

Echo

JOURNALISTIC ANOMALIES SINCE 1986

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Bonus with this issue!



Crystal Castle hosts the Gyuto Monks

These four monks, Lama Phurbu, Tenpa Choden, Ngodup Tsering, and Rinchen Khadro from the Gyuto Tantric University, one of the most revered institutions in Tibetan Buddhism, are in residence at Crystal Castle and Shambhala Gardens until 30 August. Photo Jeff 'Respect' Dawson

During the Gyuto Monks' stay they will conduct daily programs from 10.30am to 4.30pm which include meditation, multiphonic chanting, Buddhist talks, tantric art classes, and empowerment ceremonies, all included in the general admission price to Crystal Castle precinct.

The Gyuto Monks are masters of overtone chanting, with each monk sounding three notes simultaneously, a practice drawn from a

600-year-old tradition found almost nowhere else on earth.

The monks will create three sacred sand mandalas over the next two-and-a-half months. The mandalas will represent the Tantric Trilogy of Guhyasamaja, Yamantaka, and Chakrasamvara and each will be ceremoniously dissolved.

On 6 July, the monks will perform a Milestone Ceremony and Long Life Guru Puja at Crystal Castle to mark His Holiness the

Dalai Lama's 91st birthday, inside the globally-observed Year of Compassion.

Three evening Chants of Compassion concerts will be held, with the first on 14 July, with 100 per cent of profits going directly to the Gyuto Monastery in Dharamsala, India, home to approximately 500 monks living in exile. The October 2025 concert sold out within days.

Crystal Castle, now in its
▶ Continued on page 4

Mullum Scout Hall fire

Aslan Shand

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community (MCCC) had written to council over the weekend to say that they needed to take action to preserve the Mullumbimby Scout Hall and other heritage buildings in Mullumbimby as they were being damaged by

vandalism and neglect. Then at 1.45am Tuesday morning the NSW Fire and Rescue Mullumbimby Station 388 and Brunswick Station 240 were called to a fire at the Mullumbimby Scout Hall.

'We have three buildings cyclone fenced. All of them are heritage structures (the Mullumbimby
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Wyuna 1 freed from Belongil Beach at last ▶ p4

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Making magnificent, homely spaces ▶ p19

Plenty to discover in Byron Arts & Industry Estate ▶ p22

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Save the Mullum Scout Hall

The Mullumbimby Scout Hall has been severely damaged by fire. Photo Aslan Shand
Inset: Jenelle Stanford from the Mullumbimby chamber and Susan Tscicalas from the Brunswick Valley Historical Society, photographed outside the Scout Hall last Friday, 19 June. They were calling for the Scout Hall to be saved from demolition. Photo Jeff Dawson

► **Continued from page 1**
Railway Station, the Signalman's Cottage near the rail line, and the Mullumbimby Scout Hall) and we have been asking for action from Council to look after them now for years,' Paul Prior, President of the MCCC told *The Echo*.

'It has taken them so long to assess, get grants, and actually take action on the Mullumbimby Scout Hall that by the time they did almost all the windows had been smashed and shattered, and the site has sat so long, and been vulnerable to vandalism, that it became too expensive to save and they voted to demolish it.'

The MCCC were asking Council not to demolish the Scout Hall but look at ways to save it including the possibility of moving it to the Mullumbimby Showground for a third rebirth.

Not first fire

According to the secretary of the Brunswick Valley Historical Society, Susan Tscicalas, the top section of the Scout Hall was the original Mullumbimby Bowls Club. After it was first burnt, it was rebuilt and finally replaced

in 1957 when the original clubhouse was moved to its current site as the first storey of the Scout Hall and the lower level was built in.

Dean Stanford, Acting Deputy Captain of Station 388, told *The Echo* that it appears so far that it was a bin fire set alight at the front door of the ground floor that was the source of the fire.

'The fire burnt part of the front of the building moving to the upper part of the building and the upstairs landing,' explained Deputy Captain Stanford.

The fire crews were able to put the fire out before it was established inside the building.

'There is some water and smoke damage inside. It is the two front doors, upstairs landing, and outside wall around them where the primary damage has occurred,' he said.

Scout Hall's future?

The MCCC had been calling for the Scout Hall to be renovated or moved to an alternative location rather than being demolished. They were also raising concerns over the risk to the oldest

building in Mullumbimby, the Signalman's Cottage, which they have been asking the Council to help them with leasing so that they can renovate it and provide it for community use. They have also been asking Council and state rail to take action to help preserve and rebuild the heritage Mullumbimby Railway Station that burnt down in 2024.

'Council need to take action immediately to preserve these buildings and get them working for the community again. The old Byron Rail Master's Cottage was destroyed by fire in May this year and now the Scout Hall,' Mr Prior pointed out.

'The Mullum Scout Hall building is still in good condition with minor fire and water damage. Council need to get onto this immediately, get it cleaned up, secured and use it or move it. Leaving these buildings languishing and unused makes them vulnerable not only to squatters and vandalism but to losing them in fires as we've seen. They need to get moving so that we don't lose any more heritage buildings in the town.'

BSC moves closer to special rate rise

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council has moved a step closer to seeking a special rate rise, unanimously endorsing a community engagement program that will form a key part of any future application to increase rates above the state-imposed cap.

While councillors are publicly stating that no final decision has been made, debate at last week's meeting highlighted the increasingly central role a Special Rate Variation (SRV) is playing in Council's response to its worsening financial position.

The community engagement plan will see Council spend \$120,000 on a four-month consultation process beginning in August, with feedback to be reported to councillors before a decision is made on whether to formally apply to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for permission to increase rates above the annual rate peg.

Council's recently adopted Long Term Financial Plan paints a bleak picture of the organisation's finances, forecasting ongoing operating deficits, declining unrestricted cash reserves and a growing inability to keep pace with infrastructure renewal.

The plan warns that continuing with a 'business as usual' approach is 'not financially sustainable in the long term'.

Under the scenario currently being modelled,

ordinary rates would increase by a compounded 35 per cent over three years, including rises of 12 per cent in 2027-28, 10 per cent in 2028-29 and 9.6 per cent in 2029-30.

Community understanding

The engagement plan is designed in part to satisfy IPART requirements, which require councils to demonstrate that the community understands both the need for and the extent of any proposed rate increase.

Greens councillor Elia Hauge sought to broaden the focus of the consultation, arguing that residents should be engaged in a wider discussion about financial sustainability rather than being presented with an SRV as the preferred solution.

'I was a bit concerned at how parts of the community engagement plan were framed,' Cr Hauge told the meeting.

'We want this to be a meaningful conversation about the financial position of Council, about what we can do without a special rate variation. What does that mean for the community? But equally, what does a special rate variation get us?'

However, Council staff warned that shifting the focus too far away from an SRV could undermine any future application to IPART.

'If we're going out to community and asking general questions around financial sustainability, it would be

hard in an application to demonstrate that we've been adequately clear with our community about asking for a special rate variation,' staff advised.

'If by over-subscribing what this engagement is asking for, we undo IPART's ability to approve the variation, we're shooting ourselves in the foot before we've even started the race,' said Deputy Mayor Jack Dods.

After discussion, Cr Hauge withdrew several proposed amendments but retained a provision requesting that community engagement seeking views on options that could redistribute the total rates collected to lessen the burden on lower-value properties.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said Council needed to have an honest conversation about its financial future.

'I was ready to go, "look, too hard, don't do it";' she told the meeting. 'But then I really looked at what the impact was of the minimal rate increase that we did in 2017.'

Cr Ndiaye said the previous SRV had helped fund major improvements to roads, bridges, and other infrastructure and argued that councillors needed to approach the current discussion in good faith, even if it proved unpopular.

The community engagement process will run between August and November, with councillors expected to decide later this year whether to proceed with a formal application to IPART.

Bangalow A&I Hall – how can it be improved?

Byron Shire Council is auditing the Bangalow A&I Hall's sound and lighting infrastructure, and would like to hear from past and potential hirers about their experiences in the hall, and ideas for future improvements.

In August 2025, councillors resolved to retire the Section 355 governance (volunteer run) model and adopt a new management model of nine community halls, at Council's cost.

'With the A&I Hall now

under direct Council management, we are reviewing existing equipment and infrastructure,' said Council's Marisa Snow.

Provide feedback on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au until 30 July.

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12 winners at Byron Bay Herb Nursery



With hard work and commitment, 12 students have completed a Certificate II in Horticulture with the support of the Byron Bay Herb Nursery. Photo Jeff Dawson

The Byron Bay Herb Nursery continues to create constructive pathways to achievement with 12 students from Byron Bay Herb Nursery's disability support program recently graduating with a Certificate II in Horticulture.

The students completed their training through TAFE NSW Wollongbar, with the course delivered on site at the nursery with horticulture teachers Hugh Monk and Lisa Barnes. The training was

tailored to support learners with a range of disabilities, enabling them to gain a formal qualification.

Hard work and opportunities

'The commitment and enthusiasm shown by these students has been outstanding. It has been rewarding to see their skills, confidence and knowledge grow throughout the course. This qualification

recognises the hard work they have put in and will help create new opportunities for their future,' said Mr Monk.

Since 1992, Byron Bay Herb Nursery has been committed to creating meaningful employment opportunities for people with disability, combining practical workplace experience with opportunities for skills development and training.

'We are incredibly proud of our graduates and what

they have achieved. Access to this training has allowed our employees to gain a nationally-recognised qualification while building confidence and independence. This collaboration shows what is possible when community organisations and education providers work together to create meaningful opportunities for people with disability,' Dean McLeod, Open Employment Liaison Officer Byron Bay Herb Nursery, said.

Break-ins leave Uniting Church volunteers struggling

The Uniting Church Op Shop and Church Hall in Mullumbimby have been broken into three times in the last few months with the television being repeatedly stolen, donated stock stolen, and general damage to the shop.

Help always on offer

The Uniting Church opens the op shop every Saturday morning and provides a range of support to the local community throughout the week.

'The op shop is run by an amazing group, mostly women of a good age, who do so much to support our community. Anyone who looks like they need help, they reach out and offer it, giving when they see need. The money they raise goes back into our community. During the 2022 flood recovery this little shop community did so much that went unseen by most of us,' said Morag Wilson, who

contacted *The Echo* about the break-ins.

Disheartening

'This last break-in is breaking their spirit and it will be our town's loss if we lose them. Again the television was stolen from the hall. This is used for the singalong at the Wednesday morning playgroup run by church members and hosting up to 40 families to meet and mingle as their little ones

play. The television was also used for other group activities in the hall but now needs to be replaced for the fourth time. The op shop was trashed and stock stolen and wrecked. Days of work by the volunteers have been wasted. I have no idea who was responsible but hope you will all go in on Saturdays and let the ladies know you care, and keep supporting them so they can support us,' Morag said.

Empowering women and girls

Applications for \$20,000 grants for projects that empower women and girls are now open.

The Northern Rivers Community Foundation's (NRCF) Women's Giving Circle have been funding grants since 2022 for grassroots programs that create meaningful change for women and girls, helping to address inequality and disadvantage while building stronger, more connected communities. Since 2022 they have distributed more than \$279,000 to 13 organisations across the Northern Rivers.

Grants can support new initiatives, existing programs looking to expand or adapt, or projects seeking to strengthen their evidence base.

'The empowering women and girls grant is one of the most tangible examples of local women creating change in their own communities,' said NRCF Community Impact Manager Kiri Dicker.

Applications close 2 July. For grant guidelines, webinar registration and application details, visit www.nrcf.org.au/grants/empowering-women-and-girls-grant.

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Wyuna 1 freed from Belongil Beach after almost two months

David Lowe

There's been a happy ending to the saga of Jeff Sutton's yacht *Wyuna 1*, which has been beached near Elements at North Belongil since early May, after being damaged in heavy weather.

Wyuna 1, ran aground on the beach at Byron Bay when the boom broke as Jeff was sailing the final leg to Tweed Heads of a three-and-a-half-year sailing adventure.

When his boom broke he had to drop his anchor in the Bay. He went ashore to get supplies to repair the vessel, when heavy weather and rough seas blew up.

Rough seas ahead

'I was away for a day and night, and the police contacted me at 7am to say it had run aground,' he told *The Echo* at the time.

It turned out that the boat's anchor chain had broken.

After threats from the authorities to destroy the boat and heavily fine the owner, a GoFundMe campaign raised almost \$13,000, mostly from locals, to get the



Jeff Sutton's yacht *Wyuna 1* being towed back out to sea at Belongil. Photo supplied



Jeff with his stricken yacht *Wyuna 1* after it was beached at Belongil, Byron Bay. Photo Raphael Cass

yacht moving again.

In the end it was a combination of an excavator on the beach to dig out the keel and push the yacht, combined with a powerful tugboat, that got the *Wyuna 1* floating again.

GoFundMe organiser Daniel Rawson reports that the yacht has now safely reached the Tweed River.

Joint effort pays off, thanks to community

Mr Rawson's Saturday GoFundMe post offered 'big thanks to everyone that was involved. Well done, that was some awesome community spirit coming together for our ocean brother, seafarer wild

man Jeff Sutton!'

'Big thanks to Matt Tree for all the efforts with the excavator, etc and finding that awesome tug. Steven for endless communication and keeping the grubberment away, Dr Charles with the driving all over to get supplies and for his experience, Ben for his courageous line mission and looking

out for Jeff endlessly... and to Travis who was up fixing the RIB boat engine until 2am, and to all the donors and anyone else I haven't mentioned yew!

'The tug came down from Jacob's Well on Friday and was scheduled to pull it out with the high tide, but lost the line, so they moored at Julian Rocks and waited for the morning high tide.

'The Byron Surf Life Saving Club aided in their inflatable pulling out the line to tug and off she went around 12pm (on Saturday).

'Jeff ended up paying around \$30k for the tug, plus rental and purchase of the

supplies, excavator fuel, and also a big cost was to have the Arakwal kindly overlook the operation on Indigenous land.

'Jeff isn't a shipwrecked, maybe a little more broke, but overall and elated man!! If you feel to send him some donations to keep him going, he will surely be ever thankful to this awesome community!! He was saying, "it wouldn't have happened anywhere else. This community has heart. The government didn't get to chop her up, we won!! Thanks Byron!!"

'Regards the Byron backyard salvage team!!'



Have your say on plans for Gulgan Village



Gulgan Village is a proposed new residential community located on elevated land around The Saddle Road, Brunswick Heads.

It is expected to be home to between 400-550 dwellings with a diverse mix of housing types including affordable rental housing.

We'd like your feedback on three planning documents currently on public exhibition until 12 July.

