rewarding. Scarlett hopes more young people will consider volunteering with the NSW SES.

To find out more about becoming a SES volunteer, visit: [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au).

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

# Mullum and Byron pools go to corporation

Aslan Shand

Byron Shire Council's decision not to renew the contract to locals for the Mullumbimby and Byron pools was decided in a confidential session - like far too many of this month's Council deliberations - leaving the public with little information why the decision was made to hand over the local aquatic facilities to Belgravia Leisure 'one of Australia's largest providers of sports and leisure' according to their website.

'Following Council's decision, Belgravia Leisure a

large multinational corporation has been awarded the contract to manage the Byron Shire aquatic facilities and will assume operations from 1 July,' current, soon to be former, managers of the Mullumbimby Petria Thomas Memorial Pool Craig and Sharon Davidson told *The Echo*.

'While we are naturally disappointed that our submission was unsuccessful, we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together over the past 11 years at the Mullumbimby Petria Thomas Swimming Pool.

'The overwhelming

support, encouragement, references, letters, emails and advocacy we received from so many members of our community has been truly humbling. Your faith in us and recognition of the work our team has done means more than words can express.'

Councillors Michael Lyon, Jack Dods, David Warth, Janet Swain and Peter Dougherty voted in favour of the handover of Byron Shire Aquatic facilities to Belgravia Leisure while Crs Michelle Lowe, Delta Kay, Elia Hauge and Sarah Ndiaye voted against.



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## Byron Central Hospital turns 10



Cutting the cake to mark ten years at the new Byron Central Hospital are (from left) Paul Pattison, Kerry Morrow, Tracey Sheehan, Mollie Strong, Vicki Milgate, Jan Lang and Debbie Butler. Photo Aslan Shand

Celebrations marking ten years of the Byron Central Hospital (BCH) took place last week as staff and community members gathered at the hospital site in Ewingsdale.

The opening of the BCH saw the closure of both the Mullumbimby and Byron Bay town hospitals, which after strong community advocacy were given to Byron Shire Council.

The new BCH has provided care to more than 213,000 people within the region.

'We have seen the facilities at the site expand on the existing services,' Tracey Sheehan, BCH Executive Officer and Director of Nursing told *The Echo*.

Northern NSW Local Health District Chief Executive Tracey Maisey praised the supportive team culture and compassionate care delivered across the campus, from clinical staff to administration, wards people and cleaning staff.

'The staff here work very well as a team and you can see the shared vision in action, with everyone

working together to ensure patients receive the best care possible,' Ms Maisey said.

### Auxiliaries in action

As two hospitals combined to form a new central hospital, BCH has inherited both the Mullumbimby, and Byron Hospital Auxiliary (BHA) groups, who brought long histories, skills, and compassion to the task of fundraising and assisting patients at the hospital.

From Mullumbimby Hospital Auxiliary (MHA) arranging for over 44 quilts to be made for the Tuckerloo support facility by local quilting groups, to fundraising by both groups for essential hospital equipment including a state-of-the-art Lucas 2 mechanical chest compression device for the emergency department donated by the BHA, they are always working for the best outcomes for the hospital.

Both groups say they are looking for new volunteers to keep up their essential fundraising and work. You can join the MHA by calling 6684 2449 or the BHA on 6685 3162.

## IDF accused of sexual assault by Juliet Lamont

Eleven Australians, detained by Israeli forces for around 80 hours after participating in a flotilla carrying humanitarian aid towards Gaza, returned to Australian shores this morning.

Their treatment at the hands of their captors was described in a media release from supporters as 'violent' and 'horrifying', with spokesperson Jane Salmon telling *The Echo* it featured alleged sexual assault for some, including Northern Rivers local Juliet Lamont.

Ms Salmon said Ms Lamont had described being forced to walk through

a darkened shipping container-type structure where five masked men sexually assaulted her before she reemerged to join other captives outside at the other end of the container.

At least four Australian flotilla members experienced having their skin pierced with a hypodermic needle and being injected with an undisclosed substance, Ms Salmon said, during their time as prisoners at sea.

The IDF has publicly denied the accusations.

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

## Bay FM volunteer short-listed for national award

Mia Armitage

Ten years after creating an expanding audio archive of Australian authors reading their work before discussing it in an interview, Karen Wynn-Moylan has been nominated for a national award.

Ms Wynn-Moylan's volunteer project, *The Narratives Library*, is nominated in this year's Australian Audio Awards alongside mostly commercial radio entries, in the Special Interest Program

category, with winners to be announced at a gala event in Sydney on 28 May.

The volunteer Bay FM Community Radio presenter/producer of the weekly Arts Canvass morning program says she was inspired to start building the website in 2016, having spent years interviewing authors on air.

Broadcasting for nearly 30 years the program focuses on the diverse Northern Rivers arts industries.

Radio was traditionally

'really ephemeral', Ms Wynn-Moylan says, and she wanted a more permanent place where people could go to hear her collection of interviews with authors.

The project is 'all about getting the ideas out there,' she says, adding that books are one of the last bastions of 'clean information,' because they are still usually fact-checked.

The distinction of having more than 600 authors, rather than actors, read their work aloud means *The Narratives*

Library has become an irreplaceable archive of Australian literature history.

A dedicated community radio program by the same name has become a regular fixture in community broadcasting via the second hour of Arts Canvass each Thursday, and is available from the Community Radio Network to other stations around Australia to air.

■ Mia Armitage is on Bay FM's management committee.



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Australian Government

**Echo**

News from across the North Coast online ► [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

**Brunswick Valley Landcare: community conservation since 2003**

Since its inception in 2003, Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) has grown into a cornerstone of community-driven conservation and education in the Byron Shire. They have over 300 members, with a monthly newsletter reaching over 1,100 people. Funded by memberships, donations, government grants, and the support of Byron Shire Council, BVL works to enhance biodiversity, restore natural habitats, and promote sustainability through education and community engagement.

**Archie selected for National Youth Parliament**

Year 12 School Captain at Kingscliff High School, Archie Allsopp, has been selected to represent the electorate of Richmond at the National Youth Parliament in Canberra.

**Lismore Council to reassess rail trail funding rejection**

Lismore City Council has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering the Northern Rivers Rail Trail through Lismore, despite last week's unsuccessful federal funding outcome.

**Ag show held in Lismore**

Agricultural trade show, Norco Primex Field Days, was held last weekend at its brand-new Lismore Showgrounds home. The move comes after a 41-year event history in Casino.

**North coast residency program announces successful artists**

Three artists from the Northern Rivers will visit the Clarence Valley in 2026 as part of the inaugural Northern Rivers Artist Exchange Residency Program (NRAE), a partnership between Grafton Regional Gallery and Arts Northern Rivers designed to foster creative connection, collaboration and exploration through place-based practice.

**Richmond Valley Council's Draft Operational Plan on exhibition**

A Draft Operational Plan by Richmond Valley Council includes more than \$52 million in capital works projects, including \$20 million for Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) works at Casino and Evans Head. Disaster recovery works are also included worth \$7.1 million.

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

**Call for action over mega-DA near Lennox**

David Lowe

The Lennox Kinvara Action Group (LKAG) is calling for email submissions to Ballina Shire Council to stop the development of thousands of houses in a sensitive, flood-prone area, as the full scale of what's planned becomes better known.

Their latest statement says, 'Most locals think Saltwood at Kinvara is a 300-home subdivision. It isn't. Stage 1 is the start of the much larger Cumbalum Urban Release Area B (CURA B), a 440-hectare site planned for up to 2,500 lots over 15 to 20 years. It is potentially the biggest development ever proposed in the Ballina Shire.

'For comparison, Epiq in Lennox Head has 450 homes. This proposed development is five times larger. At full scale it will be twice the size of Bangalow.'

**Not against housing**

The group says concerned locals are not against housing, in appropriate locations, 'but are asking whether this specific site, a known flood-sensitive area with



Proposed location for Saltwood@Kinvara, located in Ballina Shire west of Lennox Head. Photo supplied

major drainage, access, infrastructure, environmental and contamination questions, is the right place for a development of this size?

They say that if the development can't be stopped, then it must be done properly.

'That means protecting the people already living here, and protecting the people who may one day call this place home.

'Future residents deserve to know the land they are buying into is safe. At this stage, there are still serious unresolved questions that need proper answers.'

Key concerns include its large scale, and whether there is adequate infrastructure, given up to 2,500 homes could mean an estimated 5,000-7,000 additional residents and thousands of extra vehicles over time.

**1 million cubic metres of fill**

Additionally major earthworks and fill involves cutting into the hillside to generate fill and placing approximately 1.1 million cubic metres of fill in a flood-sensitive area.

'This would permanently alter the landscape and natural drainage patterns.'

LKAG says clear answers are needed about how this may affect flood behaviour, water displacement, downstream drainage and surrounding properties, with the disturbance of acid sulfate soils a major concern. Drainage and tidal gate issues are known in the area, say residents, and the location already floods.

LKAG also say the planned project would clear over 85

hectares of native vegetation, including 155 koala feed trees. There is also unresolved questions about the former cattle dip and arsenic-related contamination.

While the ultimate decision will be made by Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP), Ballina Council have a role in what happens next. LKAG ask that concerned citizens make an email submission to Council.

They ask that people write submissions in their own words, and stick to the issues. LKAG also ask that submission writers include lived experience and evidence of flooding and wildlife. 'Local knowledge matters.'

**Stop the clock**

There is currently a 'Stop the Clock' on this development application (DA), meaning Ballina Shire Council has requested further information from the developer. The group says there is urgency for the community to put forward submissions now (before the end of May). The DA documents (DA2025/418/1) are available via the DA tracker at [www.ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au).

**Boil water alert remains for Nimbin**

Lismore City Council say they are continuing to work closely with NSW Health and specialist contractors as a boil water alert remains in place for Nimbin's village water supply.

'The current alert is expected to remain in place until at least the next three weeks, with Council and NSW Health continuing to review water quality testing results daily,' they say.

'The temporary treatment plant currently servicing Nimbin was installed following the 2022 floods as an interim solution, and recent weather conditions have created significant challenges for treatment operations.

'From 18 May 2026, bottled water has also been supplied and made available through the Nimbin Community Centre to support vulnerable residents during the alert period.

'Alongside the immediate response, Council is continuing to progress a permanent water treatment solution for Nimbin, with the new facility currently scheduled for completion by December 2027.'

**Tweed Council aims to increase rural secondary dwellings**

A blueprint for guiding the growth of Tweed Shire until 2041 was voted on at last week's Council meeting, and will soon go on public exhibition.

The Growth Management Housing and Employment Strategy (GMHES) passed four votes to three, according to Council's meeting agenda minutes.

Council staff write, 'Tweed Shire is experiencing sustained population growth, primarily driven by interstate migration attracted by lifestyle, environment, and proximity to major centres.'

'The population is forecast to grow from approximately 98,967 to between 107,125 and 119,082 by 2041, with actual growth dependent on housing supply.'

Yet a key growth limitation is the current capacity of Clarrie Hall Dam, say staff, 'and existing wastewater treatment plants.'

Cr Nola Firth told *The Echo* the proposed increase in density comes despite the proposed new state low-rise housing and extended complying development reforms, 'which will remove our ability

to put in protective local development application (DA) conditions or to reference the development control plan (DCP). This means the assurance in the strategy of environmental and other protection will not be met.'

An amendment to the GMHES motion by Cr Kimberly Hone was eventually adopted, which will see a 'reduction of the rural housing minimum lot threshold for a second detached dwelling from 10ha to 5ha, and other minor editorial amendments.'

Additionally, the amendment seeks 'information on how Community Land Trust developments could be enabled on public or private land in the Tweed Shire through the GMHES which would enable affordable housing for the missing "middle" who are currently employed, but for whom traditional home ownership has become unreachable.'

Voting for were Cr Reece Byrnes (Deputy Mayor), Cr Rhiannon Brinsmead, Cr Kimberly Hone, Cr James Owen.

Voting against were Cr Chris Cherry (Mayor), Cr Meredith Dennis, Cr Nola Firth.

**Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan**



**Join the conversation**

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is developing the Northern Rivers Disaster Adaptation Plan (DAP) — an action plan to reduce our risk from natural hazards, such as floods, storms and bush fires.

Share your ideas at a community drop-in session or online.

- Community drop-in sessions
- Mon 15 June** | Murwillumbah
  - Wed 17 June** | Ballina
  - Thu 18 June** | Maclean
  - Fri 19 June** | Casino
  - Tue 23 June** | Kyogle
  - Wed 24 June** | Lismore
  - Fri 26 June** | Mullumbimby
- 3pm to 6pm. Free, all welcome.

Online engagement from 5 to 30 June 2026, or register for a drop-in session <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/northern-rivers-dap>



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The Byron Shire Echo  
Volume 40 #51 • May 27, 2026

# Budget, tax, and investments

**T**hink of the Federal Budget as a gigantic swimming pool of public money.

Some big tax revenue pipes pump our money in. The largest is income tax. This tax on labour yields \$336 billion. Next is income tax on business – it's pouring in 20 per cent of revenue (\$144 billion). GST pipes in 13 per cent, then a smaller bunch of pipes do the rest. Fuel excise, 'sin taxes' (on tobacco and alcohol), fringe benefits, customs duties, 'resource rent' (on oil and gas) and fees for service.

It's a big pool but thousands of big and little straws are sucking money out – in the deep end the government is spending. State governments are fighting for a share in the shallows for GST and services grants like hospital and school funding. Everywhere people are asking for grants and handouts.

Albo is ever-reluctant to enter these turbulent waters. But the pool is rapidly draining – so Treasurer Jim Chalmers jumps in to try to rebalance taxes on labour (wage earners) versus assets (investors). He wants to cut investor money pouring into existing housing stock (40 per cent of bank loans for homes are for investment). This should increase owner occupation by cooling house prices.

I believe Australians are fine with fairness for housing. The issue is messy because Labor went a step too far by increasing capital gains tax on non-housing investment. It was a tax grab out of the blue, so yes there is blowback.

I was puzzled as to why Labor is taking from 'the rich' but not giving back by lowering taxes on workers?

'Bracket creep' is the tax issue no government wants to deal with. It's Australia's numero uno cost-of-living killer. It is also guaranteed tax revenue growth for government. So Treasury loves it.

As an example: salaries/wages between \$45,000 – \$135,000 are taxed at 30 per cent. If you are earning \$50,000 and manage to get a 4.6 per cent CPI wage rise it's an extra \$2,300 a year. You have maintained the real value



*'I believe Australians are fine with fairness for housing. The issue is messy because Labor went a step too far by increasing capital gains tax on non-housing investment.'*

– Catherine Cusack

## Give me a lecture – please!

**W**e have seen the government ban under-16s from social media over concerns for mental health which include isolation, loneliness, anxiety, depression, body image issues, and low self-esteem.

A 2025 study by the University of Sydney stated that, 'looking at loneliness in young Australians, we found 43 percent of people aged 15 to 25 feel lonely.'

Yet we keep setting up systems that create isolation and loneliness.

One of my children recently commented on the fact that their teaching institution no longer had lectures that they needed to attend. Much to my surprise they commented on the fact that not going to the lectures, not being in a room of possible strangers and potential friends and acquaintances and possibly their future nemesis, they felt they were missing out on those random opportunities for engagement.

Everywhere we look in educational systems from primary, high schools, TAFE and universities we are seeing 'savings' being made and 'flexibility' given to students by not having to attend campus, by being able to watch a video of a lecture, a lesson, etc. Yet in many ways this is actually driving those students and young people towards more isolation and loneliness.

In my day at TAFE and university, the halls, cafes, bars, and lectures were crowded, bustling, and full of accidental meetings, interactions, shy smiles, and boisterous interactions. For many students these experiences no longer exist because they are no longer required on campus for things like lectures that they now access via pre-recorded footage from wherever, whenever.

According to Gabrielle Skrekovski and Kelly-Ann Allen at [www.psychologytoday.com](http://www.psychologytoday.com), 'Casual contact

in public places has declined as digital systems replace many everyday exchanges. Casual interactions in public spaces are fading.'

'Psychologists now warn that this thinning of social connection could feed what the US Surgeon General (2023) has labelled a "loneliness epidemic," with health risks sometimes comparable to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.'

'A growing body of research is shedding light on the hidden benefits of casual acquaintances,' reported [www.psychologicalscience.org](http://www.psychologicalscience.org).

The important thing to recognise is that in our search for efficiency, flexibility and cost reduction, our key institutions are actually removing the opportunities for casual interactions, and accidental engagements in communal spaces.

Whereas during my university and TAFE days my social interactions were based around the people I met on campus, for kids today it is who they are meeting at work, or through other friends at parties because there is so little life on campuses – fewer and fewer opportunities for those incendiary interactions that can change your life.

Imagine an education campus where you were not just in and out for a lab session but actually hung out between lectures, tutorials, and lab sessions? Where it was lively and engaging, where you actually chose to spend time because there were other people around making the spaces interesting. Maybe there is a recipe for a future model of education that draws people into the spaces together and gives them a chance to engage, reducing loneliness and isolation and saving us the health impacts of 15 cigarettes a day when we don't even smoke? Mind you, the smokers were always more interesting!