- Gulgan Village Planning Proposal;
- Site-specific Development Control Plan (DCP); and
- Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA).

Provide your feedback by:

- ✉ Making an online submission. yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/Gulgan-village
- 👤 In-person at one of two drop-in sessions in the Council Chambers Mullumbimby: Wednesday 24 June - 3pm to 5pm Wednesday 1 July - 5pm to 7pm.
- ✉ By email, phone or post to the project team.



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Helping business do business

Business NSW Northern Rivers is bringing four sessions to provide business owners and operators with practical support, fresh perspectives and opportunities to learn from others who understand the realities of running a business in the region.

During workshops, The Business of Doing Business Series, participants will examine key areas of business success, including strategy, financial performance, customers, leadership and operational effectiveness. Each session combines practical insights, facilitated discussion and opportunities to connect with other business owners from across the



Local businesses getting support to succeed. Photo Business NSW

Northern Rivers.

'Businesses across our region are navigating rising costs, workforce pressures, uncertainty and constant operational demands, often without the time or space to step back and focus on strategy and long-term

direction,' said Regional Director, Northern Rivers, Jane Laverty.

The sessions cover: Money, Numbers and Funding; Customers, Brand and Digital Content; and Enhancing Business Performance.

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Book tickets at: <https://events.humanitix.com/the-business-of-doing-business-series>.

Join the Gyuto monks at Crystal Castle

► Continued from page 1 40th year, is home to the Kalachakra Stupa for World Peace, blessed by the Dalai Lama and the only Buddhist stupa of its kind in the southern hemisphere. The monks' relationship with Australian communities spans over three decades.

'The Gyuto Monks' visits are some of the most special

things we do,' said Toby King, General Manager of Crystal Castle.

'When they're here, the whole place shifts, guests feel it the moment they walk in. To have them in residence for nearly three months, creating three sacred mandalas, is something truly wonderful.'

'Our friendship with the Gyuto Monks has been part

of the evolution of Crystal Castle for many years,' says Naren King, founder of Crystal Castle.

'Their presence, wisdom and chanting have helped shape some of the most meaningful moments in our history, including the creation and opening of the Kalachakra World Peace Stupa.



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Dune Restoration Project – New Brighton

Later this year Council will be restoring dunes at New Brighton. Work will take up to four weeks and take place between Park Street and North Head Road.

At times, some parts of the beach and beach access ways will be closed due to heavy machinery on the beach. Work will be done in stages.

Permanent closure of beach access ways

As part of this project Council will be permanently closing two beach access ways as indicated on the map. Reducing the number of access ways helps dune stability and resilience.

More information

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Council backs \$100,000 Easter coordinator despite budget concerns

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council has voted to spend \$100,000 on coordinating Easter activities next year, despite unresolved questions about where the money will come from and growing concern over Council's financial position.

The decision follows the cancellation of the Byron Bay Bluesfest just weeks before Easter this year, which prompted an eleventh-hour effort by Council, local businesses and community groups to organise an impromptu program of live music and events across the Shire.

Supported by a \$95,000 NSW government grant, the Easter response included free bus services, traffic management, additional cleaning and a range of performances and activities at venues across Byron Bay, Brunswick Heads and other towns. The initiative was widely regarded as a success and drew strong community support.

At last week's Council meeting, Mayor Sarah Ndiaye successfully argued that Council should invest in planning ahead for Easter 2027 while the future of large-scale festival events in the region remains uncertain.

'We know that this area has a long history of music, of songs, of bringing people together,' Cr Ndiaye told councillors.

'We've seen Splendour in the Grass, Falls Festival, Bluesfest, Mullum Festival. We nearly lost the Writers Festival.'

Cr Ndiaye said the funding would act as seed money to help coordinate businesses, venues, tourism operators and government agencies, and potentially attract additional grant funding.

Where will the money come from?

However, the proposal exposed divisions around Council's spending priorities at a time when it is forecasting budget deficits and considering a special rate variation (see page 2).

A key point of contention was where the \$100,000 would come from.

Cr Ndiaye amended her motion to nominate paid parking revenue as the funding source, arguing that Easter visitation helped underpin parking income and broader economic activity.

Independent councillor Michael Lyon questioned that approach, saying paid parking revenue was already allocated under Council's existing budget framework.

Council staff agreed, advising that any money redirected from parking revenue would require a corresponding reduction in other planned projects or works.

'The consequence of that \$100,000 will mean we'll have to go back and revisit that, and take \$100,000 worth of work out,' staff told the meeting.

The exchange prompted Cr Ndiaye to acknowledge she may have misunderstood earlier advice regarding the availability of parking revenue.

Staff had also warned in

the business papers that no funding source had been identified for the original proposal and that any additional expenditure would further worsen Council's budget position. The report noted that Council is already forecasting a deficit of almost \$490,000 in 2026-27.

Cr Lyon said he could not support the proposal while Council was grappling with its finances.

'I can't support this at the current time when we're struggling for money and going to the rate rise situation,' he said.

Deputy Mayor Jack Dods, who ultimately voted in favour, said he was 'very reluctant' to allocate additional money given Council's financial challenges but believed this year's Easter experience demonstrated the need for better planning.

'I really understand how much good work was done this year, and how much was done on the fly, and the need to be able to replicate that,' Cr Dods said.

The motion approved by councillors was scaled back from the original notice of motion, which had sought a total of \$185,000 including funding for traffic control, street activations and additional cleaning. Instead, Council approved \$100,000 for a temporary coordinator role to help organise Easter 2027 and pursue external funding opportunities.

The motion was carried 5-4, with councillors Ndiaye, Hauge, Lowe and Warth voting in favour, and councillors Lyon, Kay, Dods and Swain voting against.

A night of ceramics, soup and chai

Around 50 members of the Mullum Clay Workers will be coming together for their annual 'ceramics, soup and chai night' on Friday, 3 July next to the Old Drill Hall in Mullumbimby from 5pm to 8.30pm.

'This massive community effort is bringing our members of the Mullum Clay Workers studio together to create a variety of stunning handmade ceramics vessels,' said organiser Faith Avidor.

'The set up will transform our lovely area to host our passionate community and share a colourful display of freshly made cups and bowls, there will be plenty of space to browse, relax, and



Come and buy a bowl that comes full of chai or soup at Mullum Clay Works. Photo supplied

hang out on the night. Each purchase of a bowl or a cup will include complementary homemade soups or chai. You buy your cup or bowl full!

There will be music, cakes, and other treats for sale and all the profits go to the ongoing upkeep of the studio and equipment.

It's investors who are causing the housing shortage

Aslan Shand

For years, people have been talking about how high house prices are, how you can't get into the housing market without the bank of mum and dad. How it is virtually impossible to rent, save a mortgage, and then actually buy a property without placing yourself in housing stress.

The cries for change have been ringing around Australia for many, many years as the younger generation have realised that they can't break into the housing market because the prices are too high.

To be quite frank I have no idea how people manage to get loans for the prices of the houses they are buying. Whenever I talk to a mortgage lender there is no way I can afford a loan to buy an average house, valued between \$1.1 and \$2.1 million in Byron Shire. There is no way I am ever going to save \$220,000, needed for a deposit for a house on the lower end of the market, on my wage – ever.

We are in a distorted market, the proposed changes to the capital gains tax (CGT) and negative gearing (NG) are looking to reform a market, that is currently

weighted in favour of the wealthy, to provide a slightly more even playing field for people who have become locked out of the housing market since CGT and NG were introduced in 1999 by Howard and Costello.

'Currently, people who earn their income by working, pay more tax on average than those earning income from assets, like investment properties or shares. Put simply, there are more tax loopholes for those who get their income from assets,' Matt Grudnoff, a senior economist at the Australia Institute said in his recent article for *The Point*.

Immigrants not the problem

He says that in the proposed Labor budget 'There was a focus on cutting taxes for people who earn their income through wages and salaries, and young people are more likely to earn their income that way.'

'We also need to understand that the housing affordability crisis has not been caused by a shortage of supply. Immigration is not driving the problem.'

'Over the last ten years the

population has increased by 16 per cent but the number of homes has increased by 19 per cent. The number of homes is growing faster than the population.

'The problem is not the number of homes but who is buying them. Investors have been increasingly buying houses which has reduced home ownership rates.'

Local MP Justine Elliot told *The Echo* that in addition to the positive changes to the CGT and NG, Labor was also introducing 'a new \$250 tax cut for every worker, on top of our existing tax cuts and a new \$1,000 instant tax deduction being introduced next financial year, an average Australian worker could benefit by up to almost \$3,000 by 2028.'

'The Liberals, Nationals and One Nation are desperately defending a broken system. They offer anger but they don't offer answers.'

'We're focused on helping workers, first home buyers, and businesses, so more Australians can earn more, keep more of what they earn, get into the housing market and get ahead,' Justine said.

Leanne Minshull co-Chief Executive Officer of The Australia Institute agrees, having

stated that, 'It is important to remember that despite how scary vested interests might make them out to be, these changes will help many more people than they hinder. If house prices flatten out lots of first home buyers will be able to get into the housing market. While a small number of wealthy people will pay a bit more tax.'

Dr Aruna Sathanapally, Grattan Institute CEO, points out that, 'The system has leaned heavily on wage and salary income, so labour income, what you earn from having a job, while providing some really generous concessions to other forms of income.'

'On housing, the important impact of this isn't necessarily that it'll bring down prices substantially. We don't anticipate that it will. Treasury anticipates a price impact of about two per cent.'

'The real impact is in shifting the composition of who buys houses by making the tax treatment less preferential for investors and therefore tilting the balance a little bit more in favour of home buyers, so people who are buying a home to live in it. And so that's what we can expect to happen over time.'

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Learn More crystalcastle.com.au/monks



57 Station St, Mullumbimby amended DA on public exhibition

Aslan Shand

The development application (DA 10.2025.212.1) for the carpark at 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby is now back on exhibition for eight weeks from 22 June.

In the covering letter Landcom have stated that, 'There is no material difference to the description of the development.'

It said, 'We believe that the amended application addressed Council's concerns such that the application can be supported and recommended for approval to the Northern Regional Planning Panel.'

Overwhelming majority against DA

Following the previous lodgement of the DA for the site Byron Council received 749 submissions with the vast majority against the development. *The Echo's* estimate is that there were around 743 against and six in favour. They also received a further 2,400+ signature petition against the development. There were several public meetings voicing community concern and opposition to the development at that site.

The community also identified significant faults with the DA that was submitted, not least its failure



Drawing of proposed 57 Station Street development by Byron Shire Council. Image Byron Shire Council DA

to identify, and in fact proposal to build over, a key sewer line that ran through the site. The DA did not facilitate essential access from the site for businesses on Burringbar Street, including The Other Joint and Pink Lotus, and had the potential to close down IGA due to the building's impacts on deliveries in the narrow McGoughans Lane.

While councillors are regularly pointing out the increasing costs of trades, materials, and services, there has been no update to the

estimated cost of \$16.5 million for the project. A spokesperson for Council told *The Echo* that, 'There is no requirement for the estimated cost to be revised as Council cannot reconsider the DA fees in instances like this.'

DA changes

Key changes include a boarding house on the lower level and the removal of one commercial premise and the reduction of units from 32 to 28.

The Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) has estimated there are 15 car spaces, two which will be reserved for Council, and four for commercial premises which leaves around 13 for the remaining 28 units and the boarding house.

A pathway has been allocated along the southern boundary, over the sewer line, to provide rear access to shops, though the MRA have questioned how they calculated 3.69m which they point out

should be a minimum of 4.15m.

A Council spokesperson told *The Echo* that there is a 3m setback to upper levels, however, the MRA have pointed out that 'the scale and height of the previous plans have not been substantively altered and there is no material difference to the description of the development'.

Parking

Council have said that while the carpark will be lost they have 'always maintained that there will be parking improvements near the railway line behind the Council building, as well as on the corner of Arygle and Prince Street prior to the start of the development at 57 Station Street. This includes the provision of new public toilets. In the 2026/27 budget there is funding for a parking study for Mullumbimby which will identify future public parking sites.'

Key questions are how will parking be 'improved'? How much will that cost and where will the money come from to facilitate the new carparks and toilets? Council has so far not answered these questions.

To find out more and respond to the modified DA go to: <https://datracker.byron.nsw.gov.au>.

LECC find police failed in their duty in the death of Lindy Lucena

The Law Enforcement Conduct Commission's (LECC) Operation Almas has criticised the police response to the violent death of Ballina woman Lindy Lucena at the hands of her partner in 2023. NSW Police Commissioner

Mal Lanyon has opposed all recommendations made by the LECC aimed at improving police responses to incidents of domestic violence in future.

The LECC's report is fiercely critical of the Commissioner's submissions,

describing them as 'misconceived', 'internally inconsistent', 'unfortunate' and engaging in 'their own form of hindsight bias'.

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

Six dwellings proposed on flood-prone Mullum block

Hans Lovejoy

Six units are proposed at the eastern end of New City Road, Mullumbimby, on a site that was inundated during the 2022 floods.

Submitted by Duncan Band's Kollektive, Development Application (DA) 10.2026.269.1 at 73 New City Road is on public exhibition with Byron Shire Council, and sits within the Shire's Flood Planning Area.

The estimated cost is \$1,855,794.00.

The application's flood assessment, prepared by

Ingen Consulting, acknowledges that the site carries flood hazard ratings ranging from low H1 to very high H4 at the one-in-100-year flood event, with the highest hazard areas around the driveways and building surrounds.

More concerning is the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) - the theoretical worst-case flood event - which engineers calculate could reach 1.5 metres above the minimum floor height of the proposed dwellings.

On page 34, the consultant says given the location, a 'Shelter In Place is not a

suitable flood emergency response strategy for this site'.

The entire site lies within a Fill Exclusion Zone, which under Byron Shire's development controls is meant to prevent the displacement of flood storage. On page 6 of Ingen's flood assessment it says that no flood modelling was conducted.

The application designates just one of the six dwellings as affordable.

The DA is available at Byron Shire Council's website.

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



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When it comes to real estate, everyone can use an advocate

David Lowe

With 45 years combined experience across both sales and property management, husband and wife team Mark and Michelle Errichiello have recently moved to the Northern Rivers and teamed up with Byron Property Search to provide advocacy services for people looking to buy or sell across the region.

The team behind Master Advocates started in Melbourne, where they worked at Mark's family's real estate business. In 2007, Michelle lost her leg after a car came off the road and pinned her to a wall. She then became a record-breaking Australian Paralympian. After spending time at the AIS, in Canberra, Michelle and Mark had their first child, before deciding traditional real estate work wasn't for them.