Aslan Shand, editor



The Byron Shire Echo  
Volume 40 #51 May 27, 2026  
Established 1986 • 22,000 copies every week

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

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Nicholas Shand  
1948–1996  
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy  
1944–2024  
Co-founder

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

**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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# byron healing

Volume 9 2026-27 OUT SOON

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**SGB bridge closure**

It has just been brought to my attention that this vital link in the South Golden Beach (SGB) community may be closed.

Once again, SGB ratepayers fade behind Byron Bay's name, like a poor cousin.

This bridge was vital during the 2022 floods, as it enabled people to get to the evacuation centre by foot.

Everywhere else was closed off. This bridge was used for ferrying people and goods over the days after the floods. We had a kayak tethered at our fence, which was in continuous use on the beach side of Helen Street.

I live close to the bridge, and watch mothers with prams and toddlers on bikes getting to the playground and skate park. I see elderly people with walkers and walking sticks moving towards the beach or coffee shop. I see a constant stream of activity and usage of this bridge.

I've even seen a mobility scooter use the bridge and the elderly pushing their elderly dogs on prams across the bridge.

A few months ago I saw a camera by the bridge. This camera was counting how many people used the bridge. I'm assuming now this was the reason!

It's such an irresponsible move. This is a vital piece of infrastructure, particularly during floods, that should not be taken away from community. The reason for removal it seems is because of Council's blatant disregard for upkeep of their own infrastructure.

**Eva Bruhl**  
South Golden Beach

**From inconvenient to unavoidable**

The unavoidable arithmetic in Council's Draft 2026/27 Budget is that day-to-day operations are no longer being funded by day-to-day revenue.

But there's lots to appreciate. Council secured \$63.9 million in grant funding for infrastructure recovery, and the sewer fund is largely self-funded.

The line-item detail allows the community to properly scrutinise the numbers. Transparency matters.

But here's the thing: the internal general fund has dropped 25 per cent in a single year. Waste services

are slipping into deficit.

Water infrastructure maintenance has been cut. Debt is rising.

We can't have everything. We need to be honest about what we can't afford to lose: safe roads, reliable water, and the essential services that support us.

We can't shy away from the fact that something has to give, and we certainly can't run on good intentions.

A sustainable rate rise may be one of many difficult but responsible paths we should prepare for.

The alternatives, like deeper service cuts, deferred maintenance and failing infrastructure, would be much more inconvenient.

Let's have that conversation while we still have choices. The numbers tell a story we can't ignore.

Submissions close on 31 May: <https://yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/OP>, and you can talk to Council. I did!

**Anne Stuart**  
Mullumbimby

**Heilpern's ON views**

Generally, I am interested in much of David Heilpern's views but I do feel he has diminished himself by resorting to mockery in his latest effort.

Bullying can be verbal and when commentators reduce themselves to vitriol/mockery in order to win or be persuasive in an argument, the argument itself is lost.

A more nuanced view would have adopted an analysis that the success of Pauline Hanson's One Nation (PHON) in the polls is a national reaction to grave disappointment with our current leaders.

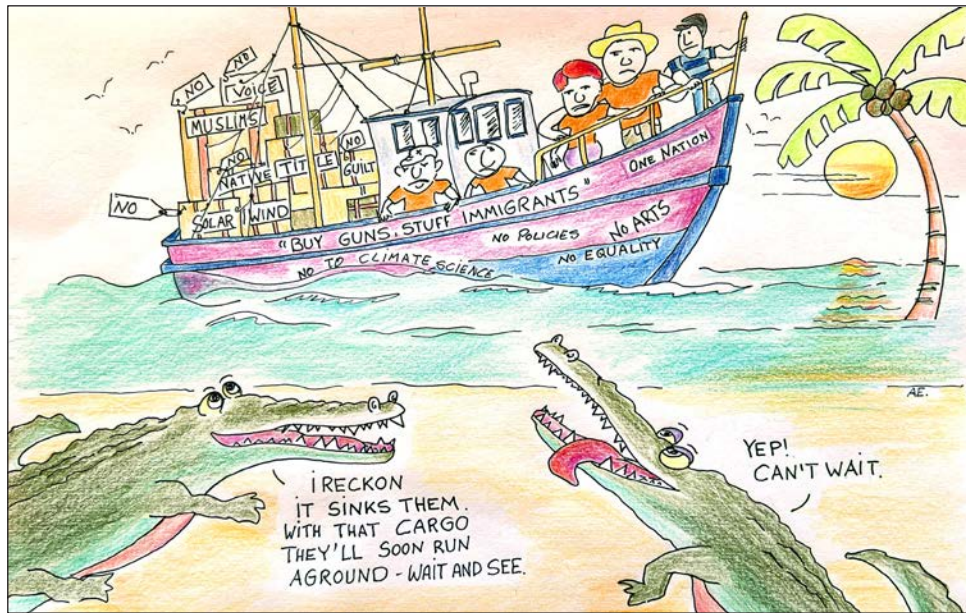
Increasingly, a substantial number of Australians want leaders that have had a real job, make decisions that don't require a poll first to see if it is going to cost votes and exhibit evidence of a backbone.

While PHON has issued some very polarising/troubling opinions over the years, at least it does meet the criteria above.

Australians want authentic leadership which produces policy that reflects the will of the mob not cowardice and indecision.

I am not sure that PHON is the answer but at least they can read the room.

**Stephen McIlhatton**  
Skennars Head



Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbeay

**Thanks to Heilpern**

To David and Sandra Heilpern: Many thanks for your eloquence and clarity on our political leaders' spinelessness, skullduggery and negligence in addressing the bleeding obvious in your 20/5/26 pieces. You are not alone in your thinking!

**Craig Davidson**  
New Brighton

**Digging the graveyard**

Whoever is tearing up the grass at the Mullumbimby Cemetery - your actions are disrespectful, idiotic and dull-witted. Driving your 4WD through the mud has left ugly deep scars, and tracks have torn up the grass.

The cemetery staff keep the cemetery looking loved and cared-for - why would you destroy and desecrate this peaceful place? Go find someplace else that doesn't affect people, and doesn't ruin community land.

**Sunny Jatara**  
Mullumbimby Creek

**Polluters pay**

I want to thank councillor Elia Hauge and Mayor Sarah Ndiaye for bringing the motion before Council to say that polluters pay for climate change. These motions are being considered at all councils across Australia, and many councils have already passed the motion. Congratulation Byron Shire Council for joining the call to have polluters pay.

**Karen Wagner**  
Myocum

**Trail without the rail**

The news that the grant application for the 'trail without the rail' has been knocked back is good news for all those who want and need safe, regular, climate-friendly,

non-road, public transport throughout our region.

The local and regional railway companies who have spent five years and over \$300,000 so far on finalising the required reports for UGL Regional Linx and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are still on track to extend train services on the 72 km of line between Lismore and the border of Byron and Tweed shires.

This is in spite of a huge, well-resourced campaign to undermine this process.

We need to reiterate that we have always supported having both rail with a bike trail where feasible within the 32 metres of railway corridor,

as the best outcome for all.

It seems that those using a bike trail do not want to pay a fee, saying that would be unfair, whereas train services are user-pays!

NSW regional communities deserve public transport infrastructure that will create productive jobs, strengthen transport networks, and provide measurable long-term returns.

Rail trails have not shown me, in any unbiased studies, that they have significantly benefitted local economies.

These recreational projects have a high chance of becoming taxpayer-funded white elephants.

With a united project, rail services would give even more impetus for people to ride or walk on the path, knowing they can get the train back!

Vital transport infrastructure needs to be restored across the region, but this seems to be overlooked by councils, who have never actually asked residents, and even visitors, what they really want, as we have, and found overwhelming support for rail services!

At a recent high level tourism conference, developing submissions for government, based upon solid real data and business input, rail trails and bike trails came on the agenda and the discussion was all about the problems, the lack of viability and the tourist dollars that they don't generate.

There are inherent permanent financial problems and obligations associated with creating, operating and maintaining a rail trail, which has been noted by a Lismore councillor with great concern, about the ongoing maintenance costs of what they have already built.

Perhaps this needs to be more seriously considered by Byron councillors!

**Lydia Kindred,**  
Director/Secretary,  
Northern Rivers Railway

**Letters to the Editor and cartoons**

Send your letters to the Editor: [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au). Deadline: Noon, Friday. Letters longer than 200 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

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**Killing fields**

I am writing to express how devastating it is to live opposite a killing field – Casino Food Company's Booyong abattoir.

I moved to this area in January, unaware of what operated across the road from my home. The real estate agent described it simply as a piggery.

With only an hour to decide and facing the current rental crisis, I accepted the property, believing it was just a farm.

Little did I know that every morning, afternoon, and throughout the night, I would hear pigs screaming in distress. The factory machinery begins with a loud, constant hum that vibrates through the house and continues through the night.

Whenever semi-trucks arrive – sometimes as late as 10pm – the pigs begin screaming again. Early morning operations follow, with trucks, men yelling, machinery and terrified animals crying out. This occurs seven days a week, with no respite from the noise or emotional distress.

Our roads are also suffering from constant heavy truck use, filled with potholes and dangerous conditions. Residents are lucky to pass these trucks safely on the journey home.

There is no peace living here. After a long day of work, instead of rest and quiet, all we hear are the sounds coming from these killing sheds.

I pray for these pigs. To witness and hear their screams and suffering each day is heartbreaking. Many appear to be injured and terrified on the trucks before entering the facility.

I cannot understand why anyone would wish to



Photo from [www.farmtransparency.org](http://www.farmtransparency.org). The website says it 'serves as a free public repository, information centre and toolkit for consumers and animal advocates in Australia, intended to force transparency on animal-exploitative industries'.

support such cruelty. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

**Deborah Burton**  
Nashua

**Killing fields II**

Having moved to Booyong Road a year ago, I assumed the Booyong abattoir was a small operation serving local farmers and workers. How wrong I was!

What was once a farmers' co-operative is now what I would call an 'unlisted public company' operating far beyond the capacity of the site.

The majority of pigs are trucked in from interstate – as far as Toowoomba (a questionable transport distance for animal welfare) while workers are largely overseas nationals on temporary visas bused in each day.

The abattoir's website speaks of community values. The community here tells a different story.

Booyong village is a rare thing – a genuinely intact rural village, with homes dating from the 1890s, with remnant Big Scrub rainforest and a community that once gathered freely at the cricket oval and tennis courts.

The creeping expansion of

this facility – incessant noise day and night, triple-decker trucks at all hours, distressed animals – is steadily eroding this pristine area.

This week, the abattoir's own CEO confirmed on ABC North Coast that they have been operating at 50 per cent above its licensed slaughter limit, and seemingly aim to be the dominant player in the region. If limits are not enforced, they may as well not exist.

**Sally Lewis**  
Nashua

**Killing fields III**

We live in what feels like the forgotten corner of the Byron Shire.

Our neighbourhood of Booyong is a pristine rural village – and it is being slowly destroyed by an industrial-scale abattoir that has outgrown its location and its licence.

Massive triple-decked semi-trailers roar along narrow lanes never designed for them, destroying roads and rattling homes as they pass in the early hours.

The stench on some days is inescapable. Screaming livestock day and night, seven days a week. And

then there is the irrigation pump servicing the facility's wastewater treatment plant – running continuously from 7am, often until 11pm, seven days a week, well above any reasonable noise tolerance.

**Dean Lewis**  
Nashua

**Killing fields IV**

I moved to Booyong long before the Booyong pig abattoir existed.

What started as a small unobtrusive enterprise has escalated under the radar to a nightmarish operation that horrendously impacts this village. Indeed, many *Echo* readers have walked through the last remaining Big Scrub Rainforest remnant and Flora and Fauna Reserve at Booyong.

Maybe you went there to show your visitors, for bird watching, photography, tennis or cricket at the Booyong Cricket Club, kayaking on the Wilsons River, jogging, horse riding or just a stroll on the little country roads?

But we don't see you at Booyong anymore.

Do you dislike the stinking pig effluent on the roads, or the piercing screams of hundreds of distressed pigs penned all day and night at the abattoir? Or the sound of massive transports roaring around the tiny roads?

Were you run off the road by a massive long haul live pig truck, or a monster refrigeration truck carting the carcasses away? Did you wreck your car in the famous abattoir potholes?

The Casino Food Company has made our lives hell in Booyong.

We aim to save beautiful Booyong. And so should you.

**Sheenah Fawns**  
Nashua

**Mute Albo**

On 19 May, I wrote to Albo thanking him for being PM instead of Dutton, Ley, Taylor or Hanson.

Then I asked him why he, as my representative, is taking no action to curb the despicable behaviour of the Israeli government in relation to Gaza.

In acts of international piracy, Israel has now twice kidnapped hundreds of peaceful people including Australians in the Mediterranean. I asked him to get some spine, stop kowtowing to the USA, and at least condemn Israel. This is the minimum that Australia should do.

Or he could go further and actually cease supporting the genocide in Gaza, by ceasing the supply of

weapons components there.

He could ask the USA to do the same, and cease funding and arming the Israeli Defence Force.

He could expel the Israeli ambassador. He could send the ADF to help get aid through to Gaza, which is what the kidnapped Australians were trying to do when he wouldn't. There's a lot that Albo could do, rather than remain mute in Canberra.

**Duncan Dey**  
Main Arm

**Lord of the land**

Slaughtering 30,000 is fine; causing starvation is fine; making homeless a million is fine; demolishing homes is fine; wrecking cities is fine; stealing land is fine; preventing assistance to the needy

is fine ... when you are Lord of the Land and God is on your side.

**Ian Pratt**  
Bilinga

**Spurious assertions**

It is fascinating, yet not unexpected, that Marianne McCormack's response to my previous letter bares very little factual relevance to the content of my letter and had to resort to insult, exaggeration and spurious assertion.

One wonders how many international bodies and political leaders have to call out a decades long, expansionist, genocidal regime, and its pretence of justification before the penny drops with the Labor government.

I do not hate Jewish people, and resent any

generalisation or inference in this regard.

At no time did I make any general criticism of Jewish Australians.

Dumb and watered down misrepresentation are the tools by which warmongers maintain the corporate military machinery, keeping the populace misinformed and controlled.

No response was forthcoming when the question was asked, 'when will the wider Jewish diaspora in Australia strongly call out the actions of the Israeli and US governments on the illegal war, which has been ongoing in one form or another for decades?'

No honest appraisal of the actions of Australian

► **Continued on page 14**

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► **Continued from page 12**  
dual citizens and their direct action in the IDF, and an illegal war was presented, and this should be investigated, as did happen, in the actions in Afghanistan.

How could these people not be complicit in genocide? I would love to know.

At no time did I mention ISIS brides, but only the children who (in typical far-right mentality) supposedly needed to be 'de-radicalised', (not grief or trauma counselling!)

At no time did I condone the actions of Hamas or ISIS, or other terrorist organisations.... (like the IDF!)

Marianne made no mention of the illegal war on Gaza, or Lebanon, or the illegal settler activities and the genocide which has killed and injured hundreds of thousands over decades, not to mention the restriction of aid by global organisations and horrific treatment of prisoners.

It's fascinating that those who reject the smell of war, and the endless build up of armaments by governments and their evil financial priorities are seen as somehow loopy and naive.

If Marianne would like to keep up to date with the influence of Jewish lobby groups and the Israeli government in Australia, and the millions Australia gives to Jewish leaders and organisations, I strongly suggest she look at *Michael West Media* for an honest appraisal.

'After \$120 million on a Royal Commission, actual police and court evidence shows that Islamophobia is a worse problem than antisemitism'.

'Netanyahu has done a great job in interfering in Australia in getting Australian government subsidies'. (*MW Media*).

Marianne should also look up an article in *Sydney Criminal Lawyers* titled 'The Royal

Commission into Zionist Absolution and Palestinian Erasure'.

It is not antisemitic to want Israel to stop slaughtering Palestinians and their children, or to take over their land.

If the Australian Jewish envoy, headed by Segal, was seriously concerned with Australians conflating Israel's atrocities with the Australian Jewish community, then a clear condemnation of those international crimes could arguably prevent this.

**Rod Murray**  
Ocean Shores

## Hamas war crimes allegations

Gazans accuse Hamas of war crimes against Gazans. Lawyers for the Gazan residents have submitted a 40-page application to the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor, seeking investigations into 14 named Hamas leaders over alleged crimes committed against the Gazan residents.

The alleged war crimes include Hamas's use of Gazan civilians as human shields, Hamas's intentionally directing attacks on Gazan civilians, appropriation of property, enlisting children into the Hamas armed attacks on Israelis, and execution of Gazans without due process, (two recent Gazan protests against Hamas resulted in Hamas shooting the protestors, and killing speakers and protest organisers and subsequently leaving these Gazan protestors' dead bodies on their families door steps as warnings against any future dissent against Hamas).

The Gazan's ICC application alleges Hamas engaged in crimes against humanity, including murder, extermination, torture and persecution.

The application argues that Hamas's alleged use of Palestinian civilians as human shields was principally

## Local EV charging and the challenges of wet weather

Last year, I purchased an EV and installed a home charger as part of a solar setup.