As Mark explains, 'we started thinking creatively about the parts of the industry we were really passionate about, and that was the independent buyer and vendor advocacy work.'

And so Master Advocates

was born, active across NSW, Victoria, and Queensland.

Specialising in the Northern Rivers, the duo provide expert, independent advice, advocating for both buyers and sellers, although not in the same transaction! They are members of REBAA, Australia's premier industry association for professional real estate buyers.

Managing the code of conduct correctly, and behaving ethically, is an important part of what they do, whether that means investigating investment opportunities, dealing with local regulations, choosing the perfect sales agent, explaining the potential rental market for a property, providing property management advice, doing due diligence, or negotiating with architects, town planners, and trades.

Finding the perfect property

Despite the recent legislative changes around property and capital gains, and ongoing high interest rates, Mark and Michelle



Michelle and Mark Errichiello are helping people buy and sell their properties across the Northern Rivers.

Photo Jeff Dawson

Errichiello aren't seeing any signs of a market slowdown so far, but have noticed people are being more careful with their purchases, which is a good thing.

As Mark explains, 'It will stack up over the long term if you're buying the right property to live in or the right property as an investment.'

He says this is all about

foresight, strategy, and understanding each client's long-term goals, as well as 'pointing them in the right direction with the right professionals and team, whether it's legal or accounting or financial planning, it's knowing when to bring in other experts to give them the advice they need.'

Having made the big

move from the city themselves, Mark and Michelle understand that money is far from the only consideration, with the community and culture of this region a big attraction for a young and growing family, as well as their connection with local buyer's agent Michael Murray, from Byron Property Search.

As Michelle explains, 'We wanted our daughters to be in an environment where they're going to thrive, emotionally and mentally. There was no work-life balance in Melbourne, and that's not the environment that we wanted our girls to grow up in.'

'The community and natural environment here is beautiful. We've already met lovely families - it's very nurturing and caring.'

Boutique service

In order to give each of their clients the attention to detail they pride themselves on, Mark and Michelle try not to advocate for more than five or six clients at a time.

Michelle is also hoping to find more time for her athletics, now that she doesn't

have to sit in traffic for hours every day.

Will she compete again? 'Never say never!' She says sport has taught her you never know what's around the corner, and to approach life without fear, supported by training and discipline.

The Errichiellos have both taken something of a leap into the unknown with their new professional direction, and so far it's paying dividends for the whole family. Mark says he's noticed improved 'emotional grounding' and balance in the Northern Rivers. 'If you strengthen your emotional intelligence, you can go through any challenge,' he said.

'We love Melbourne, but this is our home now, and there's a lot to appreciate. Coming through Covid with the kids in Melbourne, and then the hectic lifestyle that Michelle mentioned, it makes you appreciate the balance here, and the creative side as well.'

■ You can learn more about Master Advocates at: www.masteradvocates.com.au.

“My local public high school provided outstanding academic support, helping me build confidence and discover my passion for teaching.”

Talia, Class of 2021 at a NSW public school



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Echo

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

Facing the Tweed River in chapters

Tweed Shire Council is telling the story of how the Tweed community has rebuilt since the 2022 floods, further damage from the 2024 floods, and Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Over seven weeks from June 19 to July 28, Tweed Council will release stand alone stories, of the people who lived it, built it and are still living in it.

Lismore wants a safe, accessible and long-term home for the Hannah Cabinet

The Hannah Cabinet was created by Lismore master craftsman Geoff Hannah OAM over six-and-a-half years and is widely regarded as one of Australia's most significant pieces of contemporary decorative furniture.

Putting their money where their mouth and conscience is

Climate action group Rising Tide say they disrupted business at Tweed City ANZ on Monday, as local long-term customers withdraw their life savings from the bank.

Gambling harm recognised by Tweed Council, supported by Wesley Mission

Faith-based, not-for-profit organisation providing community services in NSW, Wesley Mission, has welcomed Tweed Shire Council's decision to publicly recognise the impact of gambling harm and advocate for stronger harm-minimisation measures.

Momentum hosts free skate workshop for girls and women

Whether you are stepping on a skateboard for the first time, sharpening your skills or getting ready to compete, a free school holiday workshop is being offered to all female skaters up to 25 years.

New bus services for Tweed and Murwillumbah

From 29 June, 175 additional weekly bus services will be added to Tweed and Murwillumbah routes.

www.echo.net.au

Expansion creep on farmland around Tweed Hospital opposed

Hans Lovejoy

Residents are holding firm against a proposal to develop State Significant Farmland (SSF) near the Tweed Valley Hospital at Cudgen, after the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) held a public meeting on Friday, 19 June around the Planning Proposal for Cudgen Connection.

The PP-2023-2669-Cudgen Connection proposal is for a 'health, education and community precinct', including 225 'affordable dwellings', with a \$300m capital investment.

There are 34 documents around the proposal posted on www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au.

Promises not to expand

The *Echo* previously reported, 'When the hospital was proposed on SSF, the issue split the community, and when the hospital was approved and the site rezoned from SSF, both sides of the political spectrum gave "iron clad" promises that there would be no further development of or rezoning of SSF on the Cudgen plateau'.

Located at 741 Cudgen Road, the proposal is led by the Centuria Capital Group, an ASX-200 listed investment manager, in partnership with



Tweed Valley Hospital during its construction. Photo supplied

Digital Infratech. According to cudgenconnection.com, Centuria manages over \$1.4 billion in healthcare real estate across Australia and New Zealand and is the primary proponent.

Digital Infratech is a multidisciplinary group covering technology, construction, property and infrastructure.

Council against

In May 2024, *The Echo* reported that six councillors voted to refuse the application for gateway determination to be approved, with one in favour.

Tweed Council staff recommended that it proceed.

Despite the public, Council and state MP opposition, the proposal was given gateway determination by the NRPP just days after the Tweed Shire elections on 14 September, 2024.

The Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association (KRPA) have been vocal in its opposition, saying that they and other community associations 'challenged the eleventh-hour change of heart on the viability of the proposed site as protected, SSF, asking the panel to closely consider this information'.

KRPA President Peter Newton told *The Echo*, 'Our communities really need our state and federal elected representatives to stand with us in lobbying the NSW planning minister to honour the long-standing commitments to the Tweed community that no more protected SSF would be lost following the construction of the Tweed Valley Hospital'.

'Given all the promises and guarantees, if the NSW Labor government approves

the rezoning of this parcel of Cudgen SSF, it will be the ultimate betrayal of community trust.

'Council clearly expressed at the public meeting the impact this developer-led proposal would have on our critical local and Shire infrastructure should this proposal be approved and the resultant significant risk to the already planned and approved housing developments on appropriate zoned land.

Speculative

'There is no masterplan for this speculative proposal, no confirmed partnerships for the hospital and education facilities, and so many outstanding issues raised by the community, NSW government agencies and Council to be simply flicked to, and addressed at, the DA stage post a rezoning.

'It is not unreasonable to suggest that if these significant matters can't be resolved, the landowner will see a rezoning windfall and the community will only see the further loss of our protected SSF.

'The changes sought to the LEP to allow this proposal to proceed, will see unconscionable Gold Coast-style tower developments of up to 38m on the Cudgen Plateau' Mr Newton added.

SSF contested issue

The key contested issue, according to the proponent's response to submissions (from December 2025) is the site's SSF classification.

While the NSW Department of Primary Industries raised concerns, the proponent argues site-specific fieldwork shows the 5.7ha block has negligible agricultural capacity – contributing just 0.04 per cent of regional agricultural value – and that roughly 200ha of the broader mapped SSF area is already zoned urban.

The proponent contends the site rounds off an existing urban boundary between Tweed Valley Hospital and Cudgen village.

A flood impact assessment was still pending at the time of submission.

Decision this week

The panel decision is expected to be made on Thursday or Friday this week.

Tweed keeps rate increase below rate of inflation

Tweed Shire Council says it has adopted one of the lowest rate increases in the cross-border region for 2026/27, with the average household bill rising around 3.6 per cent once all charges are counted.

This is below the current annual rate of inflation of 4.2 per cent.

Councillors recently voted to adopt a 3.1 per cent increase in general rates (the part of the bill that funds everyday services).

Slight increases

As there have also been slight increases in water, sewerage and waste charges, the actual change will vary from one property to the next.

Tweed Shire Mayor Chris Cherry says Tweed Shire Council have worked hard to strike a balance between affordability and maintaining

services at a time when households continue to face cost-of-living pressures.

'We know any increase is felt by our community, which is why we've kept this year's rate increase as low as possible while still maintaining the essential services people rely on every day,' she said.

Several neighbouring councils have adopted higher general rate increases and a small number of NSW councils have been approved to go well beyond the standard range, some with double-digit increases.

Qld not capped

The contrast is sharpest across the border. Queensland councils are not capped the way NSW councils are, and recent budgets there show increases of between 5 and 10 per cent.

E-bikes destroyed by police in Tweed

Thirty-five e-bikes that were seized during police operations near Tweed Heads have been destroyed, say police.

They say, 'Over the past ten months, officers from the Tweed/Byron Police District have engaged with hundreds of e-bike riders as part of Operation Cyclesafe and Operation E-Voltage'.

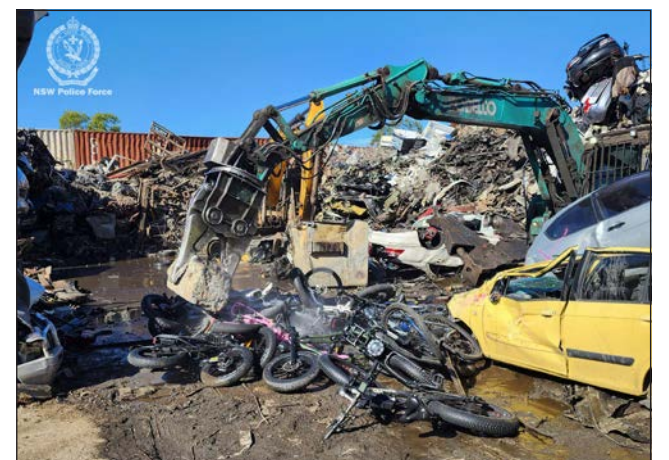
'During a number of operational deployments, a total of 35 e-bikes were seized by police.

'Forfeiture orders for several of the bikes were subsequently sought and granted through the courts.

'On Thursday, 21 May, the batteries were removed from the bikes and officers attended a waste facility where the seized e-bikes were destroyed.

Tweed/Byron Police District Inspector Matthew Woods said enforcement would continue.

'Operations will continue



A still from the police video showing the e-bikes being crushed. Photo supplied

to be undertaken by both uniformed and plain-clothes police targeting the illegal use of e-bikes,' Insp Woods said.

'The community is frustrated by the anti-social behaviour of a minority, and they continue to report incidents to police.

'All information and intelligence received from

the community is acted upon and greatly appreciated. This information has contributed to the seizure and destruction of these e-bikes.

'The message is simple and clear: ride safely and in accordance with legislative guidelines, or risk losing your bike. A further 23 forfeiture applications remain before the court', Insp Woods said.

Byron Council signs MoU with Homes NSW

Paul Bibby

Byron Council has formally partnered with Homes NSW in a bid to accelerate social and affordable housing projects across the Shire, with the former Mullumbimby Hospital site identified as a key priority.

Councillors unanimously endorsed a three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Council and Homes NSW at last week's meeting, establishing a framework for collaboration on housing projects and redevelopment opportunities across Byron Shire.

The agreement identifies two initial priority areas: the former Mullumbimby Hospital site and the renewal of existing Homes NSW housing sites across the Shire, including sites near town centres such as Byron Bay.

Speaking in support of the proposal, Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said the partnership reflected the scale of the housing crisis facing the region.

'At the moment we have 245 people counted sleeping rough. We have a declared housing crisis. We're second only to the City of Sydney in a community a fraction of that size,' she said.

'There's nothing abstract about a housing crisis.

These are our neighbours and people that we know in housing stress, students that have had to move house multiple times, people that feel they have to go back to violent relationships because they don't have anywhere else to go.'

Ms Ndiaye said Byron's rental vacancy rate remained below one per cent while social housing accounted for just 1.8 per cent of local housing stock.

She said Council was already spending around \$700,000 each year on homelessness-related services.

'We can't fix this alone,' she said.

'I've always felt that this is the role of the state to deliver housing, and we have the opportunity here to partner with them, not just on this project, but on many projects.'

The mayor said she had recently met with Homes NSW chief executive Rebecca Pinkstone and described the discussions as productive.

While acknowledging that some community members had advocated for the former hospital site to become entirely social housing, Ms Ndiaye suggested a more mixed outcome was likely.

'The idea that we'll get 100 per cent social housing I also don't think is a realistic

outcome, but wow, we can get something really amazing on that site and on the other sites if we work together and keep focused on delivering on that goal,' she said.

Greens councillor Elia Hauge welcomed the agreement but noted it had taken time to reach this point.

'The provision of public and social housing is the state's responsibility. It's not ours, although we are increasingly taking on that responsibility as they have not within our Shire, and this MoU is a step in the right direction to redistributing that load,' Cr Hauge said.

The MoU states that Council and Homes NSW will work together to identify and progress housing projects, support urban renewal and increase social housing supply. However, the document is not legally binding and does not commit either party to specific developments or funding arrangements.

The agreement comes as Council and Homes NSW continue discussions about the future of the former Mullumbimby Hospital site, with community interest remaining high over how the strategically located land will ultimately be redeveloped.

Ballina big band back with a blast



The Ballina Concert Band will perform a fun-packed set of jazz, blues and New Orleans favourites at a free gig at the Cherry Street Sports Club in Ballina, this Sunday, 28 June, from 2pm to 3pm. 'People can dance or just sit back and let the music envelop them,' says Musical Director Laurie Green. Photo Miranda Burne

Mullum CWA raises \$900 for Cancer Council

Each year Mullumbimby CWA supports the Cancer Council with a Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser. This year they decided to change things up a bit and have a soup lunch and raffles.

Three Mullumbimby High School students helped as waiters and one musical student played the piano to add some background music to the event. The CWA ladies cooked six different homemade soups for the fundraiser. There was a talk by a representative of the Cancer Council and raffles drawn were features of the event.

'We gave \$900 to the Cancer Council but, as many people missed this event and



Mullumbimby High School students with representative of the Cancer Council. Photo David Bradbury

want to support it, interested people are welcome to give a donation to Mullumbimby CWA to be forwarded to the Cancer Council by calling President Sue Constable on 0409 841 675,' said a spokesperson.

26-room Mullum seniors' hostel on exhibition

Hans Lovejoy

A proposal to build a 26-room seniors hostel in Mullumbimby is back on the table, after being rejected by Byron Shire Council (BSC) in December 2025.

Owner Mike Norrie has now lodged a review request, backed by legal advice.

Development application (DA) 10.2025.304.2 is slated for 20 Jubilee Avenue, and proposes two hostel buildings on a 1,135-square-metre R2 residential block. The site sits directly opposite the high school, opposite the bowling club and swimming pool, and is a 450-metre walk from Mullumbimby town centre.

Council said no

According to a letter to Council by Norrie's lawyers, McCartney Young of Ballina, Council refused the DA last year, citing multiple grounds. They include that the application lacked a flood impact assessment and a traffic impact assessment. It also found the DA failed

to demonstrate the facility met the legal definition of a 'hostel' - which requires shared meals, laundry and cleaning facilities, plus a resident on-site manager.

Owner's response

Norrie's lawyers refute the refusal, and say the flood and traffic assessments were provided in response to a Council Request for Further Information on 31 October 2025, weeks before the December refusal.

These documents do not appear on Council's DA Tracker portal, raising questions about whether they were considered.

On the hostel definition, Norrie's lawyers argue Council misread the SEPP (Housing) 2021 - which requires 'meals, laundering, cleaning and other facilities are provided on a shared basis', not the actual provision of meals.

Along with Norrie's review of determination, he has also offered Council a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA),

which commits to dedicate a sewer easement (estimated at \$154,014), the construction of 120 metres of footpath, and the provision of three public car spaces, all at no cost to Council or ratepayers.

Community housing provider, Social Futures, has written in support. They are in partnership with the landowner for the project. All 26 rooms are proposed as seniors housing. The review is before Council.

A contrast with Kollektive DA

The Jubilee Avenue proposal stands in contrast to a separate DA currently on exhibition at 73 New City Road, where developer Kollektive is seeking approval for six dwellings on a flood-prone site - with only one designated as affordable housing - see page 8. The Jubilee Avenue site sits above the Flood Planning Level, complies with all relevant planning controls and seeks no variations.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 41 #02 • June 24, 2026

No man is an island

What is it with billionaires and islands? Donald Trump wants to resurrect the notorious prison island of Alcatraz to house 'America's most ruthless and violent offenders'. Perhaps subconsciously he is preparing his future island residence. The sordid Epstein network is divided into those who did and did not travel to Epstein Island where, undoubtedly, heinous crimes occurred.

It's as if they think by acting out the darkest parts of their psyche on an outcrop of land surrounded by water they will be absolved of their sins. What happens on the island stays on the island. But no man is an island. Thank you, John Donne.

Now Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump want Albania's Sazen Island and protected Vjosa-Narta coastal wetlands for a multibillion-dollar luxury development. Sazen Island is a highly ecologically sensitive wetland, home to rare Mediterranean monk seals, sea turtles, and flamingos.

In what's being called the 'flamingo revolution', hundreds of thousands of caring Albanians have been rallying in the streets for weeks to protest the corrupt and fraudulent processes surrounding the development. Albania's prime minister is staunchly defending it, stating it's 'the largest investment in the country's history'.

When you're mainlining money, the will of the people and nature are clearly disposable.

On our shores at the recent 'National Bush Summit' in Townsville, Australia's richest billionaire, Gina Rinehart, proposed that islands off Queensland's coast, gateway to the world heritage Great Barrier Reef, be given to Elon Musk, the world's first n n g and dying warming ocean.

It's no coincidence the Hancock Prospecting-funded summit took place in tropical Townsville and had naught to do with the 'bush'. Townsville is known as the 'fortress city' because it's a military hub housing major Australian Defence Force capability.

Rinehart's vision is to re-invigorate the region by giving free



Gina Rinehart, proposed that islands off Queensland's coast, gateway to the world heritage Great Barrier Reef, be given to Elon Musk.

– Jo Immig

land to Israeli military weapons manufacturing corporations so they can build advanced war drones to sell back to us.

Incidentally, while Rinehart was droning on, a new study from Hebrew University found 15 per cent of drinking water wells and 70 per cent of water sources used for agriculture in Israel are now contaminated with PFAS 'forever chemicals'.

PFAS-laden dust from years of intense bombing of Gaza and Lebanon is blowing back across agricultural lands and local produce like potatoes are turning up with forever chemicals. Sadly, you reap what you sow.

At the end of her summit, Rinehart summoned Pauline Hanson to the stage with 'hurry hurry' like the angry blackboard from Mr Squiggle. She urged the audience to follow her childish 'grrrrrr' and 'brrrrroooooowrrrr' noises as an orange toy bulldozer was presented to Hanson.

The none too subtle idea is for Pauline to become Gina's 'orange bulldozer', a la Musk and his bejewelled chainsaw, to cut a swathe through government and anything preventing her from making more billions.

Money doesn't buy original ideas, but it can buy you the One Nation political party as a mouthpiece to launder the now familiar sounding extreme ideas of Autocracy Inc. sweeping the world.

Hanson used her first address to the National Press Club to air her 'monocultural' vision for Australia. By this she means total assimilation of immigrants, English as the only language, one rule of law and a rejection of multiculturalism and First Nations people.

A funny meme on socials shows a guy sorting through his piles

of exotic cookbooks to work out which ones would be banned under monoculturalism. He ends up with a 1968 edition of a Margaret Fulton and a CWA cookbook. Meat and three veg restaurants only folks. And it's eggplant, not aubergine. Speak English!

Even a basic grasp of biology shows how monocultures quickly fail. They succumb to disease and degradation because strength is built on diversity and interconnectedness, not sameness and isolation. It's just how nature works.

While there is significant voter dissatisfaction with major parties, much of Pauline Hanson's One Nation's (PHON) meteoric rise is being whipped up by AI-generated Facebook bots targeting Australians with pro-Hanson content.

According to Alex Fein in an opinion piece in *The Point*, it's time to call it what it is: foreign interference in elections.

She says: 'This transnational project seeks to neuter government in order to prevent fair taxation and any regulation that would interfere with wealth accumulation. And its principals have been open about wanting franchises everywhere.'

Strap in. It seems Australia has been plugged into this enterprise via PHON.

Unlike billionaires with their dark island fantasies, the rest of us must strive to become what author Margaret Wheatley describes as 'islands of sanity' and dedicate ourselves to restoring the threads of humanity that make the human spirit what it is – generosity, kindness, and creativity.

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

Could you be a better councillor?

I had the opportunity to speak to the NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA) last month. One of the matters I brought up was the proposed 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby development. It was clear that the only 'community feedback' they would be listening to supported housing development on that site.

They recognised the community had identified significant issues and failures with the Landcom development application (DA). They would 'address' the fact that a key sewer line on the site had been overlooked. They might consider 'bulk and scale', and that closing rear access behind local shops would destroy their businesses – they would look at ways to improve the development. But they would not look at the core issue of 'do the community want this site developed for housing?'

Neither Byron Shire Council (BSC), nor NSW RA, have any intention of listening to the 97 per cent of community feedback that wants the carpark to remain at that site and do not want it developed as housing. The councillors, all elected saying that we need more housing, will not change their minds.

While it's a given that we 'need more cheap housing' there is a heightened level of debate in the community about how we best support people who need access to housing. For poor people, it can never be cheap enough, but the region also attracts people who want high-quality, innovative, sustainable, and expensive housing.

The two retirement living proposals, next to the Beach Hotel and on Butler Street, won't support high-care needs to end of life. For that people will need to move to a nursing home. As the NNSW Nurses and Midwives Union have pointed out in a letter on page 13, there are not enough places for people to move to locally if they require that level of support as they age.

Locals are frustrated, because the old Mullumbimby Hospital site that they have been proposing for affordable housing, social housing, and

retirement housing would link into the adjacent Coolamon aged care facility.

Yes, it's a positive that BSC is signing an memorandum of understanding (MOU) (page 11) to develop the hospital site, and other sites around the Shire (including 57 Station Street) for housing, but how does the community get BSC and NSW RA to listen. Listen not to just what they want to listen to but to community concerns and suggestions over where they want housing, carparks, and green spaces (that's right we shouldn't just turn every green space into housing and carparks)?

Can the community be trusted to make a good decision, or will the loudest local voices just oppose high-density housing whenever it's proposed next to them? Does BSC and NSW RA really have to just ignore community views and 'get it done'? That seems to be the attitude.

The community doesn't need 'Greens' at the next Council elections, nor 'independent' councillors like the current group, nor 'Labor' people – but people across the Shire who are willing to stand up and have a nuanced conversation about what the community needs, and how the community wants their spaces developed. It needs people willing to get involved, and in two years run on a clear platform for making a difference at a local level for their community.

It is no easy job, there will always be criticism, tough decisions, fraught relationships, endless bureaucratic Council agendas to read and disagreements between Council staff's suggestions and community wishes. Shaping the community you want is what brought the alternatives out of the hills and into action with the local political group United Shire in the 1980s. The question is, who is willing today to take action in this local community to drive the conversation forward in a way that ensures we have the future community that people still want to be part of?

Aslan Shand, editor



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1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Mullum water supply, a new twist

Debates on the future of Mullumbimby's water supply took a new twist at Council's meeting on 18 June.

The latest consultant's report clearly shows that Lavertys Gap Weir can supply Mullum's water demand at least 85 per cent of the time, accounting for both droughts and floods, and for future climate change.

Indeed, study of Wilsons Creek flow at the weir demonstrates that, over the past ten years, there was adequate water on 98 per cent of days, and since October 2021, there have been no days with a creek flow less than Mullum's demand.

A majority of councillors therefore voted for a further investigation (of costs and environmental and social impacts) into the 'hybrid' scheme in which the whole of Mullum would be supplied by Lavertys Gap Weir, reliably, for 85 per cent of the time.

A new replacement water treatment plant would be needed, close to the weir, to feed the town by gravity.

Whenever this supply is inadequate, it would be supplemented by the new emergency pipeline from Rous, which was completed last year.

The debate about Mullum's water has ebbed and flowed over the past six years. This latest step suggests another welcome way forward in which the local, 100-year-old source can continue to make a major, cost-effective contribution to Byron Shire's water needs, possibly for another century.

Ben Fawcett
Wilsons Creek

Aged care

The Byron Central Hospital (BCH) branch of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) would like to express our grave concerns regarding the delineation of plans by developer D. D. Resort Living in the article, 'Are retirement villages what Byron Bay needs?' (*Echo* page 1, 17 June).

While the branch recognises that housing options for older Australian are important, we believe that this development will have a detrimental effect on the



'Pauline says she represents "everyday Aussies" who are career politicians getting gifted a plane from a billionaire' – *The Chaser*. Image Alain Raymond

fabric of the Byron Bay community, adding an additional cohort of older people to an already fragile aged care environment in a small country town, and added pressure to health services already under immense strain. Currently, there are not enough residential aged care facility (RACF) beds in the Byron Shire, let alone throughout Australia. To this end, the Northern NSW Local Health District (LHD) has recently opened 20 Care Awaiting Placement beds at Byron Central Hospital for people in the LHD awaiting RACF accommodation or care packages.

To approve this development, when the developer clearly states that there is no intention to supply a transition to residential aged care on site, would be, at the least, misguided and will potentially place far greater stressors on already overstretched acute and aged care services in the Byron Shire. Without corresponding investment in RAFC infrastructure, developments targeting older residents risk increasing health service demands.

Planning decisions need to have commensurate consideration of these issues.

Liz McCall, BCH NSWNMA branch president
Cherie Mincham, BCH NSWNMA branch secretary

NT Intervention

I refer to the NT Intervention article, *Echo* page 4, 17 June.

Recent events in the Northern Territory (NT)

would tend to indicate that the assessments, issues and conclusions identified by Mal Brough in 2007 were substantially accurate.

Likewise, the abandonment of quarantining welfare payments, to exclude alcohol and gambling, had the expected results of increasing domestic violence, drunkenness and gratuitous crime within the NT.

The recent situation, unfortunately exposed to the world, is totally unacceptable and Australia would be better placed listening to the voice of reason from Senator Price to bring some clarity and finality to the issues.

Tim Harrington
Lennox Head

Consultation lacking with rail trail

Byron Shire Council is pursuing an unfunded on-formation bike trail, risking significant ratepayer liability for ongoing maintenance, while disregarding advanced plans for a commuter rail service.

The mayor has repeatedly stated they have explored all options related to the Multi-Use Rail Corridor, but have never conferred with Northern Rivers Rail Ltd (NRRL), with Council blocking attempts to utilise the corridor for broader community transit, with their singular focus on tourism-driven bicycle infrastructure.

No community consultation has been done by either Byron or Lismore councils to ascertain whether a single bike path is preferred by their constituents over a combination of a regular rail service and a recreational bike/walking path together.

They have not supported the findings of the Byron Shire Council-commissioned \$230,000 Arcadis Report from 2019 that stated the best outcome financially is to have both rail and trail.

An independent survey, just completed by ex-Byron Shire councillor, Cate Coorey, has found virtually the same outcomes (84 per cent) as our NRRL survey, which found that 85 per cent of those surveyed want the return of train services to our region.

NRRL and Northern Regional Railway Company (NRRC), are very advanced at obtaining a licence for the 72 km of rail corridor between Lismore and the border of Byron and Tweed shires. We are at a point of seeking investments and grants to extend the environmentally-friendly train service from the current 3km journey of the world's first Byron Solar Train.

We strongly suggest that councillors have a duty to represent the collective interests of all residents, and that they are breaching Section 232 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* by supporting just a single-issue 'rail trail' advocacy group.

Despite the recent rejection of their \$42 million grant application, councillors continue to push forward with a standalone 'Rail Trail Masterplan' rather than a balanced transport exploration strategy. The railway project will provide many jobs and much greater economic and environmental benefits for the region.

Lydia Kindred
NRRL director/secretary

Booyong Abattoir I

We strongly believe that the disturbing Booyong Abattoir is a blight on Byron Shire.

The health and wellbeing of the local Booyong community should be paramount.

The abattoir is clearly not sustainable: not environmentally, culturally nor ethically.

The vibrant Booyong community with many precious and unique attributes includes the beautiful Booyong Nature Reserve, an irreplaceable remnant of the Big Scrub rainforest. This is an ecologically sensitive place and waterway, a mere 600 metres from the abattoir.

Unbelievable. Shocking. It is totally unacceptable that the local Booyong community and Byron Shire suffer the deeply unhealthy menace and terrible noise of triple-decker large transport trucks, with screaming and distressed pigs, barrelling down from SE Queensland – every day and every night for 365 days per year. The abattoir kills more than 260,000 pigs per year.

We cannot imagine what living adjacent to this facility would be like.