Overall, the system has worked brilliantly and I've travelled almost 15,000 km powered largely by the sun.

This month, however, has been particularly wet, leaving very little opportunity to charge the car at home.

With the battery running low, I decided to top it up locally using the town's public charging network.

My first stop was Elements, which has a fast charger, only to discover it was out of order. The next closest charger at the library was also out of order. I then tried the two newer chargers behind the pool, but both were out of order as well.

Still hopeful, I drove to the new TAFE where two recently installed chargers are located. Once again, both were out of order.

My final attempt was

the dual charger at Childe Street in Belongil, where the two dedicated EV charging spaces had been blocked by a Toyota Landcruiser parked across both bays.

After spending most of the afternoon searching for a working charger, I eventually gave up and headed home.

For now, it seems the most dependable charging infrastructure remains the large yellow one in the sky.

**Stuart Cooke**  
Byron Bay

responsible for the high death toll and extensive destruction in Gaza, and alleges that the use of human shields was not peripheral to Hamas's approach, but central to it, by embedding themselves among civilians to produce increased public deaths and destruction of housing and businesses, to produce global political support for Hamas.

Hamas is on record as using internal intimidation, repression, violence and execution of Gazans since their bloodbath when Hamas violently took over Gaza in 2007, (which led to Israel and Egypt imposing the present land, and legal under international law, sea blockade).

This doesn't excuse Israeli officials from prosecutions, but identifies that which is true in Gaza, and true in Israel - that it is not a black/white, Palestinian/Israeli conflict, and it is the Palestinians and Israelis opposing violence and repressive regimes, that are deserving of support.

Last month, The Peoples Peace Summit in Israel had thousands of attendees, with over 80 Muslim and Jewish, Israeli and Palestinian peace-building and shared society organisations, working together with determination and courage to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

With all the pro Palestine/

anti-Israel protests here, we are yet to see such vision.

And such vision is needed here, if we are to bring the majority of Australian Muslims into being a part of Australian society, where we all consign the violent Islamists, and their curse of a philosophy, to the reviled extremities of our society with all our other hate groups.

**John Lazarus**  
Byron Bay

■ The International Criminal Court (ICC) Pre-Trial Chamber has also issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defence, Yoav Gallant. The Court found reasonable grounds to believe they bear responsibility for war crimes - specifically starvation as a method of warfare - and crimes against humanity including murder and persecution. - **Letters Ed**

### 'Silence' on Gaza

Am I allowed to voice an opinion against the Israeli government?

What's happening in Gaza? The USA, as well as supplying high tech weapons to Israel, joins Israel in a war on Iran.

Israel attacks another country, Lebanon, and we wonder why there is a 'terrorist' attack on Jews at Bondi!

Where are the sanctions against a country intent on genocide? We supported the South African people against apartheid, but do nothing to call out Israel as the pariah state it has become under Netanyahu.

No trade embargo, no sending their ambassador back, nothing!

Instead, there is a Royal Commission to look at response times, security checks, but no mention of a bully state intent upon dispossessing a people, the Palestinians, who have just as much right to live in that part of the world.

When is the media going to be fair dinkum in its world coverage and keep us up to date with the current situation in Gaza?

When will our government call out these war crimes against humanity?

Is it still being bombed?

Are the Palestinians still living in sub-standard conditions and are their children still starving?

Why do we allow their attacks on Lebanon as well, with impunity?

I have heard many Jews speak out against the Israeli government but nothing is reported in the mainstream media - why?

**Richard White**  
East Ballina

■ Some writers have been expressing their opinions, whether you agree with them or not, against the Israeli government of the time for decades in *The Echo*, so continuously that at times past letters editors have had to stop publishing them (and the inevitable responses to them) to allow other issues some airtime. - **Letters ed**

## Rail Master's Cottage

The destruction by fire of the Rail Master's Cottage prompts questions of social justice. Is this land still related to the legal deeds that supported such land (e.g. Railway Transport and taxpayer payers' support for same) or has, or will its status change to aid further development in the Byron township?

We note that land nearby Woolworths (which is part of the old tip, contaminated with asbestos) is also in a derelict state. Is there a development plan for same?


It is noted that a debate on social media implies that the derelict cottage was used by 'squatters'.

Such a negative association implies potential culprits, and weaponises homeless people rather than addressing the actual structural paucity surrounding the stark and inhumane rise of homelessness in Byron Shire. The demarcation between social justice (e.g. the Human Rights Charter articulating the rights of all to be housed) is stark and inhumane.

Will Byron's dominant 'pleasure principle' governing development continue whilst such a huge contradiction between capital and structural homeless trauma continues to exist?

Again it is necessary to ask 'Where is the evacuation centre for the Byron population (tourist and local) situated? The NSW east coast is targeted, according to the climate change literature to experience the full

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## Shaping the future housing at the Mullum Hospital site

Chris Abraham

It is recommended that the following requirements are added to the latest draft of the Development Control Plan (DCP) for the former Mullumbimby Hospital site before it gets adopted to ensure that the final development meets the wishes of Council, state government and the local community.

### Low cost/affordable accommodation

Enough residential house blocks should be sold to pay for the cost of de-contaminating the site (estimated to be 11 lots). The rest of the site should be set aside for medium-density one- and two-bedroom dwellings, and communal recreational space. In addition, space should be set aside for a general store and space to expand the nursing home to accommodate up to 15 beds for staged care. The remainder of the site should be designed to accommodate, if possible, around 220 medium-density dwellings.

### Buildings

All buildings should have solar panels, be thermally insulated, have eaves and patios or balconies. In addition, maximum use should be made of prefabrication and precast panels to minimise cost and construction times. Where garages are provided, they should be located below the accommodation.

### Car parking

Each dwelling should have a designated number of spaces varying from none, to two, in a garage or car port.

### Public transport

As the town centre is a 15-minute walk from the site, most of the residents would use their cars for shopping and work. At present there is no public transport in

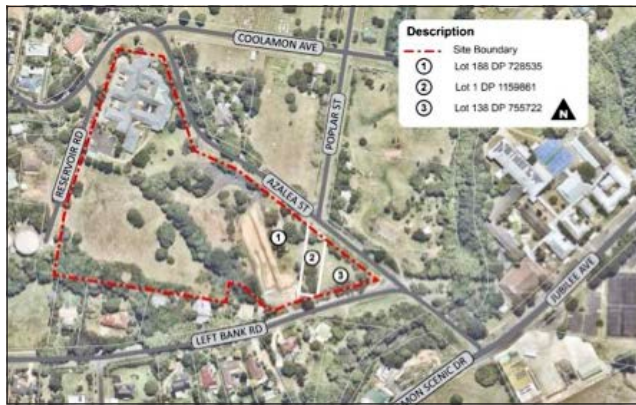


Image from Former Mullumbimby Hospital Site Strategy Urban Design Protocol, which is now on exhibition.

Mullumbimby. It is recommended that a mini-bus service is established. This would take pressure off the inadequate parking in the town centre.

### Roads

A roundabout at the intersection of Left Bank Road and Coolamon Scenic Drive is required immediately, and a roundabout will be required at the intersection of Left Bank Road and Azalea Street before the hospital site is fully developed.

In addition, the bridge over the creek will require widening to allow an additional lane for traffic approaching the roundabout at Coolamon Scenic Drive from Azalea Street.

It would be hoped that this work would be funded by state government as a contribution to the affordable/low-cost housing that will be provided at the site.

### Site contamination

\$6 million has been spent on removing asbestos from where the hospital building was located. Advice has been provided that no buildings or services can be built on this part of the site as the contaminated material has only been buried.

This seems surprising, since such a large sum of money has been spent on this work. It is recommended that the soil is tested down to the level where building foundations would be located to see

if the master plan will need to avoid buildings being placed in this area.

### Suggested rentals and selling prices

It is essential that rents with this development are affordable for those unable to find any accommodation in and around Mullumbimby.

In the Northern Rivers, the rent for accommodation should not exceed one third of the maximum age pension for it to be affordable.

This means that the weekly rent for a significant proportion of the dwellings should be \$200 per week.

This would be single-bedroom accommodation and affordable for a single person. Two-bedroom accommodation could be rented out for, say, \$300 per week.

Consideration could be given for selling a limited number of the one- and two-bedroom dwellings.

The selling price for these would need to be at the market price, otherwise excessive profits could be made if, and when, they were on-sold. In order to meet the demand for affordable dwellings, it is recommended that the percentage of each type of property should be within the following range:-

Single-bed for rent 30-40 per cent; single-bed for sale 10-15 per cent; double-bed for rent 20-30 per cent; double-bed for sale 10-15 per cent; three-bed for sale 5-10

per cent; building blocks 5-10 per cent.

### Suggested project implementation

This project should be fast-tracked owing to the inordinate time taken to advance to the draft DCP stage, and to the high demand for affordable accommodation.

As soon as the DCP is approved, master planning should be started and, prior to its completion, the community should be given the opportunity to view the draft plan.

This should be followed by cost estimates of the buildings and civil works and income from the rentals and the funds from selling the limited number of house blocks.

If there is a short-fall, it should be made by the state or federal government, in recognition of the fact that they caused the contamination of the site following the building of the hospital.

The current price on the land is \$6 million, which is equivalent to \$27,000 per dwelling. This is a very small price to pay for the land.

If there is found to be a shortfall in funding, state and/or federal government should fund the shortfall, and not adjust the number of dwellings or increase the rents.

In order to keep control over the development and to minimise costs, the development should be undertaken by Council or an arm of state government, and private entity should only be involved in construction through the tendering process.

### In summary

The site redevelopment will provide affordable dwellings for a lower cost per dwelling than most other sites owing to the low cost of the land. Thus, this site is highly suitable for affordable housing which is urgently required in Mullumbimby.

plan an overseas holiday. This is the big game, with far reaching, cascading effects. It's not just a battle of civilisations: this is a battle for civilisation.

Peter Olson  
Goonengerry

### Space lasers

Soon there will be space lasers that can melt pimples while you're lying on the beach and shoot down flies in full flight!

Sapoty Brook  
Main Arm

► onslaught of flooding. How long will the climate denialist development position embrace the ancient proverb of 'keeping the finger in the hole of the dyke, to prevent unwanted water' prevail? Just asking.

Jo Faith  
Newtown

### US could gain greatly from war

The US national debt is around \$33 trillion and at \$150 a barrel, the value of Iran's oil and gas would be around

\$30 trillion. Do you see?

Hundreds of American oil-producing wells that were unprofitable and were shut down at \$50 a barrel oil would become very profitable at \$150 a barrel.

As a major oil and gas producer, America could gain greatly if oil reaches \$200 a barrel. If these wars continue, will that leave America as the world's main supplier of oil?

Remember, as Sun Tzu said: 'all wars are based on deception'.

JPM says world oil inventories will reach stress level in June, and the minimum level to keep refineries operating will be around September.

We better start building 'natural gas to liquid fuel' refineries here, or consider buying BYD five-minute charge, electric cars.

There aren't enough charging stations: Australia has one of the lowest ratios of charging stations to electric cars in the whole world.

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## Rebels grind out tough win against Lennox

Hywel David

The Byron Shire Rebels faced a gruelling test at Stan Payne Oval in Evans Head on Saturday, battling both a wet pitch and a determined Lennox Head side. While the Colts' fixture was postponed, the women's side faced a difficult outing against the Mullumbimby Moonshiners, falling 12-0 in a hard-fought contest.



David Flynn was awarded Man of the Match. Photo supplied

### A scrappy battle in Evans Head

The men's first-grade match was played in damp conditions, with a soaked field proving to be a testing surface that saw possession change hands frequently throughout the afternoon. The Rebels opened the game with early pressure, camping deep inside the Lennox 22. The visitors' defensive wall eventually broke when number eight, David Flynn, powered through a handful of defenders to touch down. Samuel Valpy added the conversion to give the Rebels a 7-0 lead. For the remainder of the half, the Rebels' defence was impressive, characterised

by aggressive line speed and heavy, physical tackles that kept the opposition scoreless.

The second half was marked by a high frequency of turnovers. Lennox and the Rebels played ping-pong possession as both teams struggled to string phases together. The game remained largely contained within the Lennox half, but a series of errors prevented the Rebels from capitalising on their field position.

The Rebels eventually earned a penalty for their pressure, which Samuel Valpy converted to extend the lead to 10-0.

Lennox Head rallied late in the half, finally finding a way into the Rebels' 22. They

eventually broke the defensive line with a pick-and-go effort out wide, which was successfully converted to narrow the gap.

The final play of the match saw Lennox Head hammering at the Rebels' try line in search of a match-winning score. The Rebels' defence stood firm under immense pressure, eventually forcing a knock-on from the Lennox side. As the referee blew the final whistle, the Rebels celebrated a hard-earned victory.

David Flynn was awarded Man of the Match for his performance, acting as a dominating presence throughout the game with his physicality in both carries and tackles.

## Call out to avid golfers for August fundraiser

Commemorating the memory of the founding members of the Lennox Head Lions Club, who originally initiated The John Mitchell Memorial Golf Event as a major fundraiser, the annual golf tournament will take place on Sunday, 16 August at the Byron Bay Golf Course.

They are calling on all golfers to come and take part in the fun event that will aim to raise \$20,000 to be distributed between the local Westpac Helicopter Service and Byron Bay's Fletcher Street Cottage.

'Both these organisations play pivotal roles in the welfare of our communities with the Westpac Helicopter in numerous local rescue missions, while Fletcher

Street Cottage co-ordinates an expanding role of protecting vulnerable women during increasingly difficult economic times. They also provide meals and emergency accommodation for the disadvantaged. These are truly two deserving recipients which seriously need our support,' organisers told *The Echo*.

### Can you be a business sponsor?

They have a number of sponsors on board but still have one Platinum Sponsorship, two Gold, and five Silver to be taken up.

'We need substantially more support to meet our giving objectives of \$20,000,' they said.

If you are moved to commit, please contact Wayne Blackie on 0403 196 621 or Derek Audus on 0418 971 902.

### Book your spot

The event begins at 12 noon and is a four-person Ambrose-style game with free lunch and masses of novelty prizes throughout various holes on the course.

'So, come on all you avid golfers. Join us for a fabulously fun day, get some enjoyable exercise while supporting two admirable local charitable organisations. Yes, it's \$240 for a team of four and you can reserve your spot by contacting the Byron Bay Pro Shop on 6685 6470. Please be quick as the 30 team slots fill up fast.'

## Mullum Giants vs Murwillumbah Mustangs



Top: 18-year-old Aiden Gersh storming through to score. Left: 16-year-old Tanesa Browning reaching for the line. Right: 17-year-old Peppa Savins launching a last-tackle kick towards the try line. Photos Sarah Archibald

Saturday saw the Mullum Giants take on the Murwillumbah Mustangs in some great games with lots of up-and-coming young players showing off their skills on the field.

Mullum Giants' Aiden Gersh had a big weekend playing for both the NSW Rugby League Country and Greater Northern NSW in the NSW CHS trial.

Saturday was also a

special day as it was the Cookie Cup - marking ten years since the passing of Grant Cook, a former Murwillumbah Mustangs and Mullumbimby Giants player.

## Surfing Australia and SCU partner for the future

Surfing Australia has announced that Southern Cross University is the exclusive university partner and official major partner for 2026.

Announced in Casurina, organisers said SCU will 'support and activate across 11 of Surfing Australia's major events, spanning boardrider club events, women's and girls' surfing, high school and junior pathways, and the Australian Surfing Awards.'

A further pillar of the partnership will see Surfing Australia host students through



Brittani Nicolls, SCU Alumni, Bachelor of occupational therapy. Photo Surfing Australia

immersive short-term placements and internships across key departments.

Professor Julie Jomeen, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

(Academic) at SCU said, 'A core focus of the partnership is giving students access to real-world industry experience. This provides sport and exercise science, health and business students with hands-on learning opportunities within a national sporting organisation.'


Luke Madden, Chief of Sport & Partnerships at Surfing Australia, said the partnership strongly supports Surfing Australia's investment in the future of the sport and its athletes.