► Continued on page 14

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Letters to the Editor

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

► **Continued from page 13**
As long-time Byron residents, we witnessed the horror and painful lived experience that the abattoir operation imposes on residents, who are bearing the burden of this animal factory.

The current Booyong Abattoir DA requests Council approve expanding its operation, truck movements and killing capacity. The abattoir must be shut down rather than expanded.

Professor Baden Offord AO, Christopher Macfarlane and John Ryan
North Fremantle, WA

Booyong Abattoir II
The ongoing discussion surrounding the Booyong Abattoir is about more than a single DA application.

It raises broader questions about how regional communities balance industry, infrastructure, animal welfare, and residents' quality of life. Thousands of pigs are transported to the facility each week, with heavy vehicle movements occurring day and night on small local roads. Residents have raised concerns around noise, odour, road damage, and increasing industrial intensity in what has historically been a quiet rural area.

There is also an important

welfare conversation that deserves more public awareness. Many pigs travel hours in extreme heat and stressful conditions before reaching processing facilities, and sadly some do not survive the journey.

Late last year I began 'Pedal for Pigs', cycling to raise awareness around long-distance livestock transport and asking a simple question: how can we do this better for animals, farmers, workers, and communities alike?

This is not about attacking farming or regional jobs. It is about encouraging transparency, accountability, and better long-term planning as these industries continue to grow.

Sean Houlahan
Houlahan Farm,
Booyong

Retiring on HEV
The Echo article on 17 June regarding the Oasis 'retirement lifestyle' development – with sites on Butler St and Bay St – raises the issue of the abuse of the Housing SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policy).

The SEPP provides important planning concessions to encourage the delivery of genuine seniors housing that meets an identified



Cartoon by Raoul

community need. Those concessions can include increased density and floor space, more flexible setbacks, modified height and design controls, reduced parking requirements and a streamlined planning pathway.

These provisions should not be used to facilitate a high-density luxury lifestyle development on environmentally constrained land.

Almost the whole site is mapped as High Environmental Value (HEV) vegetation and it is surrounded by koala habitat.

The Oasis development seeks to inflict an inappropriate development on one of the most environmentally constrained sites in Byron Bay – it is in a flood zone

and Belongil Creek flows through it.

The site is currently the Glen Villa Caravan Park, which has around 35 small cabins on it, and some camping sites.

Putting 198 apartments on the site is overkill – particularly of the environment.

There is a significant disconnect between the project's ecological narrative and its actual physical footprint and engineering requirements.

The Butler Street proposal is heavily branding itself as a 'forest ecosystem' and 'living with nature', yet the development involves an extensive excavation into Class 2 Acid Sulfate soils to create a very large basement car park with 485 parking spaces on site.

The traffic impacts associated with that and the urban intensification adjacent to a sensitive wetland system cannot be allowed.

Another concern is the Bay Street component of this development, which appears to be a vague 'lifestyle' adjunct to the Butler Street housing project but the planning relationship between them is not clear.

What is to prevent this part of the development – some kind of wellness centre with a rooftop bar – from being converted in the future into a standalone commercial hospitality or entertainment venue?

These two sites – 500 metres apart – should not be treated as one development. They are different beasts.

I urge you to take a close look at this 'eco-lifestyle' development and express your concerns to Council.

Cate Coorey
[Former councillor]
Byron Bay

Oil supplies
They're playing with our lives when they're making wars in the Middle East.

After Trump's so-called peace announcement, there was no immediate resumption in oil tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

On the contrary, it will take months to clear the

mines from the strait, months to repressurise oil fields and months to conduct repairs to the damaged refineries, before gradually restarting them, then the long transport times.

The shortfalls in oil supply have been made up by taking from America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which is rapidly diminishing. The I.E.A. target of September for 'minimum operational storage levels' is rapidly approaching.

Although you may be concerned about the genocide taking place in the Middle East, that doesn't actually affect us, but stopping the oil supply will affect us.

As for the fertiliser supply, that's a very low priority for resumption and remember, global food production is proportional to global fertiliser supply and one third of the world's urea has been removed.

The peace deal will not avert the crisis coming later this year. And what exactly was gained from all this: US gas exports increased.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

Iran: honest, sincere

When Israel and the US launched their illegal, unprovoked aggression against Iran at the end of February, they unintentionally handed the Islamic Republic an unprecedented opportunity of extraordinary proportions. Nowhere in the annals of history has an asymmetric conflict resulted in such a stark outcome so suddenly and so decisively.

The contrast between the US/Israeli approach of brute force and the Iranian strategy of patience could not be more explicit, the Iranian side enjoys all the advantages the other side lacks, from honesty, sincerity and integrity to dignity, humility and humanity, from courage, diligence and resilience to foresight, empathy and wisdom.

In an interview with journalist Max Blumenthal, an Iranian official explained how their disavowal of nuclear weapons was not just moral, ethical and religious, it was also strategic.

He pointed out that Iran possessed something more powerful than a nuclear weapon, namely the Strait of Hormuz, the jugular vein for the lifeblood of the global economy.

By attacking Iran, the US and Israel actualised the potential power of Iran's inherent geography, it played directly into Iran's greatest strength and exposed the West's greatest weakness, namely its dependence on

Saudi Arabian and Persian Gulf oil and gas.

The victors of any war write the terms of settlement and it's obvious that Iran wrote the terms of the MoU signed by Trump, because every one of the 14 points benefits Iran and not one of those points benefits Israel or the United States.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Sustainable infrastructure

I attended the last Byron Council meeting – thanks to the community members who were able to come.

The frustration is apparent. Legislation protects the communities affected by poor governance.

Unfortunately, we continue to have lack of functioning infrastructure with community continuing to be affected [by more development]. Council are required by law to have in place the necessary infrastructure prior to development.

General manager Mark Arnold and senior staff member Phil Holloway have been asked to provide answers to why this has been allowed to happen, while continuing to pass DAs.

I asked why this legislation and facts have not been provided to L&A courts.

What we have is unacceptable. Bayside and the rest of the Shire have been inundated with complaints about infrastructure lack of maintenance (for decades).

I reminded our elected officials that when we come to chambers, we are asking them and alerting them of their obligations to serve our community.

The new policy of streamlining development certainly holds to legislation.

When emailing the Office for Local Government, I will be alerting them to the huge lack of funding, leading to the unsustainable situation facing Byron Shire.

There definitely has to be an independent audit, as Byron Shire Council's budget is confusing, and not meant for us to follow clearly.

Why are we complaining about sewage overflows and the lack of maintaining the infrastructure necessary for our communities?

The need for a moratorium on any development is to protect what we have left until we can afford to build suitable and sustainable infrastructure.

Annie Radermacher
Brunswick Heads

► **More letters online:**
www.echo.net.au/letters

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dear community members

We have prepared a draft concept for the redevelopment of four consolidated sites across 148–158 Jonson Street in Byron Bay. The land, which incorporates the old Mitre 10 and Wicked Weasel premises, has an area of 12,673m².

The draft proposal is for a masterplanned residential community with a commercial village "within the village" servicing everyday needs at ground level to the north and nature/recreation uses to the south. The intention is to address our housing crisis in a meaningful way while minimising impacts to immediate neighbours, nearby residents and businesses and all who access the Byron town centre.

The proposal has been declared State Significant by the Minister for Planning in response to advice from the NSW Housing Delivery Authority that the proposal will contribute to well located housing supply and deliver affordable housing.

We will be discussing the draft scheme and seeking feedback until 7th July. To find out more, including how you can book to attend a webinar or community engagement session, please visit our website. Bookings are not required for drop in sessions at the Byron Services Club:
11:00am – 1:00pm 30 June and 5:00 – 7:00pm 1st July

We welcome you to call or email and thank you for engaging directly with us.
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Fresh ink: new releases making their festival debut

This year's Byron Writers Festival is a first-look destination, with several of Australia's most anticipated new books arriving at the festival before the ink has barely dried. From forensic political analysis to fiction that quietly breaks your heart, this is a program for readers who want to be first.



Richard Flanagan, the only author ever to have won both the Booker Prize and the Baillie Gifford Prize, brings *Heresies*, a dazzling collection of essays, articles and speeches spanning 20 years. From Manus to MONA, from the destruction of the natural world to the hope offered by Indigenous Australia, from Salman Rushdie to the Segal Report, Flanagan's non-fiction carries his trademark elegance, subversive wit and humanity. A showcase of heretical

brilliance that speaks directly to our times. **Meg Mason** returns to Byron Writers Festival with *Sophie, Standing There*, her follow-up to *Sorrow and Bliss*, the novel that became a global phenomenon and found its way into the hands of readers who don't usually describe themselves as fiction lovers. Tender, darkly funny and unexpectedly consoling, the new book explores heartbreak, isolation and the unlikely salvation that books can offer.

George Megalogenis, one of Australia's most respected political journalists and authors, brings *Three Shocks*, his rigorous account of the demographic, gender and geopolitical forces that have quietly but fundamentally reshaped Australian politics. A writer who has long traced the deep currents beneath the political surface, Megalogenis makes sense of a country in transition, and asks what comes next.

Amy Remeikis, political journalist and one of the sharpest voices in Australian public life, delivers *Screw Nice*, a pointed dismantling of the politics of civility. The book argues that demands for politeness are wielded as a weapon against those who can least afford to stay quiet and makes the case for why it's time to stop playing by rules designed to silence.

• Full program and tickets available at www.byronwritersfestival.com.

The ghosts of generations

China's ghost cities inspired **Siang Lu**'s new novel, which won the Miles Franklin Award in 2025 and Lu became the first male Asian writer to receive the \$60,000 prize.

"They captured my imagination because of how eerie they were. They looked like real cities, with the paradox of fully functioning infrastructure – electricity, water, and traffic lights – but no people," Lu said.

"Why build a city without people? They seemed like modern ruins, which I had always considered an ancient phenomenon. That was the starting point."

Like his protagonist, Lu is a first-generation migrant from a Malaysian Chinese family who grew up in Australia without speaking Chinese. The origins of the book are rooted in the generations before him.

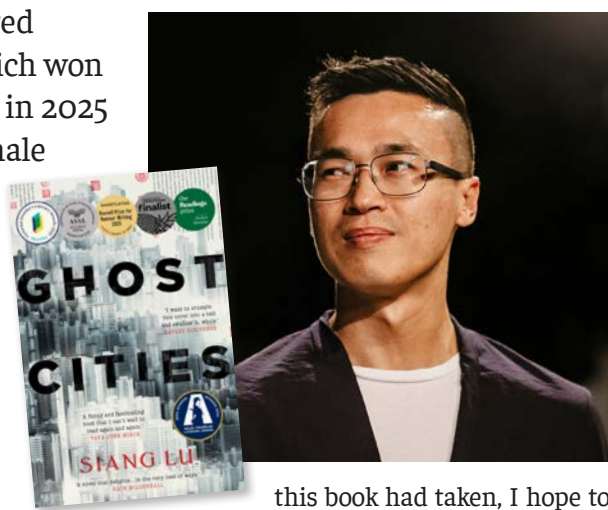
"My dad studied veterinary science at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. Although he came from a poor family, he received a full scholarship and always planned for us to migrate, which we did when I was four," Lu said.

"I really admire him. Eventually, I realised how much he sacrificed to give us what he never had, including pursuing a career he was not passionate about."

Ghost Cities is Lu's second published work, but the first book he wrote.

"There is a contradiction in celebrating a book that initially failed, as if it were entirely new. It feels both untrue and genuine at the same time," Lu said.

"The weight was finally off my shoulders after having won, and with the long path



this book had taken, I hope to give inspiration and power back to writers. "You move forward on faith that someone will read and connect with your work, but there are no guarantees. I shelved this book for almost a decade, so having people read it and see themselves reflected in its pages, regardless of their background, has been the greatest gift of my life."

Lu acknowledges that much of his life is present in the book, though it is not autobiographical. He believes writers inevitably include parts of themselves in their work, which brings it to life.

"My mum and dad were neighbours, which is how their romance began. I am now the father of two, and we recently visited their village in Malaysia," he said.

"On my dad's side, there is only jungle; no trace remains of the family home. This made me both sad and somewhat proud.

"I remember turning to my dad and my children and saying, 'This is why I wrote *Ghost Cities*: to guard against erasure and to preserve our family history in the book.'

"Those characters, feelings, and stories are present. Writing the book was a way to ensure that the stories of my parents and previous generations endure."

Explore the new Byron Writers Festival precinct

The 2026 Festival takes over the Byron Bay township from 14–16 August, with ideas, stories and conversation unfolding across some of the region's most iconic locations.

Festival Hub and Marketplace, Railway Park

The Hub is home to the Box Office where passholders can pick up wristbands to access festival venues, from 8am. Artisan markets will run all weekend, with free live music daily from 11am.

Jonson Street Stage (old Woolworths car park)

The festival's main stage where you'll see headline sessions like the Thea Astley Address with Kerry O'Brien in conversation with Richard Flanagan, and ABC Radio National's Top 100 Australian Books.

Beach Hotel

An eclectic mix of sessions starting with Coffee & News from 8am, as well as Whale Stories with First Nations storytellers, and crime fiction.

Byron Bay Surf Club

Waterfront sessions on surfing, Blak joy and humour, and much-loved novelists Siang Lu and *Offspring* writer Debra Oswald.

Byron Theatre & Wategos Room, Byron Community Centre

The literary heart of the festival, where international heavyweights including Booker Prize-winner Geetanjali Shree take the stage.

Haven Gallery

Intimate, in-depth conversations including Osher Günsberg on mental health and public life, and Marika Sosnowski on law, violence and revolution.

Bay Street Stage

Free programming all weekend, including special events such as the inaugural Rhoda Roberts Oration and the Sunday Kids Program. Stop by the ticket desk to pick up your wristbands to access passholder venues.

• Book Byron Writers Festival tickets now at www.byronwritersfestival.com.

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A Byron kickback with the Gimelli family

Story & photo by Taylor & Emiliano

The Gimelli family ran a small Italian restaurant on Jonson Street from about 1995 into the early 2000s.

It was a classy joint, ahead of Byron's culinary curve, serving dishes from every corner of Italy.

The walls were covered in maps and photos of their Mediterranean island – enough to make you hungry before the food even arrived.

Tuscan charm

Lella ran the kitchen, and Franco worked the floor, famously knocking guests off balance with his winking Tuscan charm.

The Gimellis had two beautiful, sun-bronzed kids, Francesco and Carla.

When they landed in Byron Bay, they didn't speak a word of English.

They planted a big garden at their Ewingsdale home



Franco and Lella Gimelli.

and enrolled the kids at Coorabell Primary, where they quickly made friends across the Northern Rivers.