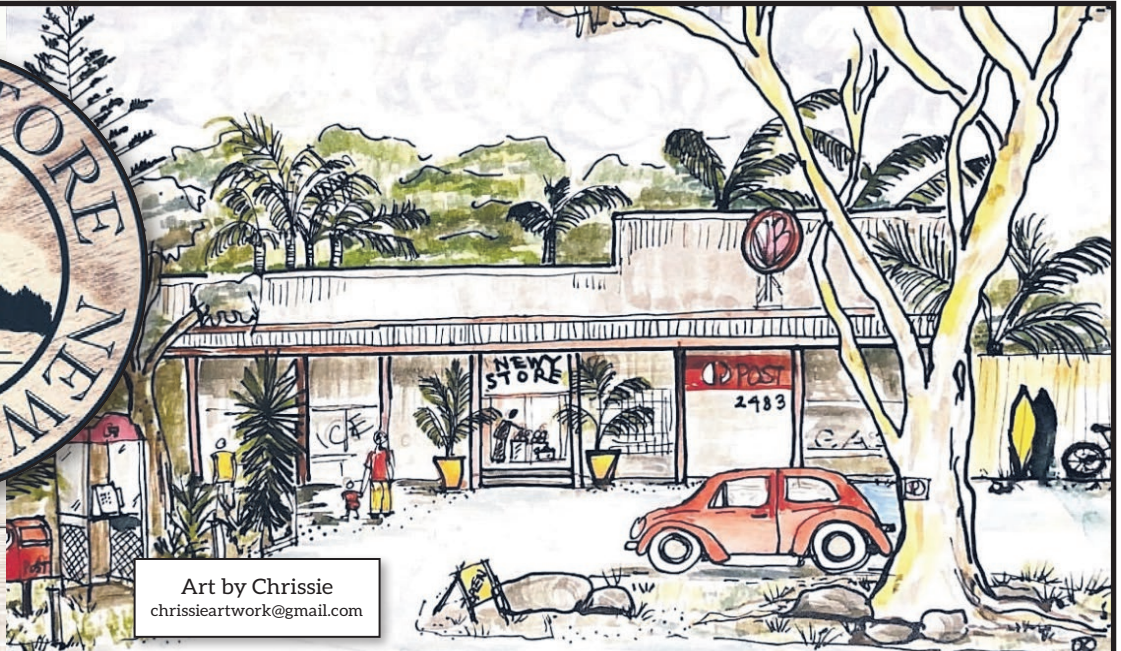
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# Old Men Dancing

Mandy Nolan

A few months ago I shared a 30-second video on my socials of Old Men Dancing. They're a small ensemble of, you guessed it 'old men' who meet on Mondays at the Drill Hall under the choreography and inspiration of dance teacher Kimberely McIntyre. I had invited them to open my Byron Live show with their interpretation of 'Under Pressure'. It felt right. In a failing patriarchy, men are under pressure. So why not share the gift of interpretative dance?

It was a simple clip. Unedited. Just a snip. It got over 1 million views in under a week. As someone who uses social media all the time, I can tell you, that's remarkable. It doesn't happen very much. This short and unadulterated video of old blokes in shorts practising their choreography in a country hall had hit a nerve. People were moved. They were gushing.

The old fellas went viral. I told them at one of their rehearsals, and they just looked nonplussed. I think a few of them thought I was hinting they'd caught the flu. 'You've gone viral' has a very different meaning after 70. It's generally not something you get excited about.

I love that they didn't care. They weren't about to become Old Men Dancing influencers. Although I'm sure there's a brand manager out there salivating at the opportunity to get these men treading the boards, on board.

I was intrigued. Why this? Of the hundreds of things I post, why had this particular one found wings?

I looked to the comments section. Usually in social media, this is where you find the trolls. Where the haters and the shamers, the know-it-alls and the blamers pile on. But they weren't there. Where were they? How could this happen? Social media was facilitating something positive and inclusive. I thought for a moment the algorithm must be broken!

The comments were beautiful. All 693 of them. They said 'this is the best thing I've seen on the internet'. 'Oh my



**'You've gone viral' has a very different meaning after 70. It's generally not something you get excited about.**

God I love this.' 'Keep dancing'. 'I love it' 'Keep dancing'. 'Can young men do it?' Women in particular felt a joyous connection with the Old Men Dancing. In fact nearly 92% of the people engaged in this were women.

I wondered why this simple little clip was so electric. Why it touched people, and women in particular. Because that's something I'm fascinated by. I think it's the vulnerability.

Men are conditioned to never show they are vulnerable. And we know that men, particularly men over 70 find it hard to talk about their feelings. Older men are often perceived as stoic, and serious. They're stereotyped as grumpy. They are often living in a world where they were once a King, and now in retirement they're struggling to find purpose. Many older men experience isolation and loss of connection.

So seeing older men dance together, is kind of transformative. It

shows men in a way we don't usually see them. In a way that women don't often get to see them. Not in powerful positions. But barefoot. Learning. Working together in harmony. And frankly, for a lot of us women and men, it's really healing.

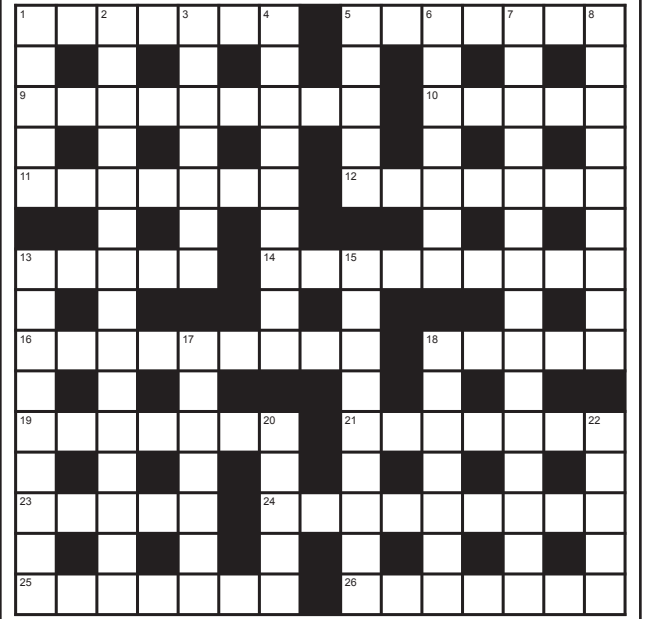
That's the power of the arts. Of dance. Simple quiet and deeply powerful transformations and connections happening at community halls near you, every day.

And keep dancing like no one is watching. Even when they are.

■ 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 federal elections.

## Crossword by Emma Briggs

#3



### Cryptic Clues

#### ACROSS

- Tear around chicken made from mud (7)
- Raptors follow mantra back for shaved styles (7)
- Householders' circle to include uniform undies (9)
- Little medium worth two crotchets (5)
- Shaken tangy spritz finally came to English river (7)
- Cool, ultimate cat thrown into social mix (7)
- Assert outright (5)
- Bar loss followed bottle opening schedule (9)
- Unruly slumlord king in suspenseful music (4,5)
- Steel tower buried by Occupy London (5)
- Emus, perhaps, begin in the east amongst rodents (7)
- Eat last stew, if nothing else (2,5)
- French sauce stirs oil into trimmed snails (5)
- An editor gets cut, not at the centre, with commentary (9)
- Ceases South Asian contracted ways (7)
- Ruin of the French ancient city (7)

#### DOWN

- Hardwood notes on axis (5)
- Those built again instruct on score breaking (15)
- Fashionable youth cut short term, after joint with school's head (7)
- Speechless when office network flips over on word of action (9)
- What Mum asks is hiding disguises (5)
- Amateur radio operator to tease bed between the trees (7)
- Twist to relax reality, or it makes you colder (4-4,6)
- Idiot upset nepotism around first in line (9)
- Clandestine release with the German inside (9)
- Held back from tar, like glass in a church (9)
- Sells to customers concerning one side of the coin (7)
- Pirates lost right to Latin exercise programme (7)
- Skinhead caught a six-pack. They're part of the healing process (5)
- Play commercial back in present (5)

### Quick Clues

#### ACROSS

- Clay (7)
- First nation peoples of New York state (7)
- Residents (9)
- Americans call it a half note (5)
- Called Chang Jiang in China (7)
- Imperturbable (7)
- Complete (5)
- Catalogue of untrustworthy people (9)
- Percussion techniques (4,5)
- Marking post (5)
- Ground-dwelling birds (7)
- No less than (2,5)
- Garlicky condiment (5)
- Wrote explanatory remarks (9)
- Discontinues (7)
- Wipe out (7)

#### DOWN

- Deep black (5)
- Repairs (15)
- Style of jeans (7)
- Not spoken (9)
- Covers up (5)
- Something suspended to lie on (7)
- An element that changes the apparent temperature (4-4,6)
- Foolish person (9)
- Deceitful (9)
- Didn't vote (9)
- Costs at the shop (7)
- Eponymous German fitness instructor (7)
- Workers who refuse to strike (5)
- Contemporary time (5)

### Last week's solution #2



## STARS BY LILITH

This week's Sun, Mercury and Uranus ask what part of your life - connection, belief or behaviour pattern - do you now need to leave behind in order to move forward...



GEMINI THE TWINS

**ARIES:** Aries are the zodiac's enthusiasts, usually more than willing to help out, but with Saturn clarifying your personal priorities you might save a lot of time, energy and angst this week by asking yourself: *Is this really my job, my responsibility?* It might surprise you how often it isn't.

**TAURUS:** With fiery, accident-prone Mars storming into Taurus supercharging your productivity, try not to get carried away this week, because pushing ahead without being mindful could lead to an injury. You'll have plenty of stamina to focus on efficiency, so structure a workplan that prevents burnout.

**GEMINI:** If you find yourself falling into familiar old habits that haven't worked in the past, the once-in-a-lifetime lightning bolt of Uranus in your sign supercharging this Gemini birthday week says it's definitely time to try a different direction. What once worked on the home front may need a rethink.

**CANCER:** Cancerians are the zodiac's natural caretakers, astrologically equipped for helping others. This week's planetary lineup recommends focussing on self-help when the coming weekend's full moon in your sector of work, health and organisation offers one of this year's best dates for Cancers to revamp and rejig health routines.

**LEO:** Exasperating people are likely to be this week's biggest challenge, although this does offer growth opportunities even when it pushes your buttons. If your own mental chatter seems louder than usual, taking time offline in nature is one of the best recipes for quietening busy minds and relieving stressed systems.

**VIRGO:** This week's restless energies may have you wanting more than the same old, same old. Variety's the spice of life, so try saying yes to the unexpected. Stretch beyond your comfort zone a little, even a lot further than you think you can. The change you want begins with you.

**LIBRA:** Yes, you'll have to make decisions this week, not your favourite thing. So instead of being polite and agreeing to everything, be selective about who and what you choose to engage with. Astrological energetics suggest reassessing the company you keep with a less is more, quality rather than quantity approach.

**SCORPIO:** The Sun, Mercury and Uranus in your personal sector of psychological growth and paradigm shifts invite you to try something paradoxical this week, which is address serious subjects with a light, playful touch. And even with Mars' stubborn mode, to maintain a sense of humour, especially concerning yourself.

**SAGITTARIUS:** With this week's astral emphasis on communications, it's an auspicious time to contact loved ones living at a distance. This month's big moment for Archers arrives on the last weekend of May, with annual full moon in Sagittarius celebrating your optimistic gypsy spirit and positive, proactive approach to life.

**CAPRICORN:** With communications topping the agenda, this is a good week to listen with the intention to understand rather than reply. In the midst of excessive busyness, it's important to take regular intervals from producing and performing to calm the driven mind, soothe overworked nerves, to reset and recharge.

**AQUARIUS:** Intellectual connection and curious conversations are usually a priority for Aquarians, and this week has plenty to offer. As your patron planet Uranus continues playing its major role in this year's astrological landscape, shaking up entrenched beliefs and attitudes, new possibilities emerge for your consideration.

**PISCES:** The planetary patterns of this busy week could see some necessary endings, accompanied by the promise of interesting new beginnings. Best operating suggestion? If what you used to love has become a dull routine, then it's time to refresh your perspective, to find what currently excites and inspires you.

# Good Taste

## Dining Guide

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

### BILLINUDGEL

#### ROSEFINA'S MEXICAN

Funkin' space. Real Mexican.

**Open:** Thurs and Fri 4pm to late  
Sat 12 noon to 2.30pm, 5pm to late  
Sun 12.30pm to 8pm

**Address:** 8/10 Wilfred Street, Billinudgel  
[www.rosefinas.place](http://www.rosefinas.place)

### BYRON BAY

#### MAIN STREET BURGER BAR

Best burgers in Byron Bay.  
Proudly local and independent.

**Open:** for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner

**Address:** 18 Jonson Street, Byron Bay  
[@mainstreetburgerbar](https://www.instagram.com/mainstreetburgerbar)

#### THREE BLUE DUCKS

At The Farm enjoy a wander in the fields, meet the animals, and picnic in the sun... there really is something for everyone.

**Open:** Monday – Thursday 7am – 4pm  
Friday – Sunday 7am – 8:30pm

**Address:** The Farm, 11 Ewingsdale Rd, Ewingsdale  
[www.threeblueducks.com/byron](http://www.threeblueducks.com/byron)

#### NO BONES BYRON BAY

Vegan kitchen and bar – where good vibes, bold flavours and unforgettable nights come together in the heart of Byron.

**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.

**Open:** every day except Wednesday 6.30am to late

**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.

**Open:** 7 days: Breakfast 7.30 – 10.30am  
Lunch on verandah from 12 – 3pm  
Dinner 5.30 – 9pm

**Address:** 77-97 Broken Head Road, Byron Bay  
[crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest](http://crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest)

### BOMBAY TO BYRON AUTHENTIC INDIAN FOOD

Serving Indian food to Byron Bay for last 12 years.

**Open:** Monday 4:30pm – 9:30pm  
Tuesday to Sunday 12 noon – 3pm  
and 4:30pm – 9:30pm

**Address:** 3/93 Jonson Street Byron Bay  
**Contact:** 02 6680 7437  
[bombaytobyron@gmail.com](mailto:bombaytobyron@gmail.com)



[www.echo.net.au/good-taste](http://www.echo.net.au/good-taste)

# The Good Life



## Paddock to pint: Byron Farmers Market and Stone & Wood

A tasty collaboration has been brewing between two Byron Bay institutions – Byron Farmers Market and Stone & Wood Brewery – and the result is finally here with the launch of Farmers Ale, a locally made beer using ingredients from the farmers' market.

Created to celebrate local produce and the farmers behind it, the limited-edition seasonal brew is a berry and river mint wheat ale, made at Stone & Wood Brewery in the Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate using berries from Byron Farmers Market.

Brewer Josh Waters said the idea for the collaborative ale came about when the brew team started looking into sourcing locally grown ingredients.

'We wanted to make a beer that would showcase locally grown produce from the farmers' market,' Josh says. 'After speaking with Tom (Byron Farmers Market manager) about what was in season, we settled on a mix of blueberries and blackberries that would pair well with an easy drinking wheat beer.'

'Using locally grown ingredients that are in season and full of flavour makes our jobs as brewers very rewarding and it's a good chance to brew something out of the ordinary. It also gives the farmers a different view of what can be done with their produce.'

'The end result is a berry forward wheat beer that is a vibrant pink-purple ale with good earthy qualities from the blackberry

additions, slight bitterness from the Aussie hops we used, and a light pale malt base which is well balanced and easy drinking.'

Market manager Tom Carey says the market and farmers jumped at the opportunity to be involved: 'We were really excited to be part of this collaboration to promote locally grown produce from the market, and to be involved in the brewing process and tasting!'

'Stone & Wood is a brand that is synonymous with Byron and has always had strong local connections, so it was an ideal partnership. And we'd love the opportunity to do another collab in the future. In fact, Josh and I have already talked about what other produce might be used in different beer styles, so watch this space!'

Farmers Ale is available exclusively on tap at Stone & Wood Brewery in the Byron Arts & Industry Estate for a limited time, so drop in for a true taste of Byron. A percentage of the profits from the release will be donated to local charities through Stone & Wood's Ingrained Foundation program.

Byron Farmers Market is held every Thursday from 7am to 11am at Butler St Reserve and Bangalow Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 7am to 11am in Piccabeen Park.



Stone & Wood brewer Josh Waters and Byron Farmers Market manager Tom Carey toast to the launch of their collaborative beer, Farmers Ale. Photo supplied

## Red Ginger Asian stores are far more than just shops

There are some places that become more than shops. They become part of the emotional landscape of a town – woven into memories of holidays, rainy afternoons, shared meals and treasured discoveries. In the Northern Rivers, few places have achieved that status quite like the Red Ginger Asian stores in Byron Bay and Bangalow.

To walk through the doors of Red Ginger is to step into another world. The stores have often been described as feeling like 'the lanes of old Shanghai,' and that comparison feels exactly right. Lantern colours, rich aromas, shelves overflowing with teas, spices, ceramics and beaded slippers create an atmosphere that is part teahouse, part treasure cave, part cultural journey.

For locals, Red Ginger has long been a ritual. For visitors, it is a discovery that quickly becomes tradition. Many people arrive for the famous dumplings and stay far longer than intended.

www.echo.net.au



Ayumi from Red Ginger. Photo supplied

Steam rises from baskets of handmade dumplings while pots of free fragrant green tea sit on the table in cushioned baskets. There are prawn and scallop dumplings, sticky rice parcels, pork buns, lots of gluten-free and vegan options and Portuguese custard tarts – comfort food delivered with warmth and theatre.

Yet Red Ginger is much more than a dumpling house. It is also one of the most beautifully curated Asian grocery stores. Shelves

herbs and specialty ingredients sourced from across Asia. Home cooks searching for authentic flavours know they will find quality here, whether it is Japanese miso, Korean kimchi, Thai curry paste or delicate Taiwanese tea.

Then there are the objects that people fall in love with unexpectedly – hand-painted Japanese bowls, elegant teapots, Chinese furniture, woven baskets, recipe books and tiny curiosities that somehow become treasured possessions. Red Ginger

understands something many modern retailers have forgotten: shopping should delight the senses.