Lella laughs about how bad the coffee was back then, but says the town was spirited and colorful – full of wild

characters, belly dancers, world-class music, and real community generosity.

They came for a holiday, fell in love, and stayed 20 years.

Before leaving Australia, they went on to open four

more restaurants called 'Relish the Experience', winning awards and rave reviews from coast to coast.

Lella and Franco have since stepped away from the roaring restaurant life and settled back on their beautiful home island of Elba.

Seaside homestead

Their seaside homestead is one of the oldest on the island.

While caring for Lella's 94-year-old mother, they still tend gardens full of Australian plants and cook up octopus salad, deep-sea tuna steaks, marinated anchovies, citrus-bright spring pastas, and pour glasses of sweet vino Aleatico.

They watch endless salty sunsets over the balmy Mediterranean bay – never without a satisfied wink to their other Pacific dream bay down under.

■ Taylor & Emiliano are from the Byron Bay Italo Club.

Hemp industry given government boost

Hans Lovejoy

A *Hemp Industry Development Plan* has been announced by the NSW government, which promises 'to unlock new opportunities for NSW businesses and add value to the state's low-THC hemp industry'.

Along with bamboo, hemp is known as among the fastest growing plants on Earth, and was also one of the first plants to be spun into usable fibre 50,000 years ago. Its uses span medicine, food, rope, pottery, fuel, paper, textiles and building.

Hemp use was perhaps at its height during the 17th century, yet declined sharply by the 19th century owing to laws banning its use.

According to www.ausprimaryhemp.com.au, hemp was made illegal in Australia in the late 1930s, owing to fear campaigns, led in part by the US. Lawmakers at the time failed to distinguish low-THC industrial hemp from its psychoactive cousin, marijuana. Additionally, hemp was considered a threat to well-resourced companies which produced synthetic products.

The NSW Labor government say the plan outlines a 'roadmap for industry growth through targeted research and development, stronger supply chains, market expansion and a supportive policy and regulatory framework'.

They say they want to

attract private investment and support 'Aboriginal businesses to participate in the industry'. The government says they will also improve the NSW hemp licensing system and review legislation to make it easier for the industry to operate and grow.

Other measures to improve the sector include 'strengthening research partnerships and providing hemp businesses with better information and advice on growing, production, biosecurity, and business development'.

Creating a more consistent approach to hemp regulation across Australia will also be achieved by working with other states and the federal government, they say.

'Developed in consultation with industry stakeholders, the plan sets a vision for hemp to become a mainstream crop of the future, creating new opportunities for farmers, manufacturers

and regional communities across NSW'.

In its media release, the government spruiked the many uses of hemp including 'oils, food ingredients, protein powder and cosmetics'.

'Globally, it is estimated that hemp is used in more than 25,000 products spanning nine sub-markets, including agriculture, building materials and textiles.

'Collaboration between industry, stakeholders and government will be critical to delivering the plan with the NSW Hemp Industry Taskforce reinstated to monitor the progress of the plan's delivery.

'The plan focuses on areas where government, industry and stakeholders can collaborate to address local needs and position the NSW industrial hemp industry to capitalise on the potential global and domestic growth of this emerging industry', the government says.



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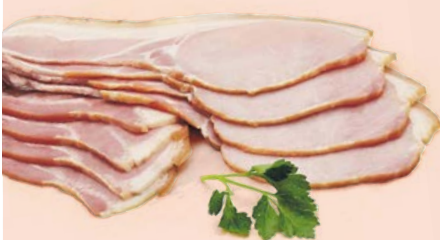
Cauliflower



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NSW Golf Croquet State Championships to be hosted in the Northern Rivers

Ballina Cherry Street, Byron Bay, and Lismore croquet clubs region will once again host the 2026 NSW Golf Croquet Advantage Doubles and Advantage Singles State Championships that will be held from 8 to 12 July, 2026.

This will mark the sixth consecutive year that NSW state croquet events have been conducted in the region.

Registration open

This year's tournaments feature the return of handicapped Golf Croquet Doubles and Singles competitions played under the recently introduced Advantage Target Score format. Strong interest has already been received, with 15 pairs entered in the Doubles Championship and 28 players registered for the Singles Championship, including many competitors participating in both events.

The three Northern Rivers clubs have again combined their resources and volunteers to deliver a high-quality championship experience. Planning is well advanced to ensure competitors and visitors enjoy both the events, and the many attractions the region has to offer.

The championships are expected to attract approximately 40 visiting players and supporters, many of whom will stay in the region for five to six nights. The event will provide a welcome boost



Ballina Cherry Street croquet locals Christine Edland and Helen Young are entered in the event. Photo supplied

to local accommodation providers, restaurants, cafes, retailers and tourism operators during the winter holiday period.

Play and adventure

While many NSW state croquet events are traditionally held in the Sydney and Newcastle regions, the Northern Rivers championships provide local players with the opportunity to compete at state level without the expense and inconvenience of extensive travel and accommodation costs.

The event is also attracting players from outside the region who are looking forward to combining championship competition with a holiday in one of Australia's premier coastal destinations. Competitors regularly comment on the quality of the region's sporting facilities, hospitality and

natural attractions, making the Northern Rivers one of the most popular destinations on the NSW croquet calendar.

Enrol now

Golf Croquet is one of Australia's fastest-growing sports and welcomes participants of all ages and abilities. Players of all handicaps are encouraged to enter and experience competitive croquet in a friendly and supportive environment.

Entries close on Friday, 26 June 2026.

The organising committee welcomes enquiries from individuals and businesses interested in supporting the championships through sponsorship and promotion opportunities.

For more information contact Tournament Manager David Scott, 0414 241 290 or email: pamajad@bipond.net.au.

Byron's Winter Whales raise \$43,000

The Byron Bay Winter Whales (BBWW) took to the ocean for the 39th time this year on the first Sunday of May and raised \$43,000 for local organisations and charities.

'The swim is one of the most famous ocean swims in Australia and its organisation highlights the strong community spirit within Byron Bay,' Tim Tetly, secretary of the BBWW, told *The Echo*.

Some of the recipients from the 2026 BBWW swim included: Byron Bay Surf Club, Liberation Larder, Marine Rescue Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads, Northern Rivers Rescue Helicopter, Byron Bay Rural Fire Brigade, 1st Byron Bay Scouts, Byron Youth Service, Byron District Sports Foundation, Byron Bay Herb Nursery, The SHIFT



Byron Bay Winter Whales athletic pod in their Okanui on 21 June. Photo Sarah Ndiaye

Project and NR Prostate Day and Night support groups.

'Our motto is "We swim for charity" and so far \$1.2m has been distributed. The BBWW thanks everyone involved, including major sponsors Byron Bay Property Sales (in their 15th year),

Byron Bay Chocolate Company, Byron Bay Bowling Club and others, supporters, swimmers and volunteers on the day.

'Next year will be the 40th Byron Bay Ocean Swim Classic so start your training now!' Tim said.

Men's XV: Byron Shire Rebels vs Lismore

Hywel David

The Rebels Men's XV put in a dominant attacking display of rugby to see off Lismore 42-17, racking up six tries in a performance built on strong set pieces and clinical finishing.

Early strike

The Rebels struck early, Luc Lévesque storming through the Lismore line to open the scoring, with Valpy adding the conversion. Possession swung back and forth around the halfway mark before Lismore worked their way into Rebels territory, grinding out a try through a series of pick and goes which they converted, before adding a penalty to edge ahead 10-7.

Another stretch of contested possession in the Lismore half ended with Giovanni Magi crossing the line, converted again by Valpy, to push the Rebels back in front 10-14. The Rebels had

a promising attack deep in Lismore territory as the half wound down but couldn't convert it into points before the break, with the score holding at 10-14.

Rebels run rampant

The second half saw both sides trade momentum early, before the Rebels took control. A booming 50-22 kick from Valpy won the Rebels significant territory and set up a dominant scrum on the Lismore line, from which number 8 Manu Perez picked and scored under the posts. Valpy converted to make it 10-21.

Lismore strung together a series of penalties to camp the Rebels in their own 22, but scrum half Luke Cleaver produced a moment of individual brilliance, dummifying the pass to the backline before slicing through the Lismore defence himself for a try. Valpy's conversion made it 10-28.

Valpy was at it again

soon after, nailing another 50-22 under pressure from the Lismore defence, and the resulting attack ended with Jamie Gosling scoring out wide. Valpy converted to extend the lead to 10-35. Lismore hit back, forcing their way through the Rebels' 22 and over the line, converting to make it 17-35.

With the game in the closing stages, the Rebels won a scrum deep in Lismore's 22 and the forward pack drove hard towards the tryline, allowing Manu to pick and score his second try of the match. Valpy added the extras to complete the scoring, 17-42.

Result

Full time: Rebels 42, Lismore 17 - a comprehensive win built on a strong forward platform and reliable goal-kicking from Valpy throughout. Man of the match went to 'Big' Will Aisake for his powerful runs and his impact on the dominance of the pack.

Send us your sport stories!

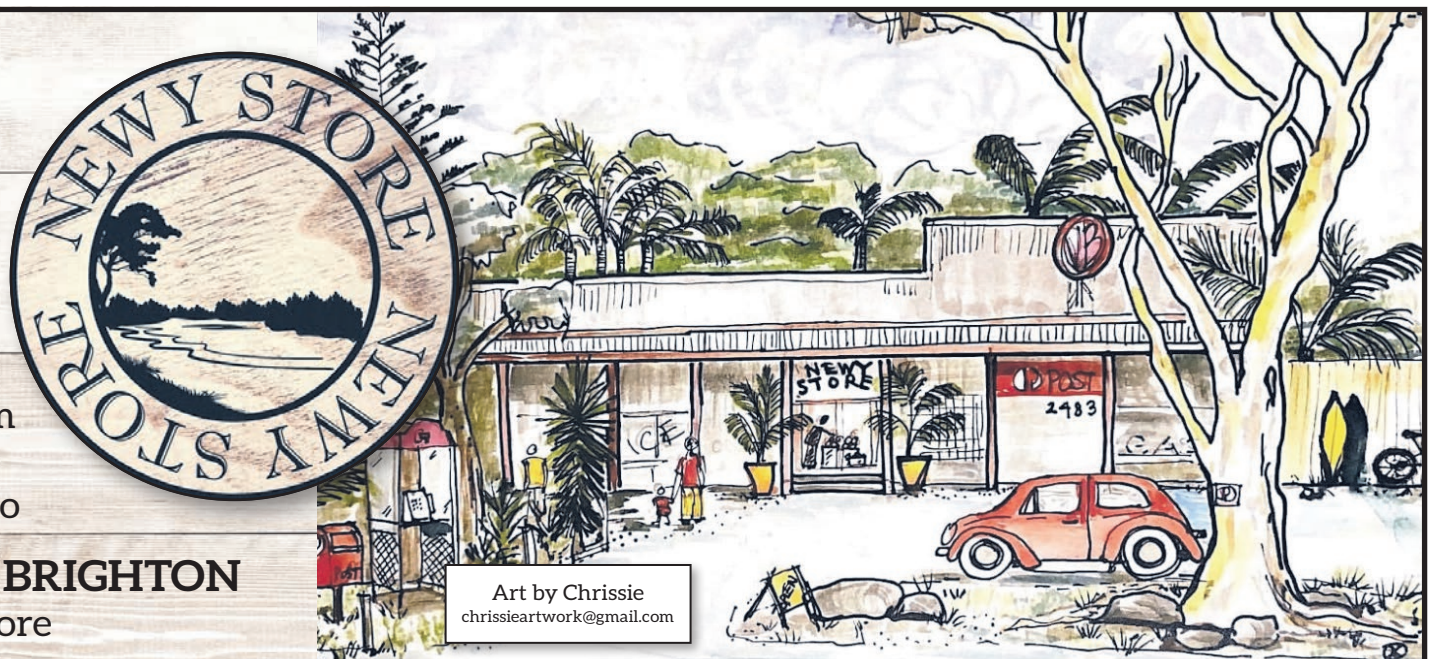
We would love to run all kinds of local sport on these pages so please send your photos and stories to sport@echo.net.au.

Newy Store

OPEN 7:30am - 6:00pm
7 DAYS A WEEK

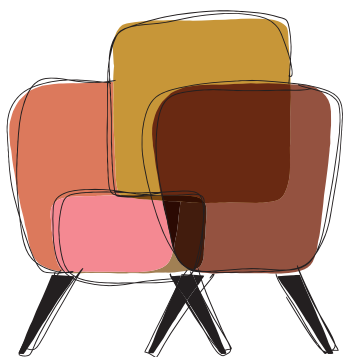
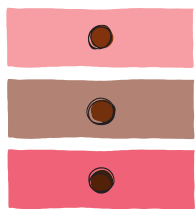
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Art by Chrissie
chrissieartwork@gmail.com

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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.

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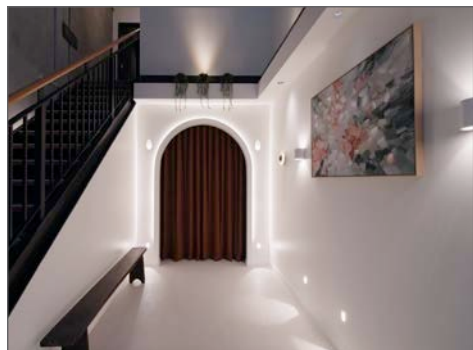


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Whether you're building a home, apartment development, or commercial space, LA Lounge helps bring your vision to life with expert advice and innovative design.

Visit their gallery online or book an appointment at our Burleigh Heads showroom to discover how exceptional lighting can transform your project.



www.lalounge.com.au
jason@lalounge.com.au

Winter – time to garden!

Here in the Northern Rivers, winter is the best time for gardening. The days are (mostly) warm enough for growing to continue. Trees and shrubs planted in winter will be well established before the summer heat, and that means less transplant stress and fewer pests and diseases. For gardeners, it means we can do the heavy work while the weather is cooler, rather than battling the summer heat.

In the vege garden, it's time for cool season crops like broccoli, cabbage, spinach, peas and potatoes.

Shorter days mean we spend more time inside, it's also a great time to refresh indoor plants. The first of the Cymbidium orchids have arrived, and their stunning, long-lasting flowers will brighten up any home or office.



140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
@edenatbyron
www.edenatbyron.com.au
02 6685 6874



Swap a Bottle

As we move firmly into winter, the team at Swap a Bottle are ready to help keep your hot water hot and those gas heaters burning! Let the local family business help keep your family sorted in these chilly days and nights ahead!

Based in Murwillumbah, Swap a Bottle is a small family business that services from Tugun to Byron. With distributors north and south to help everyone stay warm and keep cooking!

If you're not happy with your current supplier then give Swap a Bottle a free call on 1300 727 013, drop them an email, or head straight to their webpage to book in your next gas cylinder!

Changing suppliers is easy and simple! Let your choice to support local make a difference to you and the community we all live in.

You are also welcome to bring in your BBQ bottles for refill as long as they are in date.



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Toby 0405 793 994
workingwindows1@gmail.com
workingwindows.com.au

Combat humidity and protect your home



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.



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Custom homes built for the Northern Rivers climate

Metsa builds custom homes across the Northern Rivers, with a focus on performance as much as looks.



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No foggy windows. No musty smell. Just fresh, filtered air and a home that feels good to live in, year-round.

It's quality building with long-term wellbeing in mind — mould-resistant construction, low-toxin materials, and a process built around getting it right the first time.

Curious how it works? Explore Metsa's Passive House guide on their website.

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Good Taste

Dining Guide

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

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nobones.co

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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

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www.echo.net.au/good-taste

The Good Life

Handcrafted delicious French pastries at Mullum Farmers Markets

Allie Godfrey

A taste of France has arrived at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market, with local pastry chef Dan introducing his handcrafted canelés to marketgoers each Friday.

After leaving school at 16 to pursue a career in pastry, Dan trained at a cooking school in London before working across France, Austria, Denmark and beyond. Now settled in the Northern Rivers for almost seven years, he has turned a long-held dream of running his own business into reality.

'I always wanted to have a business,' he says. 'I thought about selling traditional pastries like croissants, but I wanted to bring something different to the area.'

That difference comes in the form of canelés – a classic French pastry with a caramelised exterior and soft, custard-like centre. Dan describes the original version as 'a portable crème brûlée cake'. His canelés are made using rice flour, egg yolks, butter, vanilla, salt and milk sourced from Maleny Dairies, making them naturally gluten-free.

Alongside the traditional

canelé, Dan offers a range of creative flavours. Current favourites include lemon meringue, cardamom crème brûlée, and the distinctive hojicha sesame praline. From 1 July, a new seasonal menu will introduce flavours such as rhubarb crumble, blueberry cheesecake, and macadamia miso caramel, while a homegrown mandarin-inspired chocolate orange creation is also under consideration.

Since joining the market, Dan says he has enjoyed connecting with the local community.

'A lot of locals only come

to the Mullumbimby Farmers Market on Fridays, so I've met so many people here,' he says. 'Every week you become more integrated into the community.'

He says the welcoming atmosphere is one of the market's greatest strengths.

'It feels much more personable when you're talking to people. I really love it.'

Whether you're discovering canelés for the first time or returning for a favourite flavour, you can find Dan every Friday at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market from 7am to 11am at the Mullumbimby Showground.



These delicious handcrafted French pastries come in a range of flavours and are made with rice flour, so they're naturally gluten-free.

Local farming legend retires after 23 years Highwayman's Winter Whisky Feast

Thursday, 25 June marks the end of an era for local farmer Kenrick Riley who is retiring from Byron Farmers Market after 23 years.

Kenrick started at Byron Farmers Market in March 2003, only a matter of months after the first market, and in that time he has gathered a devoted following of customers and chefs alike.

The reason for Kenrick's popularity is clear: not only does he offer an amazing range of produce – including lots of weird and wonderful crops – but he also loves a good chat and is a wealth of information on how to cook and use his more unusual vegetables, herbs and spices.

'After we joined the market, we looked at the gaps,' Kenrick says. 'When others were selling silverbeet, we grew perennial spinach. If others had potatoes we sold garlic or jicama. After that, we just looked at anything that would grow in a subtropical climate – often Asian or Pacific foods – and slowly introduced them.'

'Later, we moved to mixed bunches of herbs, curry packs and stir-fries. We'd always grown edible flowers but gradually moved into dahlias and other house bunches. Often our customers would give us cuttings or seeds which led to



Farmer Kenrick Riley at Byron Farmers Market.

crops like collard greens, aibika and Chinese cucumbers.'

After growing up on a sheep station in Outback Queensland and working as a jackaroo, Kenrick left the bush to become an agricultural journalist and rural advisor to the Queensland Government. But the land lured him back, and in 1999 he set up a market garden, with wife Maree, in Georgica.

Since then, he and Maree have been nourishing the local community with freshly-harvested produce every Thursday morning. However, it's not just food they have been growing in that time, but also friendships. And it is this, Kenrick says, he will miss the most.

'While the market is an outlet for our business, it is also our social day out with a big bunch of customers (and farmers) who

have become great mates over many years,' he says.

'We have customers who've visited our stall every week for more than 20 years, so we've grown old together. And I've seen their babies, who grew up eating our food, now walking around as young healthy adults.'

Kenrick has contributed more to Byron Farmers Market than just great produce. He has also held the role of president and was responsible for developing the market's auditing system which ensures farmers are selling only what they grow – and gives customers confidence in the authenticity of the market. For this, the market will always be indebted.

So come say farewell to this local legend tomorrow morning. The next time you see Kenrick at the market, it will be as a fellow customer!

■ 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.

Highwayman's Dan Woolley has been working with whisky for over 20 years, and started to fill his own barrels here in Byron Bay over ten years ago.

He launched the brand in 2020, and the year after that he started the Winter Whisky Feast – now in its fifth year, bigger and better than ever!

The Winter Whisky Feast is a celebration of all things whisky and food – with this year seeing four sessions (one every two hours and each with 30 guests) starting at 12.30pm.

This epic event sells out every year with very good reason! You get a cocktail on arrival followed by a full in-depth tour through production, and a seated masterclass running through six whiskies – including two that have come straight from the barrel!

After that comes the feast of three meats and three sides, all put together by Alex Clark of 'Boozyfoodies' and a dessert by Baker & Daughters of Mullumbimby! Barrel-aged cocktails, barrel-aged hot sauce and barrel-aged whiskies – who could ask for more?



Dan Woolley and Louis

There's a great pop-up shop set up for this 'not to be missed' day but get in quick as tickets are selling fast and

please remember, don't feed Louis the Bluey – he's on a diet! For info and tickets see: www.highwayman-whisky.com.

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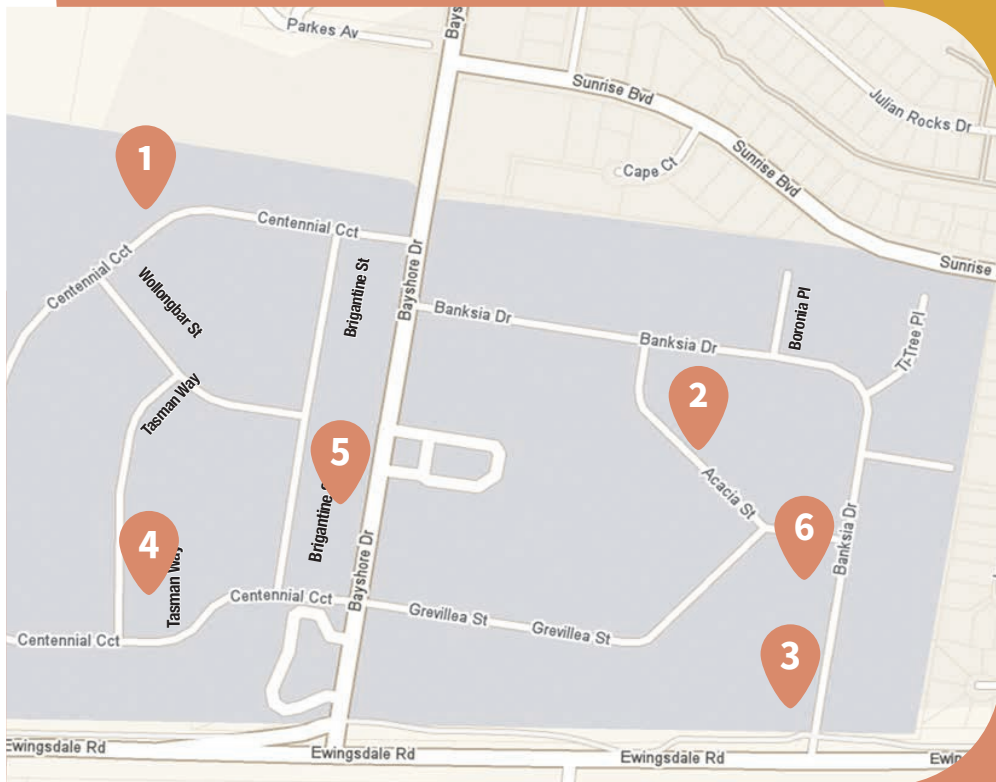
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5



2

1. 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
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3



1

2. 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: 0404 813 643
ourtimelessthreads.org
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4



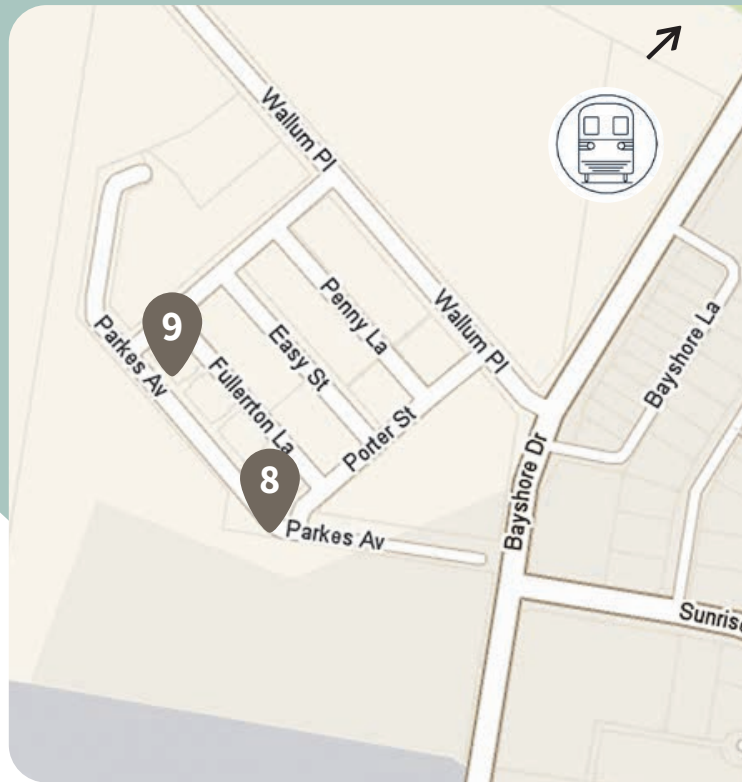
6

3. 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.

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Habitat Precinct



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.

4. 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



5. 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
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bisquetraders.com.au
@bisque

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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.

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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.

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5 Banksia Drive

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.

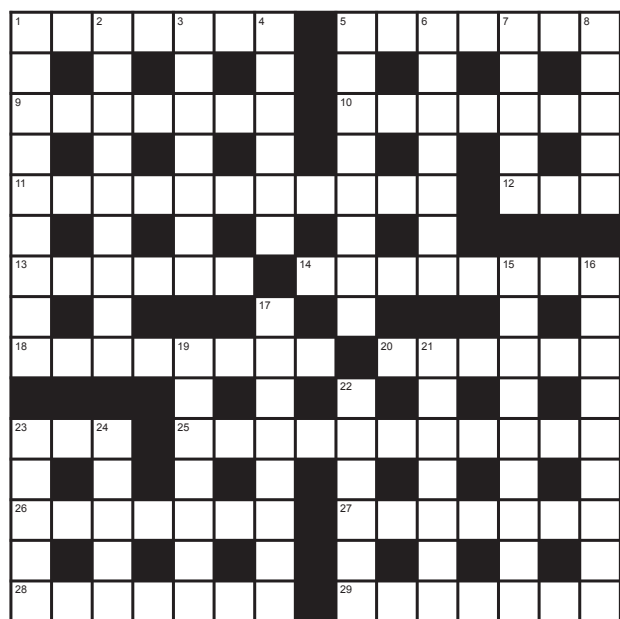
18 Parkes Avenue
02 6687 2774
byronfamilylaw.com.au

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
richardson-murray.law



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Arnhem Land spirit to lament imitation (7)
5. Appliance complimentary before final letter with the Queen (7)
9. Smashed parcel contained quiet bell tongue (7)
10. Wrinkled sound follows article in an astrologically significant position (7)
11. Realistic return for astronaut (4-2-5)
12. Original sin with old man, for example (3)
13. Ocean lay empty for the most part (6)
14. Example from ancients' evolution (8)
18. Equated a revision is enough (8)
20. Fawn in small wood had lovely start (6)
23. Pouch part of class act (3)
25. Lemon attendants create phone listings (6,5)
26. 500 muster around noisy kit (4,3)
27. Scurry to prepare cutlets (7)
28. Deformed abs in taco and hot sauce (7)
29. Rate system software for odometers (7)

DOWN

1. Aim back after computer plug reached a nut (9)
2. Greedy period is at the same time (9)
3. Corrupt Al Pacino dropped on the head absorbed wealth (7)
4. Told a story about shelter beam (7)
5. Diatribe after decline was without shame (8)
6. Designation from the pet I order (7)
7. So Zen to transform districts (5)
8. Brought back about first pupil (5)
15. Steered van back with driver's licence, perhaps, to hide barrier (9)
16. Listen and see manipulated soldiers joining (9)
17. Saint I allowed to spike (8)
19. July's opener dropping with disaster organisation is novel (7)
21. Miraculous rescue absorbed your text energy (7)
22. Hoists flag leading to replace hospital forces (6)
23. Disappointed at old president (5)
24. Drink in truck radio makes little bread (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Mocking (7)
5. Whitegood (7)
9. Appreciative audience member (7)
10. In agreement (7)
11. Practical (4-2-5)
12. Procreation (3)
13. Chiefly (6)
14. Occurrence (8)
18. Barely sufficient (8)
20. Act in an abject manner (6)
23. Biological bag (3)
25. Obsolete reference book (6,5)
26. Band equipment (4,3)
27. Sink (7)
28. Condiment brand (7)
29. Certain swimwear (7)

DOWN

1. Australian native export food product (9)
2. In the intervening time (9)
3. Principal (7)
4. Wove a tale (7)
5. Blatant (8)
6. Nickname (7)
7. Tunes (out) (5)
8. Resurgent (5)
15. Handled (9)
16. Recruits (9)
17. Type of heel (8)
19. Presidential first name (7)
21. Enthralment (7)
22. Imposes (6)
23. Ex Egyptian leader (5)
24. Morsel (5)

Last week's solution #6



Vagina-Maxxing

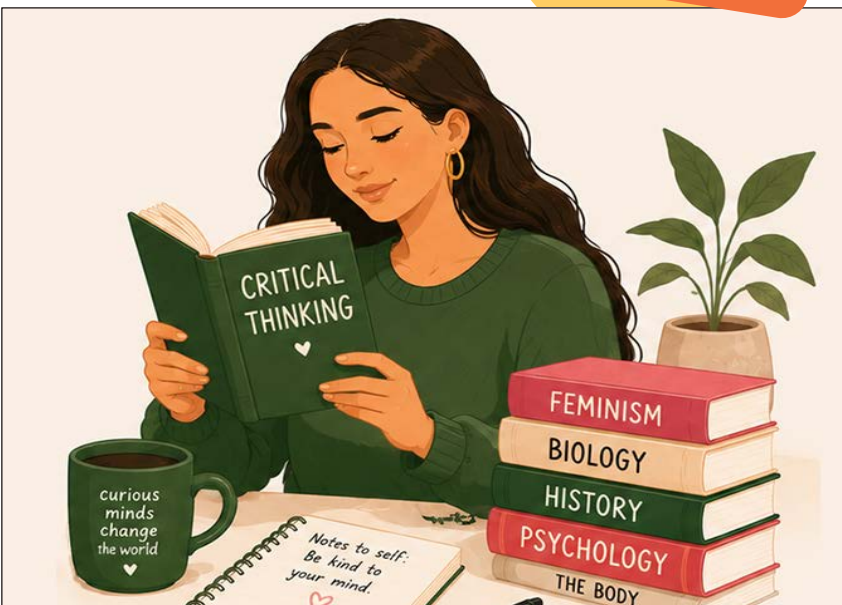
Mandy Nolan

It's a thing. It popped into my newsfeed as a story. I had to click. I mean, what new vagina fashion has come into play. Maxxing? Is this some new big vagina trend? Are our vaginas now not 'big' enough? Are we trying to create a spare room in our womb?