What makes these stores truly iconic though, is the feeling they create. In an increasingly homogenised retail world, Red Ginger remains gloriously personal, colourful and eccentric. Since opening in Byron Bay

in 2002, it has become part of the cultural heartbeat of the region – a place where food, art, conversation and community meet.

Long may the steam rise from the dumpling baskets, and long may Red Ginger continue enchanting everyone who wanders through its doors.

redginger.com.au

**CELEBRATIONS**  
Cakes by Liz Jackson

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Gluten-free and special dietary needs catered for.

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8/10 Wilfred St, Billinudgel

# Byron Arts & Industry Estate



Creative, small-batch, hand-made, state-of-the-art, artisan, innovative, ethical, imaginative, hyper-local, leading-edge, quality, EXPLORE premium, master, handcrafted, accomplished, cutting edge, organic, designer, eclectic DISCOVER ingenious, beautiful, unique, sensational, avant-garde, original, visionary, inspirational, expert, brilliant, gifted, ahead of the curve. YOU wonderful, compelling, THERE experiencing, witnessing, engaging. NOW.



## 1. THE LARDER

Catering made simple, events made memorable  
 The Larder Byron Bay caters for life's moments. Casual backyard BBQs and intimate gatherings to grand celebrations, The Larder lets you relax and savour the fun. Let them handle the heat so you get the most out of your event.  
 Be a guest at your own party. Enjoy every moment while establishing unforgettable memories.  
 02 6680 8644  
 catering@thelarder.com.au  
 1/12 Bayshore Dr

## 2. BODHI LIVING

Bodhi Living showcases a carefully-curated collection of furniture, homewares, rugs and lighting, sourced both locally and globally. They have introduced a range of collections designed in-house, including sofas, dining tables and seating using natural and sustainable materials such as rattan and wood.  
 The brand encapsulates the freedom of spirit, and the soul of the individual, as represented through their home.  
 Shop 1/18 Centennial Circuit  
 bodhiliving.com.au  
 @bodhi.living

# Habitat Precinct

## 3. OUR TIMELESS THREADS

Visit Our Timeless Threads (The OTT Shop), a nurse-led, not-for-profit op shop and creative hub at 18 Acacia Street. Rummage through racks and textile bins, up-cycle fashion waste, host or join community-led workshops, bring your clothes to quarterly preloved community markets, and learn from seniors in our skill-share sessions.

Donate, volunteer, discover unique finds, while igniting intergenerational connections through creativity, sustainability, fashion and music.

The OTT Shop, 18 Acacia Street  
Contact Maia Willow: 0404813643  
www.ourtimelessthreads.org  
@ourtimelessthreads

## 4. SOCIAL REMEDY

A considered approach to strength, mobility, and longevity. Social Remedy offers reformer pilates, personal training, intelligent group classes, and a world-class recovery centre including massage, sauna, infrared, and hyperbaric. Designed for efficiency and your long-term health: get everything you need in one place, so your routine stays consistent and your health goals stick.

23/1A Banksia Drive  
hello@socialremedy.com.au  
Insta: @socialremedy.byronbay

## 5. STONE KIN

Visit us in our new Stonekin store at 2/97 Centennial Circuit to try pieces in person and experience the collection firsthand. The space holds our full range of organic cotton underwear, designed to feel soft, breathable, and close to the body. Each piece is made with clean lines, natural tones, and an everyday ease. In store, receive a complimentary oil with purchase this week only.

2/97 Centennial Circuit  
02 6680 7667  
Mon - Fri / 10am to 4pm

## 6. BYRON BAY SALVOS STORE

Packed with quality pre-loved clothing, homewares, furniture, books and more at great prices. Discover great deals on well-known brands and make sustainable shopping even sweeter.

Now Accepting Donations

The Salvos welcome clean, good-quality items. Your donations help support programs making a real difference locally.

Shop sustainably. Support local. Give back.

Discover something special today. Great brands. Great prices. Great cause.

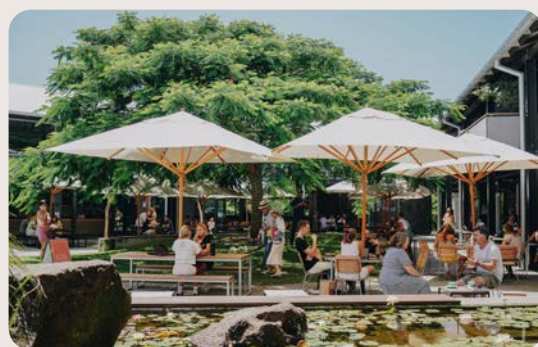
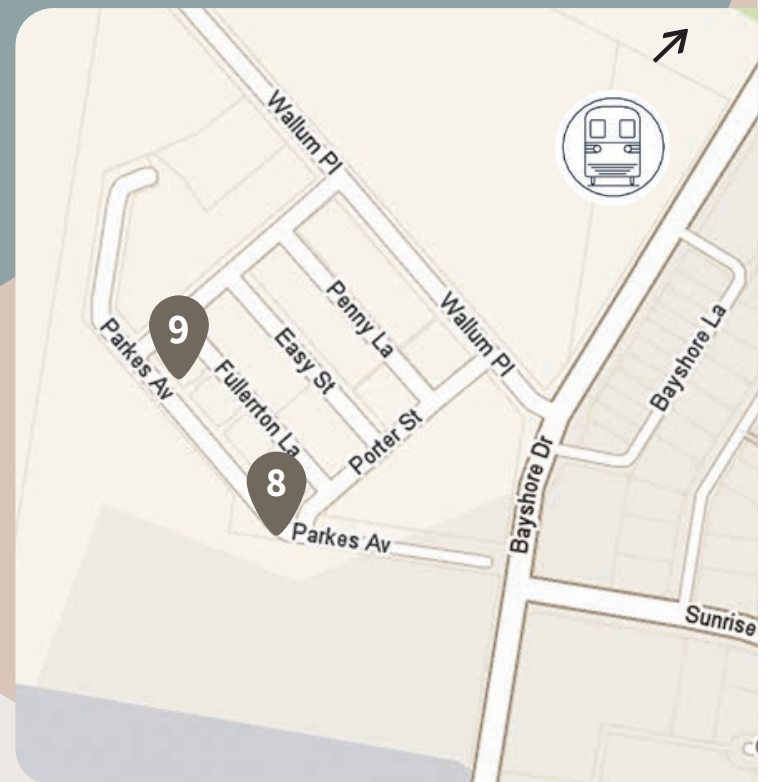
5 Banksia Drive

## 7. BISQUE TRADERS

Established in Byron Bay in 2000, Bisque Traders is known for its raw, natural and deeply considered approach to interiors. With a focus on handcrafted furniture, artisanal lighting and richly textured homewares, every collection is designed in-house and made by skilled artisans. The Byron Bay showroom reflects a warm, organic aesthetic, while Bisque's interior design studio creates soulful residential, hospitality and commercial spaces.

3/21 Brigantine Street  
(Dual access Bayshore Drive)  
bisquetraders.com.au  
@bisque

Habitat is a cleverly designed village in Byron Bay, where you can live, work and play, all in one place. Over 20 years in the making, Habitat combines the best of old-school Byron (community, creativity, respect for the environment) with the latest in design and thinking (renewable energy, car sharing, hybrid live + work spaces) along with plenty of shops, cafés, and good times, it is a little oasis within one of the most beautiful places on Earth.



## HABITAT

Get out of town! Visit Habitat where you can shop, eat, drink and recharge, all in one place. Think standout wellness, beauty and fitness studios, seriously good food, and a unique mix of flagship stores. Made for slow mornings, post-work resets, and long, lingering lunches in the sunny courtyard.

1 Porter Street  
habitatbyronbay.com  
@habitat\_byronbay"

## 8. BYRON FAMILY LAW

Byron Family Law is a boutique family law firm established in Byron Bay. Through collaborative and resolution-focused practices, they support clients to separate more kindly and to rebuild following divorce or separation.

They work in collaboration with local counsellors, conveyancers, accountants, mediators, and health and wellness professionals to support you and your family to not only survive, but thrive following a separation.

18 Parkes Avenue  
02 6687 2774  
byronfamilylaw.com.au



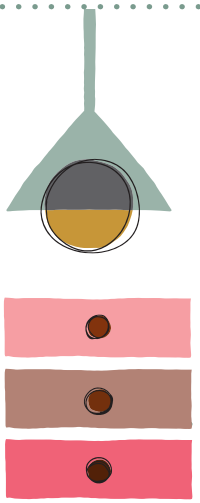
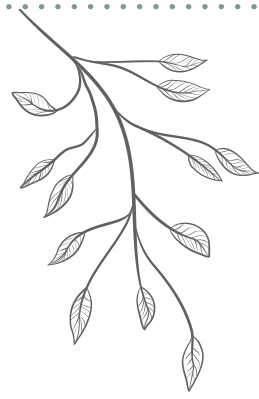
## 9. RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

Practicing exclusively in family law, Richardson Murray offers legal advice and guidance in matters of separation, divorce, parenting arrangements and property settlements.

With considerable experience in all matters of relationship breakdown, including domestic and family violence, Richardson Murray are known for their compassionate approach and commitment. Their dedicated team aims to deliver the best possible outcomes for clients.

42 Parkes Avenue  
www.richardson-murray.law

# Making SPACES



## Sol Au Pairs


Sol Au Pairs is a Northern Rivers-based agency helping Australian families find thoughtful, reliable, live-in support while offering young travellers a meaningful cultural experience. Founder Manon first came to Australia as an au pair in Mullumbimby, where her host family became her second family overseas and remains part of her life today. Now, together with her partner Jodie, she runs Sol Au Pairs as a small family business built on warmth, safety and genuine connection. In the first few months of 2026, Sol has placed more than 40 au pairs with families across Australia. With video interviews, clear expectations, onboarding support and practical resources, Sol focuses on considered matches that feel respectful, well-supported and right for everyone involved from day one, during placement and beyond.

 [www.solaupairs.com.au](http://www.solaupairs.com.au)  
[hello@solaupairs.com.au](mailto:hello@solaupairs.com.au)  
**0427 836 585**



## Green e Building

Green e Building is a sustainable building and design consultancy based in the Northern Rivers, led by Adrian Medcraft. The business supports homeowners through renovations, upgrades and new builds with a focus on comfort, efficiency and healthy living. Adrian brings a practical, builder-first approach to passive design, thermal performance and moisture management – helping clients create homes that stay cooler in summer, warmer in winter, and cost less to run. Green e Building offers onsite consultations, design guidance and project support, with clear advice that simplifies complex decisions around materials, glazing, insulation and ventilation. The team values quality workmanship, honest communication and outcomes that last. Whether it's a targeted retrofit or a bigger transformation, Green e Building helps clients make meaningful improvements that suit their budget and lifestyle.

**0408 181 198**  
 [green-e-building.com](http://green-e-building.com)  
[gday@green-e-building.com](mailto:gday@green-e-building.com)  
 @green\_e\_building @Green.e.Building



## Need more space to work, create, or unwind?

At Cabin Life we provide premium solid-timber cabin kits that are affordable, easy to install, and designed for modern lifestyles. Perfect for use as a home office, creative studio or backyard retreat, our cabin kits provide a practical way to add valuable space to your home.

With a range of sizes and designs available, there's a solution to suit every need. With prices starting from just \$9,490 we include the base support and a Colorbond roof in each kit as standard.

Our kits are DIY-friendly so you can either install it yourself or have one of our teams install it for you.

View the range and learn more on our website.

 [cabinlife.com.au](http://cabinlife.com.au)  
[info@cabinlife.com.au](mailto:info@cabinlife.com.au)  
**Dylan 0493 553 143**



## Windows and doors not working properly?

Fret no more! Don't replace... REPAIR and SAVE with Working Windows.

Jake and Toby are local experts specialising in the repair and, if necessary, replacement of windows, doors, flyscreens and security screens.

With 10+ years experience in timber, aluminium and uPVC products, they pride themselves on always delivering top-quality, eco-friendly results that best benefit you and your environment.

Contact them today via phone or email, or check out their website for more information.

**Jake 0435 506 465**  
**Toby 0405 793 994**  
 [workingwindows1@gmail.com](mailto:workingwindows1@gmail.com)  
[workingwindows.com.au](http://workingwindows.com.au)



## Take care of your plants when it's wet


When it's wet and soggy outside, it's time to give the indoor plants some TLC. They will appreciate a little time sitting in gentle rain to refresh the foliage but keep them out of the sun or they might get sunburnt.

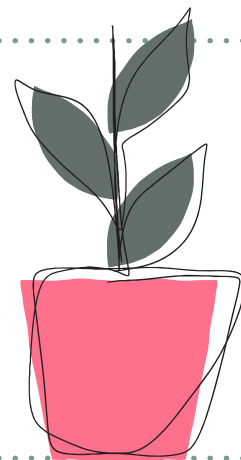
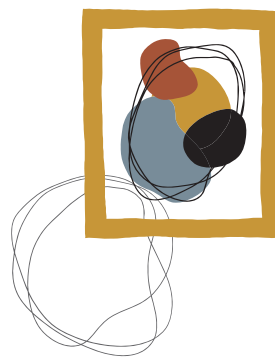
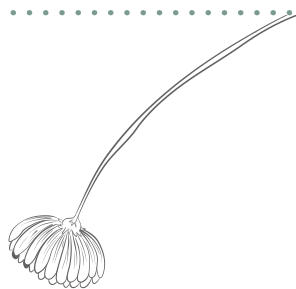
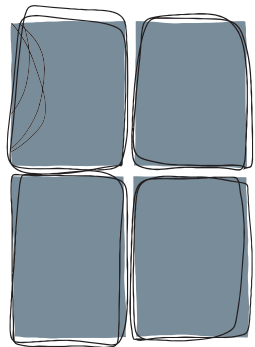
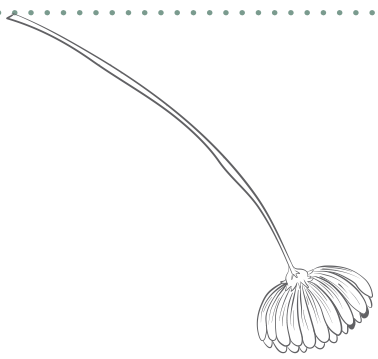
If your plants have outgrown their pots you can re-pot them into a container that is just one size bigger, using premium potting mix.

As the weather cools, plants don't need to be watered as much. Over-watering can cause problems like fungal diseases and annoying fungus gnats, so back off a bit.

Keep your plants away from heaters and cold draughts and make sure they are still getting plenty of light.

Fertilise with a gentle liquid fertiliser every few weeks to keep them strong and healthy.

**140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay**  
 [@edenatbyron](https://www.edenatbyron.com.au)  
[www.edenatbyron.com.au](http://www.edenatbyron.com.au)  
**02 6685 6874**



## Get your gas from locals

In this changing landscape, Swap a Bottle want you to know you can rely on them.

They are a local, small family-business based in Murwillumbah and delivering in your area. Swap a Bottle are here to offer you their dependable and reliable deliveries and wonderful customer service. If you are ready to change your gas supplier – Swap a Bottle make it super easy and hassle-free to welcome you to be a part of their amazing customer base!

Head online to place your order, send an email, or give us a free call on 1300 727 013.

Don't forget you can also bring your BBQ bottle in to be refilled at our depot in Murwillumbah!

The Swap a Bottle team look forward to helping you and your family with your LP gas needs!

 **10 Kite Crescent, South Murwillumbah**  
**Free Call: 1300 727 013**  
**swapbottlegas.com**



## Buy Australian-made at Beds R Us Byron Bay

In an era of fast furniture and offshore manufacturing, choosing locally-made matters more than ever. Investing in an Australian-made mattress from Beds R Us Byron Bay offers more than a good night's sleep! It supports local jobs, ensures higher quality craftsmanship, and reduces environmental impact through shorter supply chains. These mattresses are built to suit Australian conditions, delivering durability and comfort you can rely on.

Beyond practicality, there's pride in backing Australian industry and a local business that understands community needs. A better bed can transform wellbeing, sleep quality, and daily life.

Why settle for less? Visit Beds R Us Byron Bay today and experience the difference of sleeping on Australian-made comfort.

**16 Brigantine Street,**  
**Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate**  
**02 6685 5212**  
**bedsrus.com.au**



## Konpak

Live in a Konpak home, built for the changing seasons of life.

Based in Murwillumbah, Konpak design and build compact, architecturally-considered tiny homes made for modern living. Whether you're seeking a backyard rental, a multi-generational living solution, or just a simpler lifestyle, Konpak offers functional, beautiful dwellings that don't compromise on quality.

Each home is locally built and delivered ready to live in which means no on-site construction stress. Our team works closely with you to customise your space and make the most of every square metre.

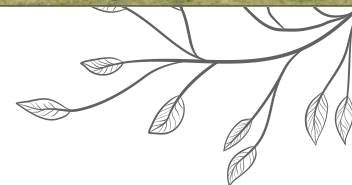
Big on lifestyle, small in size, Konpak is about building smarter, not bigger..

**300 Lundberg Drive, South Murwillumbah**

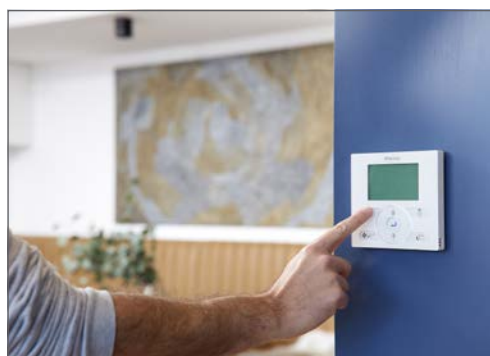
**(by appointment only)**

**Call Cody 0434 272 353**

**konpak.com.au @konpak\_homes**



## Combat humidity and protect your home



During the Northern Rivers' rainy season, excess humidity creates the perfect environment for mould growth in both air conditioning systems and homes. Artisan Air reminds homeowners that most modern air conditioners feature a dehumidifier setting – a powerful yet often underutilised function that removes moisture without overcooling spaces.

Running the dehumidifier mode regularly during wet weather prevents mould development inside the unit while protecting furnishings, walls, and belongings from moisture damage. This setting uses less energy than full cooling mode, making it an economical humidity control solution.

For homes requiring additional moisture management, Artisan Air supplies dedicated dehumidifiers that work independently or alongside existing systems. These standalone units provide targeted control in problem areas like bathrooms, laundries, and bedrooms, ensuring comprehensive protection throughout the home.

 **02 6680 9394**  
**hello@artisanair.com.au**  
**www.artisanair.com.au**

## Healthy homes for coastal living (minus the damp drama)

Waking up to foggy windows or that musty smell?

Not exactly the coastal lifestyle you had in mind.

In the Northern Rivers, humidity is part of life but a well constructed home makes all the difference.

Metsa Building Co. creates homes designed for the climate. Naturally cooler in summer, warmer in winter, and built to keep mould at bay. Guided by Passive House principles, the focus is on performance, comfort, and healthier indoor air. The result? Fresh, filtered air and a home that feels comfortable year-round.

With mould-resistant construction, low-toxin materials, and environmentally conscious practices, Metsa homes are built for lasting quality and long-term wellbeing.

Curious about mould-resistant design? Explore Metsa's Passive House guide from their website.

**www.metsabuilding.com.au**  
**@metsabuildingco**  
**hendo@metsabuilding.com.au**  
**Hendrik 0426 894 565**



## INTERVIEW

# IT'S THE BEAUTIFUL BANGALOW FILM FESTIVAL

With the Bangalow Film Festival almost on our doorstep, *Seven* managed to have a sit-down with Program Director, Christian Pazzaglia to find out just how excited he is about the upcoming event.

### How have things been travelling as far as the organisation goes?

Smooth in a way – we know more or less what we're doing, being in the same location over the last five years. Yes, so, yeah, no major issues. Yes, and hopefully without any cyclones, floods, earthquakes.

### It's been five years. Have there been things, post-festivals, that you've changed, or thought, we'll do that better?

Actually yes – there's always quite a lot of fine-tuning going on. For example, there are a number of things that we have trialled. We were doing a 9pm show on Friday-night screenings, and we were trying to do rave culture films that are very much music-driven programming – but it was just too late, even on a Friday night! So we're not going to do that anymore. There are always, kind of bits and pieces that we always do, like things for families, right? Families and kids, that's always there.

You know, we're very, kind of family driven. We like to work with the local school. We like to have big educational programs. We get over 150 students, coming from nine schools in the region, and we work with the Department of Education. It's great. I love doing that.

### Why do you think it's important that communities support film festivals in general, and that this community support this film festival?

You know, it is this film festival – I always felt it's a little bit different, because we, from the get-go, we kept it really open, you know, as in, we don't say, 'you can't submit things to us', right? That's one thing. We always make sure to have some opportunities, and some money to commission work, so we always want to work with local artists, anyone. People reach out to us all the time, so thinking about, you know, as long as it's screen-based, we really like to do that. This year it is *Home of the Blizzard – A Film Concert For Antarctica*.

### What do you personally love? What's your favourite thing about this festival?

To be honest with you, I think we have a really nice program this year. In there, kind of what stands out for me is one of my passions, I guess, I'm really pleased that we can do the *Bad Boy Bubby* reunion. With the screening then *Q&A* with *Rolf de Heer* and *Nicholas Hope*. They haven't seen each other in a long time. It feels so special.

And then, this year we launched the *Green Frame Nature Documentary*

*Award*, a new initiative at the festival, celebrating cinema that connects us to the natural world. We've been wanting to do this – it has been in the making for a couple of years at least. The region is just perfect for it. Yes, there's nowhere else in Australia where this kind of environmental nature film, and the issues that come with it, are front and centre. I'm proud of that. It will be an ongoing event and it is a beautiful way to put Bangalow on the map.

### I know this is the hard question, which film are you really looking forward to seeing?

*Life illuminated* – about Marine biologist *Dr Edie Widder*, who has spent her life chasing the ocean's secret light – bioluminescence. It, kind of blew me away. I think it's fantastic, I think it's beautifully shot, I think it's inspiring for anyone, because of the story of *Dr Edie Widder* – we can learn so much from it, because she was ostracised for being a female scientist, and she ended up building her own submarines. It's gorgeous. I love underwater films. It's beautiful.

That's for sure one. And then, the closing film, *Gaucha Gaucha* – a timeless, visually stunning, romantic tribute to one of the last communities

of traditional cowboys and cowgirls. It's the latest film from the directors of the *Truffle Hunters*.

### What are the festival highlights?

The festival is lots of fun, you know. Opening night and closing night – just so much fun.

Also, we want the audience to become the protagonist, so we have the whistling competition on the opening night – we have, best dress-up cowboy night, we have lots of filmmakers coming. There are some really fun activations, because, you know for *Shelf Life*, a documentary about cheese, we are building a cheese shop and for *Trifole* we're having a truffle tasting experience.

This festival is nowhere else in Australia. And one of the reasons why we can do it, is the location – I mean it costs us a mint to turn this building into a cinema. But then we can do these things. We can build a cheese shop! This is the reason why we do fundraising, because we want to have it in this beautiful venue. It's wonderful.

**Bangalow Film Festival 2026 will be held at Bangalow A&I Hall from 11-21 June, for more info go to [www.bangalowfilmfestival.com](http://www.bangalowfilmfestival.com).**

## THE GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL

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**THUR**  
 28 MAY

Front Bar: Ino Pio 6pm,  
 DJ Quendo 9.15pm  
 Duelling Piano Bar 8.30pm

**FRI**  
 29 MAY

Front Bar: Kane Muir Band 7pm,  
 DJ Jamie Lowe 10.15pm  
 Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

**SAT**  
 30 MAY

Front Bar: Record Breakers 7pm,  
 Oren Selecta 10.15pm  
 Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

**SUN**  
 31 MAY

Front Bar: Dizzy J 5pm,  
 Vinyl Sunday 8.15pm  
 Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

**MON**  
 1 JUNE

Front Bar: Jerome Williams 6pm, DJ Jamie Lowe 9.15pm  
 Duelling Piano Bar 9pm  
**BACKPACKER MONDAYS**

**TUES**  
 2 JUNE

Front Bar: Marshal Okell 6pm  
 Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

**WED**  
 3 JUNE

Front Bar: Ino Pio 6pm  
 Duelling Piano Bar 9pm



### VINYL SUNDAYS

WEEKLY VINYL ONLY SUNDAYS  
 AT THE FRONT BAR



FREE ENTRY | 8PM  
 \$15 MARGIS & SPRITZERS ALL DAY

# Eclectic Selection

## What's on this week



The **Hillbilly Skank** is a dynamic group performing an eclectic array of material, both covers and originals, moulded into a style of their own, with a twang of hillbilly flavour. Guaranteed to encourage rafter-swinging, toe-tapping dancing to all within earshot from grandkids to grandparents. Grab your boots, hats and overalls, get on down and say G'day!

**Saturday from 3pm at the Rock Valley Hall. Tickets \$15 at the door.**



Folk-rock fusion duo **JC and the Tree** draws from a background surrounded by nature. They write about life and all its complexities with lyrics drenched in analogies and inspirations from our natural world – featuring soaring violin, rich harmonies, piano, and hand-built acoustic guitars, their sound is both grounded and transcendent.

**Saturday 6pm at Pearce's Creek Hall. Tickets, general admission \$30 + bf from [humanitix.com](http://humanitix.com)**



**Jazz Beats for Cancer** will be an unforgettable afternoon of live jazz and community spirit featuring the **Gypsy Cats** who have meticulously curated a diverse repertoire that showcases their unique interpretation of the gypsy jazz genre. From infectious uptempo swing, and enchanting gypsy bossa, to heartfelt traditional jazz ballads, and the romance of French waltz, their music offers something for everyone.

**Sunday 2pm at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club. Tickets from \$25 at [mullumexservices.com.au](http://mullumexservices.com.au).**

**Stealing Thunder** is a small group from within the Sweet Thunder Jazz Orchestra. The less formal setting of this smaller group allows these players greater scope

to stretch out, free from the constraints that playing in a tightly arranged big band context inevitably bring. The result is exhilarating.

**Friday from 6pm at the Tweed Valley Jazz and Blues Club at Condong Bowling Club. Free show.**



**Henry West** began his musical career strumming the guitar on his grandfather's lap. With a voice that transitions from effortlessly atmospheric to deep and powerful, with impressive range, West is a 'one-stop-shop' for musical joy.

**Sunday from 1pm at the Billinudgel Hotel. Free show.**



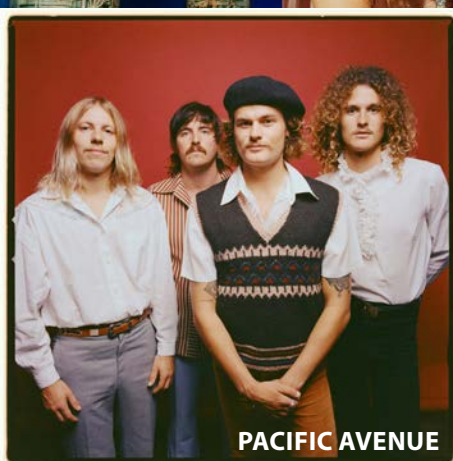
The Ballina Blues Club gives us **Soulshine**, a powerhouse blues-rock/country-rock covers band led by the unforgettable voice of Linda Seale, serving up a curated mix of soul, blues, roots, and laid-back rock classics – delivered with passion, artistry, and the kind of chemistry that only seasoned musicians can bring.

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



**Marshall Okell** is a solo show full of hillbilly disco, and foot-stomping, good old-fashioned Aussie beer-drinking music. Swampy, mojo-working sounds and a lot of charismatic humour – a raw, honest, dirty blues sound that grabs you by the throat and then soothes you with sweet, honey-tasting musical medicine.

**Sunday from 5.30pm at The Park Hotel, Suffolk Park. Free show.**



## Stone & Wood's banger

The opening lines of Rupert McCall's ode to Stone & Wood pretty much sums things up...

*An ancient tribal custom undeniably immersed*

*In the celebrated notion of this thing we call 'a thirst'*

*When the sun sets on a village and you simplify the goal*

*It strips back to a spirit... in your heart and in your soul.*

I hate to use the word 'iconic', but Stone & Wood really are front and centre in Byron's hall of fame and the annual Festival of the Stone does nothing but cement that place even firmer.

Not only will there be delicious food and delicious brews, there is also a delicious line up of entertainment.

Now in its 12th year, **Festival of the Stone** has become a fixture on the music festival calendar. Each year, fans from near and far come together to celebrate music, enjoy amazing beer and share good times, all while supporting Byron's Fletcher Street Cottage.

This year's lineup is a beauty with **Pacific Avenue, Ruby Fields, Dear Seattle, Eliza and the Delusionals, and Liquid Zoo**, for your aural pleasure.

**This event is going to be a banger! Be there, June 20 from 3pm. More info and tickets at [stoneandwood.com.au](http://stoneandwood.com.au).**

## The Echo's gone wild!

Quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with, the **Wild Women** are back for a fifth season of scandalous striptease, and on 6 June they are bringing their dazzling show to *The Echo's* big birthday bash at Club Byron.

Performing three pieces, two solo and one duo, this show will grip you from start to finish with a ritual burlesque show of sensuality, tease and empowerment. Directed by **Cha Cha Bang**, this show features local women who have been on a deep inner journey, reclaiming the erotic and the divine. Alchemising their truth into a powerhouse performance of unadulterated expression.

Expect flaming hot performances and striptease that will linger with you long after the fabulous **Melbourne Ska Orchestra** tune up!

**There are still seats available for this milestone event – tickets: \$55 + bf, available via [humanitix.com](http://humanitix.com) at <https://events.humanitix.com/the-echo-s-40th-anniversary-and-awards-celebration>.**

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BREWING CO.  
BIG DAY, GOOD VIBES, GREAT BEER!

MUSIC  
**XUJA (DJ SET)**  
**FELICITY LAWLESS BAND**

KIDS SPACE  
**KIDS DISCO ROOM**  
**FACE PAINTING**

DRINKS / FOOD  
**MULLUM MADNESS BIRTHDAY PROMOTION**  
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**FUNDRAISER SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

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**SATURDAY 6 JUNE ALL DAY**  
**FREE EVENT**  
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WE ARE TURNING  
**6**  
WANDANA

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Call BayFM sponsorship on 0431 211 693



# CINEMA

I went to Palace Cinemas in Byron Bay last week to see *Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu*.

I am a Grogu fan and have been waiting for this film for MONTHS – I went on the first day!

I was not disappointed...

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...

The evil empire has fallen, and Imperial warlords remain scattered throughout the galaxy.

Fan-(*that's me*) favourite duo, Mandalorian bounty hunter Din Djarin (*Pedro Pascal or is it? Who'd know?*) and his young apprentice (*who is actually more like a son – a toddler son who gets to do ridiculously dangerous and fun stuff in a space ship*) Grogu, make their triumphant debut to the silver screen in Jon Favreau's *Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu*.

Now, I know 'this is the way', but, in reality, if there was no Grogu, there would be no movie, in fact I reckon, 'they' wouldn't have even thought of a movie if it hadn't been for the popularity of the tiny green, bat-eared, three-fingered 'baby Yoda' – who may or may not have feet!

Grogu is the best thing in this *Star Wars* universe spin-off, spin off...

Grogu is the best thing in *Star Wars* – period...

In the interest of telling a story...

A fledgling New Republic enlists the help of the duo to protect everything the Rebellion fought for during the Empire's reign, in a time where blah, blah blah: GROGU!

Produced by *Star Wars* veterans Dave Filoni, Jon Favreau, Kathleen Kennedy and Ian Bryce, and starring an array of fan-favourite characters, including screen legend Sigourney Weaver (*Alien, Avatar*), with music composed by Academy Award-winner Ludwig Göransson (*Black Panther, Sinners*).

'They' have thrown a lot of money at this one – the CGI is amazing. It's hard to tell the hand puppets from the animatronics from the animated characters.

The *Star Wars* rules of no blood and no sex apply, so it's pretty child safe (though a bit violent) and there's PLENTY of Grogu!

This is the way...

You can see Grogu and his offsider at Palace Cinemas Ballina and Byron Bay this week...

[www.palacecinemas.com.au](http://www.palacecinemas.com.au)

# GIG GUIDE

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

## WEDNESDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, FELICITY LAWLESS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM INO PIO
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM YAZMINDI DUO + DUELING PIANO BAR
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 7PM MATIU TE HUKI WITH DJ PEACH
- ELEVATOR ARI, LISMORE, 7.30PM VEGETABLE.MACHINE. ANIMAL + NOISE XHURXH

## THURSDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, JOCK BARNES DUO
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM SHMONÉ BAND EXPERIENCE & AMIT BENITA
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM INO PIO + DJ QUENDO + DUELING PIANO BAR
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 8PM TEMPLE OF FIRE
- FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL 5PM JASON LEWIS
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM JORDY QUINN
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM AFTER DISASTER PROJECT
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS
- THE TOP PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM TOP JAM NIGHT WITH THE MAX PAZ
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM BLUEGRASS JAM
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM BEN LEE

## FRIDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, EPIC
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM PABLO LAVERDE + IZAEAH MARSH BAND
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM NAHKO
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM DJ ALICE Q
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM JORDAN MAC

## SATURDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, TIM STOKES
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM MATT DAY + CHRIS PALMER + BEN GERRANS W/ FAZZ & ZAC EWING
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM ROSS NOBLE
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM DJ QUENDO + DJ MONSIEUR DIOP

## SUNDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, BEN WALSH
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM LISA HUNT
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM THE STRIDES W/ SLIM GRILLA
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM DIZZY J + VINYL SUNDAY + DUELING PIANO BAR
- BANGALOW HOTEL 3PM CINNAMON SUN
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 3PM OPEN MIC WITH DR BAZ
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 2PM JAZZ BEATS FOR CANCER
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT SOULSHINE
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 2.30PM LILLI SHEEN
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM KARISE EDEN
- ELTHAM HOTEL 3PM THE LONESOME BOATMAN
- CLUB TWEED 1PM DAVE GRAY + DARRIN LEIGH
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 12PM BLACK BIRD HUM + THE BREDDA BROTHERS
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM JASON DELPHIN

## MONDAY 1

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM JEROME WILLIAMS + DJ JAMIE LOWE + DUELING PIANO BAR
- CASA LUNA, BYRON BAY, 6PM HUSH POETRY FT. ROBIN ARCHBOLD

## TUESDAY 2

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM MARSHAL OKELL + DUELING PIANO BAR

## WEDNESDAY 3

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM INO PIO + DUELING PIANO BAR
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS

**PALACE CINEMAS**  
 BYRON BAY • BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES  
 THURSDAY MAY 28  
 TO WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

DISCOVER THE DAY  
 COMING SOON

NOW SHOWING

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

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**SPECIAL SCREENINGS**

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (M) CULT VAULT  
 Mon: 6:30PM

NOTHING BETWEEN US (TC) SPANISH FF PREVIEW  
 Wed: 6:30PM

THE CHRISTOPHERS (MA15+) BRITISH FF PREVIEW  
 Sun: 2:00PM

**FAMILY FILMS**

THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE (G)  
 Daily: 10:45AM

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG)  
 Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 1:20PM.  
 Sun: 11:00AM, 1:20PM

**ALL FILMS**

A PRIVATE LIFE (M)  
 Thurs: 12:50PM, 6:15PM. Fri: 12:50PM, 3:20PM. Sat: 6:15PM. Sun: 10:45AM. Mon: 1:20PM. Tues: 12:50PM, 3:15PM. Wed: 1:15PM

BACKROOMS (M) NFT  
 Daily: 1:30PM, 3:50PM, 6:10PM

FINDING EMILY (M) NFT  
 Daily except Wed: 11:00AM. Wed: 10:45AM

FRANZ (MA15+)  
 Thurs, Sat, Sun: 8:10PM. Mon, Wed: 8:30PM

AMRUM (M) GERMAN FF RELEASE  
 Thurs, Wed: 10:45AM, 3:20PM, 6:10PM. Fri: 10:45AM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM. Sat: 10:45AM, 3:20PM, 6:00PM. Sun: 1:10PM, 3:20PM, 6:20PM. Mon: 11:15AM, 3:20PM, 6:30PM. Tues: 10:45AM, 3:20PM, 6:20PM

H IS FOR HAWK (M) NFT  
 Thurs, Sat, Mon, Tues: 11:20AM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM. Fri: 11:00AM, 3:40PM, 6:10PM. Sun: 11:20AM, 3:40PM, 6:10PM. Wed: 11:20AM, 3:55PM, 6:00PM

IN THE GREY (MA15+)  
 Daily except Sun, Tues: 8:30PM. Sun, Tues: 8:20PM

MICHAEL (PG)  
 Daily except Tues: 11:10AM, 1:50PM, 4:15PM, 6:50PM. Tues: 11:10AM, 1:50PM, 3:50PM, 6:50PM

OBSESSION (MA15+)  
 Daily except Sun: 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 8:20PM. Sun: 1:00PM, 3:50PM, 8:20PM

PASSENGER (MA15+)  
 Daily: 8:30PM

POWER BALLAD (M) NFT  
 Daily except Fri, Sun: 1:45PM, 3:50PM, 6:15PM, 8:20PM. Fri: 1:20PM, 3:30PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM. Sun: 1:45PM, 4:10PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM

STAR WARS: THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU (M)  
 Daily except Tues: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:15PM. Tues: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 5:30PM, 8:00PM

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (M)  
 Daily except Tues: 11:10AM, 1:40PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 8:15PM. Tues: 10:45AM, 1:40PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 8:15PM

THE RICHEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD (M)  
 Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM. Sun: 11:00AM

**BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS**

MICHAEL (PG)  
 Daily except Thurs: 12:00PM, 2:40PM, 7:30PM. Thurs: 12:20PM, 2:40PM

OBSESSION (MA15+)  
 Daily except Thurs: 3:00PM, 5:15PM. Thurs: 3:40PM, 5:15PM

POWER BALLAD (M) NFT  
 Daily except Thurs: 10:10AM, 5:30PM, 7:40PM. Thurs: 1:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:40PM

STAR WARS: THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU (M) NFT  
 Daily except Thurs: 9:45AM, 12:20PM, 7:30PM. Thurs: 9:45AM, 12:00PM, 7:30PM

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (M)  
 Daily except Thurs: 12:30PM, 3:00PM. Thurs: 11:00AM, 3:00PM

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG)  
 Daily except Thurs: 9:45AM, 5:15PM. Thurs: 9:45AM

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

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**Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby**

### EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

**classifieds@echo.net.au**

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

## DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

## RATES & PAYMENT

### LINE ADS:

**\$17.00 for the first two lines**

**\$5.00 for each extra line**

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

**Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa**

Prepayment is required for all ads.

## CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classies also appear online:  
[www.echo.net.au/classified-ads](http://www.echo.net.au/classified-ads)

## 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 MACKILLOW 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**

## LOST AND FOUND



LOST If found please contact Byron Police Station – Questions asked.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED



**1st Byron Bay Scout Group**

**Volunteers needed.**

Any age, any skill to continue the adventure.

CONTACT SAM AT  
[GL.1stByronBay@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:GL.1stByronBay@nsw.scouts.com.au)  
[www.1st-byron-bay.group.scoutsnsw.com.au](http://www.1st-byron-bay.group.scoutsnsw.com.au)



**BYRON BAY WILDLIFE HOSPITAL**  
WILDLIFE RECOVERY AUSTRALIA

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

A small team with a **BIG** vision

Call Annette  
1300 WILDLIFE or apply online

[www.byronbaywildlifehospital.org](http://www.byronbaywildlifehospital.org)

## 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

**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 Providee 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

## Expression of Interest 5 year Market Licences

Byron Shire Council invites applications for 5 year Market Licences.

Register with Vendor Panel to view proposed market licences and assessment criteria.

Expression of Interest closing date extended to 2pm, 1 June 2026.

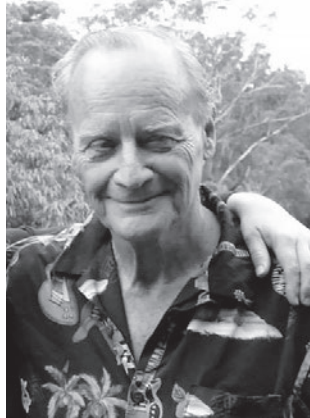
For more info:

Visit [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/EOI](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/EOI) or contact Lyndal Brennan, Leasing Coordinator 02 6626 7300



## DEATH NOTICES

**ADRIAN MAGI**  
24.10.1944 - 10.05.2026



Adrian passed unexpectedly whilst on holidays. He is much missed by his family and friends. A memorial gathering will be held at his home this Saturday from midday for all who wish to attend. Please RSVP to Alana via text on 0435788073

## HEALTH

### FREEDOM FROM ANXIETY

A proven framework to feel safe, steady and okay in yourself again. 0434558187 [www.sarabrowntherapies.com.au](http://www.sarabrowntherapies.com.au)

### 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**

### Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator **Paul Bibby 0401 926 090**

## 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



**HART TREE SERVICES**  
20 years local experience  
• 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding  
• Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat  
Fully insured • Free quotes  
**0427 347 380**



**SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES**  
• Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder • Fully Insured  
Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas  
**6681 3140**  
Mobile 0417 698 227

## WANTED

### BOBCAT WANTED

Not running is OK. Ph 0417603370

### TREE FERNS

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

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

## GARAGE SALES

**OCEAN SHORES 73B Orana Rd Sat 8am** clothing, tools, furn, toys, garden etc

## Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

**0408 210 772**

## TO LET

### LOCAL REMOVAL

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

### BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS

Secure. From \$22p/w. Ranging from 10-44 m3. Across 3 locations. 66867011

### 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

## FOR SALE

### FIREWOOD

Pick-up/delivery. Seasoned. All quantities [byronbayfirewood.com.au](http://byronbayfirewood.com.au) 0401 739 656

## Community Consultation OASIS · BYRON BAY

**80 Butler and 12 Bay Streets, Byron Bay**

PLANNERS NORTH is soon to lodge a Development Application for a retirement living project at 80 Butler Street and an associated clubhouse at 12 Bay Street, Byron Bay, with Byron Shire Council.

The project is in the design development phase, and its final form is evolving. Currently, it is anticipated that the Butler Street site will house about 200 senior living apartments. Further, it will provide about 2,600m<sup>2</sup> of floor space for wellness facilities, about 360m<sup>2</sup> as a wellness hub and a further 300m<sup>2</sup> building for recreation and support facilities.

The project will include a wide array of recreational facilities, including swimming pools, tennis courts, community gardens, as well as changing rooms, toilets, showers, storage, and the like. A children's playground designed for active, imaginative play, as well as a fenced dog park for safe, off-leash play and pet socialising, is proposed.

The Butler Street site will also have a centralised back-of-house facility supporting the entire operation and caravan parking.

At Bay Street, a café will front the street at ground level, and a range of change rooms, medical rooms, yoga- and pilates-type facilities, as well as a pool, will be provided.

At levels 2 and 3 lounge, kitchen and games areas are also envisaged.

Community members wishing to view early concept plans can do so at: [plannersnorth.com.au/portfolio/butlerst\\_consultation](http://plannersnorth.com.au/portfolio/butlerst_consultation)

Meetings with the team creating the proposal are also available. Bookings are essential, and available to book here: [www.eventcreate.com/e/butler-bay-streets-commun](http://www.eventcreate.com/e/butler-bay-streets-commun)

**When:** Wednesday 10th June 2026, four x 20-person sessions are available at 12 noon, 2 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm, (or at other times by arrangement).

**Where:** The Anzac Room at Byron Bay Services Club

To provide feedback, or for any other questions, please email: [consultation@plannersnorth.com.au](mailto:consultation@plannersnorth.com.au)

All feedback must be provided by 18th June 2026.



Early concept plans

Make a booking

## FUNERAL NOTICES

### JARRETT

**RONALD WILLIAM (BILL)**

80 years of age

28/07/1945 - 21/05/2026 Mullumbimby NSW late of Currumbin Qld.

Son of Percy Jarrett (Mullumbimby) & Olive Jarrett (nee Davison, Casino) (dec)

Beloved husband of Vera, much-loved father of Ronald (dec), Michelle, Jacqueline and Tanya.

Cherished grandfather of Liam, Yazmin, Amia and Zahri.

A funeral service will be held at St Monica's Catholic Church, Tugun at 11am on Monday 1st June.

Friends and family are warmly invited to attend a celebration of Bill's life afterwards at Alligators Rugby Union Club, Bienvenue Drive Currumbin.

Forever loved and adored

## LIFE CELEBRATIONS

### NORLING

**CARL NORMAN (Carl, Dad, Cork)**

7 Nov 1931 - 20 May 2026

Passed away peacefully at Tweed Hospital.

Loved husband of Esme. Wonderful father and father-in-law to Carl & Cheryl, Michelle & Gildo, Phillip & Joanne. Proud grandfather to Amy, Bodene, James, Brett, Coleby, Joshua & Luke. Great-grandfather to Adalita, Atlas, Ezra, Kai, Hugo, Myla & Luca

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a celebration of his life after a private burial at the Uniting Church Mullumbimby on Monday 1st June 2026 at 10am

## 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



## RECEPTIONIST

**Medical Reception Position, permanent part-time (32-38 hours) available.** No experience necessary. Customer service and computer skills essential. Be a part of an exciting multidisciplinary team.

Email cover letter and CV to [mmcadmin@mullumhealthcentre.com](mailto:mmcadmin@mullumhealthcentre.com)

## 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

## PETS

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



**KITTENS!!!** Coming soon to a lap near you! The shelter is seeing an influx of cute fuff balls & we are on the hunt for the very best of homes for them. A sweet reminder that from little things, big cats grow & adopters should consider that they should be prepared to provide love & care for up to 2 decades & maybe beyond! To meet our precious babies, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

**OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm**  
**Thurs 3-5pm / Sat 10am-12 noon**  
Call AWL on 0436 845 542  
Like us on Facebook!  
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation  
Number: R251000222

## Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



**ARCHIE**

Meet Archie, Heeler x Staffy x Greyhound / Male 2 years / Desexed Archie is a sweet soul who adores humans and is looking for a buddy that will look after him forever. He's a cuddler and happy to chill alongside you. He gets on well with other dogs and knows all the obedience basics. Archie needs a secure fenced area, ok with older kids, no cats or livestock

Call Julia on 0458 461 935 or apply via [byrondogrescue.org](http://byrondogrescue.org)  
MC: 991003002588255

## Who gives a Cluck?

**Adopt a Rooster.**  
Austin powers is a beautiful looking and gentle natured boy. We've given him 4 hens for company till some kind hooman gives him a home. You can adopt the rescued battery hens too. If you're interested, text Julie on 0428 335 766.

[www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/](http://www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/)  
[@whogivesacluck](http://whogivesacluck.org)



**RUBY**  
Meet darling Ruby, a big, black softy of a panther! Super friendly, loves attention, and adores cuddles. She will climb onto you and sit looking over your shoulder! Her owner very sadly had to surrender her due to having to move for health treatment/reasons. Ruby is very easy going, and just wants to give and receive love. She will definitely make a lovely addition to a household! (Best no other cats or dogs)  
7 years old D.O.B 10/2/2019. Desexed, vaccinated, microchip 900079000641889  
See our FB for more photos and videos!

To make an appointment  
**0403 533 589 • Billinudgel**  
[petsforlifeshelter.net](http://petsforlifeshelter.net)



**MURPHY**

**Murphy** is a 2 year old, Border Collie X. He is an active, affectionate dog who thrives on attention and would love a home where he can be included in family life.  
M/C # 953010006749568  
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



**RUSTIE**

**Rustie** is a sweet-natured 8 1/2-year-old Kelpie Cross with a beautiful soft coat. She's left puppy chaos behind for calm companionship, while still enjoying playtime and affection. Rustie knows her basic commands and would suit a loving home looking for a well-mannered companion. Though a little timid at first, she quickly warms up and shows her affectionate, loyal nature. Rustie would thrive with a safe, caring family ready to love this special girl.  
Rehoming Number R251000060

**NRAS**  
Northern Rivers Animal Services  
T: 6681 1860 E: [shelter@nras.org.au](mailto:shelter@nras.org.au)  
W: [www.nras.org.au](http://www.nras.org.au)



## ONLY ADULTS

**BI MALE ESCORT**  
38yo locksmith. 0480 779 325  
[coupleempowerment.global](http://coupleempowerment.global)

**Need proper erotic relaxation?**  
**TANTRIC MASSAGE**  
Men, Women, Couples. Ph 0480779325

**BALLINA EXCLUSIVE**  
34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late. In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted  
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

**KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP**  
Large variety of toys and lingerie  
6/6 Tasman Way, A&I Est, Byron Bay  
0416 899 048

## SOCIAL ESCORTS

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

## On The Horizon

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au).

### Free connect at Belongil

A final free community (connect) event will be held on Monday, 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](mailto:hello@kriyamethod.au).

### Byron Bay Library event

Author event: Maggie Walters with Alan Close. You are invited to 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. It will be held Thursday 28 May from 3pm. Afternoon tea provided. Bookings in branch 6685 8540 or online [www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au).

### Mullumbimby CWA

June 17 is the Soup Day at the CWA rooms. This is a fundraiser for the Cancer Council, in place of last year's Biggest Morning Tea. Delicious homemade soups with crusty bread will be on offer. For information on Mullumbimby CWA, call secretary Jenny Barlow on 66 847 282.

### BEC fundraiser

The Byron Environment Centre is holding a World Environment Day movie fundraising event at the Brunswick Picture House on Sunday, June 7 at 4pm. Funds raised will go towards reopening the Cumbebin Wetlands and boardwalk. This special place was damaged by floods and vandals, but it is almost ready to be accessible for everyone to enjoy once more. *Earth's Greatest Enemy* is a powerful new feature-length documentary, exposing the environmental and climate cost of the world's largest military. It traces the link between war, empire, and ecological destruction. Drawing on powerful testimonies from veterans, scientists, and frontline communities, it uncovers how US military operations poison ecosystems, accelerate global warming, and sacrifice the future for endless expansion.

### BV Probus meeting

Join Brunswick Valley Probus on Tuesday 2 June, 2026, 10am at the Ocean Shores Country Club for good vibes, great company and interesting guest speakers. Whether you're keen for a laugh, a chat, or just getting out and about, come along and see what the fun is all about. New faces are always welcome.

### Friends of Libraries collection

A reminder, Friends of Libraries will be holding their last collection of good secondhand books for the July Book Fair on the first Monday of June. Books can be dropped off between 9 and 10am at the Byron Bay self storage shed, 8-10 Tasman Way Byron Industrial Estate. On arrival at the gate, access to the storage bay will be met by a FOL member. Contact Janene if any queries 0407 855 022.

### Digital skills workshops for seniors

A new series of free digital skills for seniors workshops through the Byron Seniors Club is helping older residents in the Byron Shire build confidence online, recognise scams and protect their personal information. The sessions are designed specifically for seniors and focus on real-world skills, from spotting phishing emails and suspicious messages to safely using smartphones, apps and online services. The workshops are friendly, accessible and paced for all experience levels, with a strong emphasis on building confidence, independence and connection. The workshops are held Mondays and Fridays, until 12 June from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at the Byron Community Centre, 69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. Open to people aged 50+ (no experience required). For bookings, visit <https://collections.humanitix.com/digital-skills-for-seniors>.

### Convict family history

Anyone interested in their convict family history from any of the many fleets who journeyed to Australia are very welcome to come along to our group. This includes spouses and friends of any descendants interested in history. We meet every two months and our next meeting will be held on Sunday, 24 May. If you are interested please contact Jacqui on 0404 072 195, or via email [fff1788@outlook.com](mailto:fff1788@outlook.com).

## Regular As Clockwork

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

### Zonta group

Zonta Northern Rivers, will be holding monthly meetings at Ballina RSL commencing on the 17 June. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, commencing at 6pm, and welcome anyone interested to come to meetings at Ballina RSL, or contact directly for further information: 0409 248 822.

### Heart circle singing

Heart Circle: Community led singing, uplifting songs, inspiring readings, short meditation, a different theme and leader every week. Nourish the soul. All welcome. Every Sunday 10 to 11.30am at South Golden Beach Hall. Suggested contribution \$5 (to cover rent). Enquiries: text Linda 0415 412 514.

### Vollies needed for toy library

Byron Shire toy library is looking for volunteers to help run the library. We have two sites, Suffolk Park

and Ocean Shores. It's an easy, fun way to spend a morning. You are required to do a two or three hour shift every week or every two weeks. If interested please contact Pippy Wardell; [byronbayseniors@gmail.com](mailto:byronbayseniors@gmail.com).

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

On Monday and Friday mornings, a small group gathers at Coolamon Community to pack coolamons shared through Aboriginal Health Service midwives to Aboriginal mums and babies in regional and remote communities. It's simple, hands-on work - done with care, respect and purpose. There's always room for a few more. If you'd like to lend a hand and be part of something meaningful, contact Pam on 0417 393 168 or [info@coolamoncommunity.org.au](mailto:info@coolamoncommunity.org.au).

### Byron Seniors

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

## TUITION

# Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Trainer  
• Photoshop • Indesign  
• Illustrator

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

## The Echo's Market Guide

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

### MONTHLY MARKETS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> SAT: **Brunswick Heads Markets** - 8am-2pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> SUN: **Byron Community Market** - 8am-3pm  
**Pottsville Beach Markets** - 7am-1pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SUN: **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> SAT: **Mullumbimby Community Market** - 8am-2pm  
**Murwillumbah Makers & Finders Market** - 9am-2pm  
**Salt Beach Markets**, South Kingscliff/Casuarina - 8am-1pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SUN: **Federal Village Market** - 8am-2pm  
**Uki Buttery Bazaar Market** - 8am-2pm  
**Pottsville Beach Markets** - 7am-1pm  
**Lismore City Bowlo Markets** - 9am-1pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SUN (Dec & Jan): **Byron Community Market** - 8am-3pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SAT: **Kyogle Bazaar** - 9am-2pm
- Last SAT: **Evans Head Rotary Market** - 8am-1pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SUN: **Bangalow Market** - 8am-2.30pm  
**Nimbin Markets** - 9am-3pm  
**Murwillumbah Showground Market** - 8am-1pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SUN (in a 5-Sunday month): **Coolangatta Arts & Crafts** - 8am-2pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> SUN: **Nimbin Markets** - 8.30am-3pm

Seasonal: **Byron Beachside Market** - four times a year: Wed 7th Jan 2026, Easter Friday, Sat 11th July and Sat 26th Sept

### FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:

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

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



## ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

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



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## ACCOUNTANTS & BOOKKEEPERS

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

## ACUPUNCTURE

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

## AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

**Mullumbimby Refrigeration & Airconditioning Services**

- Sales - Installation - Repairs
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- Residential & Commercial Airconditioning
- Coolroom Design & Construction
- Freezer Rooms

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

**COOLMAN AIR CONDITIONING** 36+ years exp. Lic 178464C AU30147 ..... **0422 291433**  
**ARTISAN AIR** Airconditioning and refrigeration. .... **66809394**  
**SKIP AIR:** Airconditioning installation, servicing, repairs. Free quotes. 5-star rated..... **0406 485187**

## ARCHITECTS

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

## AUTOMOTIVE

**WE PAY FOR UNWANTED CARS**  
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A long driveway leads you into established gardens and a peaceful setting framed by mature trees and open green space. The home itself is warm, practical and filled with natural light. At its centre is an open-plan living and kitchen area with hardwood floors, a fireplace and sliding doors that connect easily to the surrounding decks and gardens.

The renovated kitchen has been thoughtfully designed with stone benchtops, a gas cooker, island bench and pendant lighting, creating a space that works equally well for everyday living and entertaining.

Wraparound decking extends around the home, offering quiet places to sit throughout the day, whether it's a morning coffee overlooking the gardens or dinner outdoors on a summer evening.

A second living area and dining space flow directly to the outdoor entertaining area and pool. Louvre windows bring in natural breezes and garden views, while a wood heater adds comfort during the cooler months. A small study nook is tucked neatly into the layout for those working from home.

The master bedroom opens directly to the garden through French doors and includes a built-in wardrobe and en suite. Two additional bedrooms are positioned nearby, along with the main bathroom featuring a freestanding soaking tub and quality finishes throughout.

Outside, the property opens into five fully fenced acres with established gardens, a citrus grove, chicken coop and a running creek



along the boundary with its own swimming hole. The nine-metre magnesium pool sits within landscaped surrounds and includes a shaded cabana, while the large undercover entertaining area provides plenty of room for relaxed gatherings with family and friends.

The shed is a substantial addition to the property, featuring soaring ceilings, a mezzanine and

multiple-purpose rooms that could suit a studio, gym, workshop or home office. There is ample space for boats, caravans, machinery or vehicle storage.

Practical infrastructure includes an 8.3kW solar system with Sungrow battery storage, six water tanks, solar hot water, Starlink internet and split-system air conditioning. Recent improvements include upgrades to

the pool, fencing and decking, enclosure of the rear deck, a new wood heater and a new roof.

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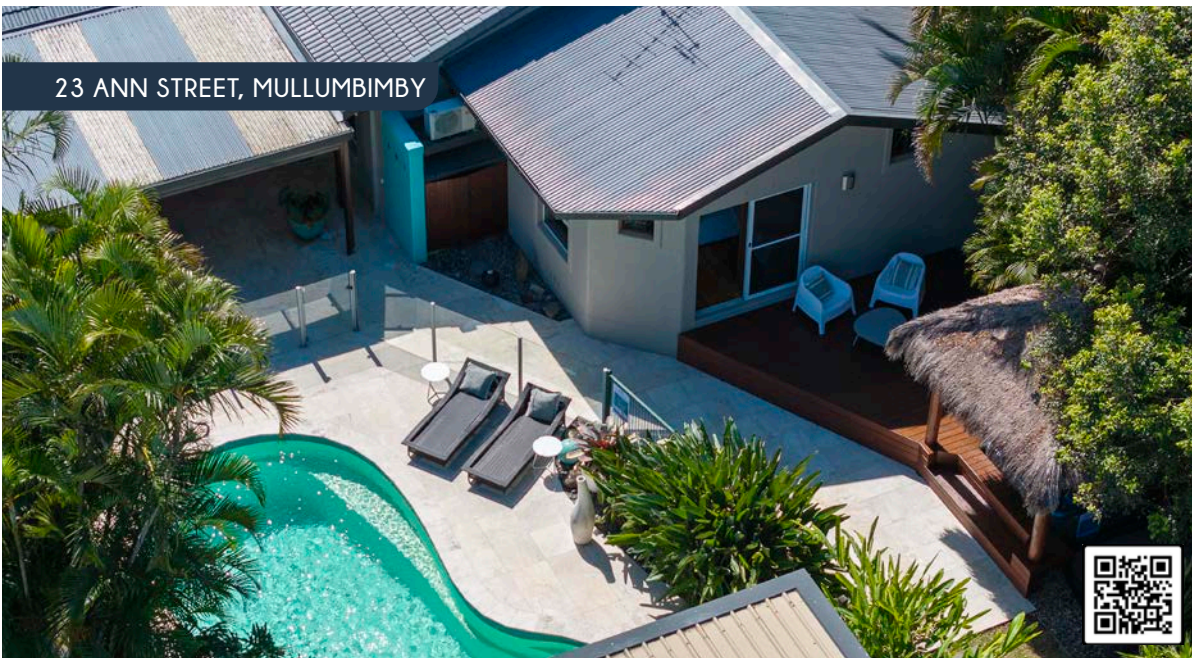
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23 ANN STREET, MULLUMBIMBY

### Stunning Family Home with Pool, Studio & Rural Views

4 2 3 2   
1000M<sup>2</sup>

- Renovated single-level home on a generous sized block with separate studio
- Light-filled open-plan living flowing to covered outdoor entertaining area
- Resort-style pool, spa, sun deck and Teppanyaki BBQ zone
- Prime location just a 5-minute walk to Mullumbimby's shops and cafés

FORTHCOMING AUCTION  
OPEN | Fri 29th May 3 - 3:30pm  
Sat 30th May 10 - 10:30am



Paul Prior  
0418 324 297



Sharon McInnes  
0408 659 649



3 CUDGERIE COURT, MULLUMBIMBY

### The Perfect Home in a Quiet, Family Friendly Neighbourhood

3 1 2 2   
602M<sup>2</sup>

- Immaculate home with light-filled open plan living
- Large north-facing backyard and private covered alfresco area
- Peaceful family-friendly location directly opposite parkland and close to sporting fields
- Prime address, moments to town, farmers market, river and a short drive to Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay

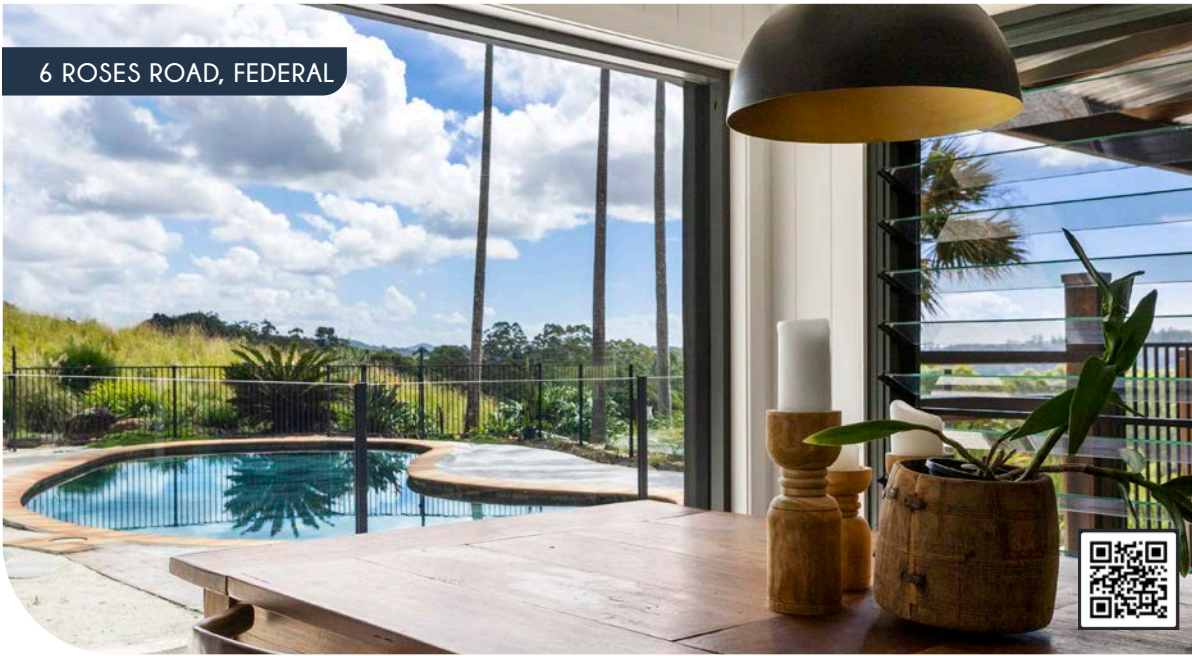
PRICE | \$1.15M - \$1.25M  
OPEN | Sat 30th May 1 - 1:30pm



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Anna Gilham  
0402 128 355



6 ROSES ROAD, FEDERAL

### Elevated Hinterland Living Just Steps from Federal Village

4 2 3 3   
4986M<sup>2</sup>

- Beautifully renovated home with designer entertainer's kitchen and expansive covered timber deck
- Approved self-contained studio with separate access, veranda, laundry and garage
- Glass-framed saltwater pool and established gardens
- Sweeping panoramic views and just a short walk to Federal Village

PRICE | \$2.2M - \$2.4M  
OPEN | Sat 30th May 12 - 12:30pm



Luke Elwin  
0421 375 635



Jane Johnson  
0466 327 375



195 NORTH TEVEN ROAD, TEVEN

### Elevated Hinterland Living with Sweeping 270° Views

3 2 2 2   
17.92HA

- Spacious family home with multiple living zones, high ceilings & private main retreat
- Approx. 40 acres of fertile, usable pasture with a spring-fed dam & ample water storage
- 20m x 10m drive-through farm shed providing excellent storage, machinery space or workshop potential
- Prime location just minutes to Ballina, beaches & M1 access, offering lifestyle + convenience

PRICE | \$2.7M  
OPEN | Sat 30th May 10 - 10:30am



Helen Huntly-Barratt  
0412 332 232



# Final villas now selling opposite Yamba Marina

From  
\$780,000\*



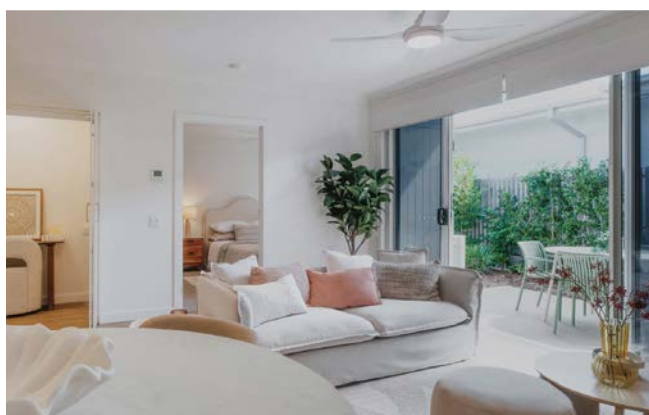
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**Uniting**

You will have to pay a departure fee when you leave this village. \*Pricing and information are correct as of April 2026.

## AGENTS



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'Trump is now a world-class kleptocrat. The president's demand for a slush fund to pay billions of dollars to his cronies places him among the planet's most infamous political criminals.'

– [www.newrepublic.com/post/210792/trump-slush-fund-criminal-kleptocrat](http://www.newrepublic.com/post/210792/trump-slush-fund-criminal-kleptocrat)

Byron Shire Council's *Draft Developer Contributions Plan* is on public exhibition. It's the final step in the development of the plan, which sets out the fees Council collects from developers, and which community projects the contributions will help fund. Make your thoughts known at: [yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-developer-contributions-plan](http://yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say-developer-contributions-plan).

This Sunday marks seven years since the disappearance of Théo Hayez. Hayez was an 18-year-old Belgian man who disappeared in the Cape Byron area. He was last sighted leaving Cheeky Monkey's bar in Byron Bay at approximately 11pm on 31 May 2019.

The ABC has reported that 'negative gearing around the property sector has started to make its way into the marketplace since the federal budget, but real estate experts say it may prove to be good news for first-home buyers.' Isn't that exactly what punters were asking for? Bringing a little more equity back to all Australians?

As former Mullumbimby High School English teacher Mr Rose has rightly pointed out The Farm Byron Bay and the Byron Central Hospital are both actually located in



Connecting Generations founder Ruth Winton-Brown (centre) found trumpet-playing Baby Boomer, John Hoffman, and Alpha Gen saxophonist Gaia, had just as much class as brass at Sunday's connecting event at Bangalow Heritage House Museum. Photo Tree Faerie

Ewingsdale, not Byron Bay. 'This besottedness with Byron Bay should end and reality and truth be the byword. Byron Bay is a town on the ocean edge of Byron Shire, not its centre,' he reminds readers (and *Echo* editors).

A landmark United Nations resolution backing a ruling on climate change, which found countries can be held legally responsible for their greenhouse gas emissions has been backed by 140 countries, including Australia.

The Net Zero Commission has told an inquiry that the Minns Labor government's plans to expand existing coal mines – released 19 March 2026, is inconsistent with the commission's independent advice, NSW laws to reduce emissions, and the Paris Agreement to reduce global emissions.

According to *Crikey* 'former prime minister Paul Keating says wealthy businesspeople

have "feasted" on CGT for years,' in a show of support for Labor's latest budget.

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