Apparently maxxing has two x's. I guess when you start appropriating language to describe a trend you get to mess with language. It's the first step in messing with our minds, and inferring our vaginas are somehow not okay. Which, in the patriarchy seems obvious. We live in a culture of penis-maxxing. It's not a product. Or a surgery. It's power. Men have been penis-maxxing for centuries.

So what is vagina-maxxing? Apparently it's a viral social media trend that pushes women to alter the appearance, scent, or tightness of their vulva using specialised products. To be more accurate it should be called vulva-maxxing, but we've always been encouraged to be inaccurate around what word we use to name our genitals. Somehow vulva just seemed too awkward, so vagina made it through. Vulva is the external area. Vagina is the muscular canal. It's like calling the penis the scrotum. But accuracy was never a consideration when it comes to women's bodies.

So there are tightening gels, steaming, whitening creams, washes, deodorants and supplements for female 'freshness'. They are calling them vagina 'wellness' products. Like a normal un-maxxed vagina is sick? There's one thing I know, and that is our female biology is pretty remarkable, and our clever self-cleaning vulva doesn't need an air freshener. In fact, if you use those kinds of products you are going to end up with a very sad twat. Maxxing could lead to bacterial vaginosis, candida and UTI's. Plus, if you're piling in the coconut oil beware, it eats through



If we stopped focusing on our physical selves and invested on our sagging brains, we might actually finally experience the improvement we've all been seeking.

condoms. So you might have maxxed your way to an STI.

In order for vagina-maxxing to work, you need to feel insecure about your vagina. You need to feel that your very healthy natural state is somehow deficient or wrong. That your vagina is 'unwell'. The business model only works when women hate themselves. Vulvas are unique. They're not made by AI. They're all different. So don't maxx your vag girls.

This maxxing concept is this stupid social media word – it's internet slang for optimising a specific part of life. It involves dedication and obsession. Most recently it was 'looksmaxxing'. That involves everything from ridiculous eyebrow trends to obsessively dragging smooth pieces of rose quartz

along your cheek bone, to bone smashing and steroid use. And it's not just women. Men looksmaxx as well.

Why is it always appearance? Why can't we be book-maxxing? Obsessively reading to improve our intelligence? Smashing hours at the library instead of the gym? If we stopped focusing on our physical selves and invested on our sagging brains, we might actually finally experience the improvement we've all been seeking.

Imagine if critical thinking started trending!

■ 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.

STARS BY LILITH

As the sun joins Mercury and Jupiter in Cancer, there's no place like home, which is arguably this week's best address...



CANCER THE CRAB

ARIES: Now the southern hemisphere's shortest day and longest night have passed, this week's planetary pattern shifts focus to your home zone, family, close relationships and base of operations. Your time is too precious to spend decoding cryptic behaviours, so ditch the guesswork and start asking direct questions.

TAURUS: Your breaking news this week is Chiron settling into Taurus for the first time since 1983 to address issues around money, security and values. As you gradually release attitudes and beliefs that no longer work for you, Chiron strengthens the ability to transmute previous difficulties into experiential wisdom.

GEMINI: Uranus in your sign challenges you to choose change, so examine your routines and habits. This week's astral focus is in Gemini's sector of money and security, but don't overthink things: keep it simple and most importantly, stick to a plan long enough to see whether it's working or not.

CANCER: Happy birthdays Crab clan, and welcome to the start of your new astrological year. With Saturn and Neptune, for the foreseeable future bringing more purpose to your worldly work, more quality in your relationships and deeper and more meaningful connections, it's looking like a good one.

LEO: With Leo's boss planet, the sun, turning its spotlight on family affairs and emotional nourishment, think nesting and guesing with your close tribe for warm winter delights in the lion's den. While Venus suggests putting those hosting skills to work, for your own sake, resist making everything into too big a production.

VIRGO: Planet Pluto's five-month hibernation in your sector of wellness routines, daily systems and the way you work, is your time to refine these so they more fully support your long-term vitality. A good start would be asking yourself if, and how, what's most important to you has changed lately.

LIBRA: While Chiron, Neptune and Saturn are busy overhauling and redesigning your relationship sector in challenging and excitingly beneficial ways, this week swings the solar focus to feathering your nest, which for Librans usually includes tweaking the feng shui, reconfiguring the decor and reorganising the wardrobe.

SCORPIO: Mars in your relationship zone is the zodiac's best transit for reigniting the spark in partnerships or friend connections that may have become a bit too predictable. Why not try rediscovering shared pleasures like cooking and eating together, enjoying one-on-one cosy evenings staying in rather than group outings.

SAGITTARIUS: This week's people may not be as upfront and straightforward as you'd like, because during the current solar cycle actions will speak louder than words, so watch body language for what's not being said. Best time for addressing the elephant in the room would be during the weekend Sagittarius moon.

CAPRICORN: This week's celestial emphasis in your opposite and complementary sign on the astro wheel offers you increasing emotional support. As annual full moon in Capricorn approaches, it's worth giving some thought to how you might celebrate what you've achieved so far this year, and thank whoever helped along the way.

AQUARIUS: This week's Sun/Mercury/Jupiter alignment highlights emotional patterns. Obviously the same problems keep arising until solutions that work for everyone can be reached, so experiment with finding calmer, more structured ways to discuss touchy topics. The sweet spot? Stay open, and keep expectations realistic.

PISCES: The current Sun/Mercury meetup in a fellow water sign suits you fluid beings, especially as it activates your sector of play and creativity. It's also a sensitive and easily-offended transit, so generously apply the four 'A's all humans crave as only a Piscean can: attention, acceptance, appreciation and affection.

seven

Eclectic Selection

What's on this week

The Tweed Valley Jazz & Blues Club features **the Trombone Kellie Gang**, one of the hardest working bands in the Northern Rivers today – they are an entertaining 'old school' outfit with the perfect recipe of street blues, jazz swing, gospel, soul and a bit of rock and roll.

Friday from 6pm at the Condong Bowls Club. Tickets from \$20 via tweedvalleyjazzclub.org.

In *Amalfi Roast*, **Melia Naughton** presents her one-woman show – a fast-paced music comedy packed with rapid-fire, monumental misadventures set to song, serving up the juicy (and often messy) moments of a well-squeezed life. There are also some very special guest appearances, with dancing numbers.

Friday and Saturday from 7.30pm at the Byron Theatre. Tickets \$49.40 via www.byroncentre.com.au.

Bringing blues, rock and crowd-favourite classics, **Harry Nichols** is an incredibly talented musician and singer who is a master at creating unique blends of blues, rock, pop, and funk, resulting in an addictive and unforgettable performance.

Saturday from 5.30pm at Salt Bar, Kingscliff. Free show.

JB's Blues Breakers setlist is dedicated to the blues, but not limited to it, with country, '50s rock and roll, and soul featuring in their gigs. Their huge repertoire means every show can be different and a unique experience for the audience.

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

This week the Ballina Blues Club features **Dan Hopkins & The Generous Few** – a blues-roots-gospel artist. Dan Hopkins plays a punchy brand of modern roots that has a distinct delta flavour with soul and gospel overtones, in an emotionally-driven journey down a sweetly plucked, but often dirty, slide guitar-borne road across the Southern blues idiom.

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

Brian Nankervis always dreamed of owning a beach house. *The Beach House Years* is the fictional story of 'Seahaven,' a humble beach house bought by Harvey and Shirl Findlay and their two young children, on the first day of 1964.

Sunday at 4pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$35 at brunswickpicturehouse.com.

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

Sunday from 4pm at the Hotel Brunswick, Brunswick Heads. Free show.

Less than 300 tickets left!

Following a sold-out inaugural event in 2025, **Mullum Roots Festival** returns bigger and bolder, taking over Mullumbimby with an expanded program, and an additional venue. The new space will host a **Youth Battle Of The Bands** and give more room for music lovers to gather, celebrate and connect.

The festival's eclectic lineup features headline legends **Mental As Anything** – reunited for their 50th Anniversary Tour with original members **Reg Mombassa** and **Peter O'Doherty** – alongside three-time ARIA winner and double-platinum artist **Alex Lloyd**, and ARIA winners **Busby Marou**.

Nostalgic '90s favourites include **Dave Graney** and **Clare Moore**, **Marcia Howard** with **Damien Howard**, **Lucie Thorne**, and **The Go-Betweens' Lindy Morrison**. Country and blues highlights feature outlaw storyteller **Bill Chambers**, and Mullum crowd-pleaser **Jo Jo Smith**.

Local talent is strongly represented with **Kyle Lionheart**, **Zee Star** and **Hayley Grace**, joined by **Women Of Country**, **Abbie Cardwell**, and **The Bay Collective**. The mix of established acts, emerging artists and community performers underscores Mullum Roots Festival's reputation as one of the region's must-attend music events.

Tickets are now on sale and extremely limited – less than 300 tickets remain. Act fast to secure your spot at this unmissable celebration of live music, community and culture in Mullumbimby.

Mullum Roots Festival is proudly sponsored by **Stone & Wood**, supporting live music and local artists.

For ticket information, artist updates and full festival details, visit the official Mullum Roots Festival website – www.mullumrootsfest.com.



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THUR 25 JUNE	Ino Pio Duo 6pm, DJ Quendo 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
FRI 26 JUNE	Trilla Duo 7pm, Kane Muir Band 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
SAT 27 JUNE	JB's Blues Breakers 7pm, DJ Jamie Lowe 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
SUN 28 JUNE	Lachlan Jaques 5pm, Vinyl Sundays ft Eric Downer 8.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
MON 29 JUNE	Erin Shay 6pm, Oren Selecta 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
TUES 30 JUNE	Marshall Okell 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
WED 1 JULY	Hayley Grace 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

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Salt, Kingscliff
dharmacare.org.au

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Partners: Vinnies good works, etc.



Floodland

Local filmmaker **Darius Devas** is bringing **Floodland** – winner of the Sustainable Futures Award at the Sydney Film Festival – to Mullumbimby, for one night only.

For Devas, the appeal lies in the film transcending its subject matter. 'I screen films because impact matters,' says Devas. 'But I'm a filmmaker first, and what moves me is when documentary becomes art. That's what creates real change, not just information.'

On paper, *Floodland* tells a familiar story. It's set in Lismore. It's about the catastrophic 2022 floods, the most expensive climate disaster in Australia's history. But this is no disaster chronicle. Director **Jordan Giusti** looks beyond the mythology of grit and endurance to ask something far more unsettling: what happens when resilience isn't enough?

It's the characters that struck Devas most. Shot in an intimate cinéma vérité style over several years, the film draws audiences into a new love story unfolding against uncertainty, a First Nations healer building something

extraordinary from the wreckage, and activists and politicians clashing over the soul of a town. 'These portraits are drawn with such care and closeness,' says Devas. 'You don't watch these people. You sit beside them.'

The cinematography has also drawn praise from critics for capturing a landscape rarely seen on screen with such nuance and depth.

For Devas, that intimacy and craft is exactly what elevates *Floodland* beyond a typical climate documentary. 'This is the kind of documentary that doesn't just inform you, it changes you.'

Audiences will get a rare opportunity to go behind the film, as well as in front of it. Devas will host a live satellite Q&A with director Jordan Giusti following the screening, digging into the years-long process of making the film and the story behind its striking visuals and incredible characters.

Drill Hall Theatre 7pm on 25 June. Tickets from <https://events.humanitix.com/floodland>

2026 **MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL**

11-12 JULY

ENDANGERED SPECIES!

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

STONE WOOD

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We urgently need to raise \$40,000 to upgrade the failing equipment at our transmission tower above the St Helena Tunnel. This is vital so we can continue to broadcast through frequent power disruptions and wild weather threats, keeping everyone informed and safe. Any amount you can spare will help and donations (over \$2) are tax deductible. Thanks and good vibes!

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BYRON BayFM 99.9 FM

SCAN ME



A heartfelt night of fundraising

We can't solve the lack of social housing investment, or magically make emergency accommodation appear, but we can help alleviate suffering and bring warmth and comfort to people coping in truly awful situations.

Mandy Nolan, The Space Cowboy and the Kinship Doobai Dancers are headlining a *Winter Warmer* evening of comedy, cabaret, art and dance – plus candid conversations with the **Dharma Care** campaign's charity partners — raising vital funds for people facing homelessness across Byron and Tweed Shires.

Dharma Care will bring its annual *Winter Warmer Homelessness Relief* campaign to life with a fundraising cabaret at **Salt, Kingscliff** on **Thursday, 2 July**. This event is the centrepiece of this year's campaign.

Guests will be welcomed with winter-warming canapés before settling in for a cabaret show MC'd by celebrated comedian Mandy Nolan, featuring world-renowned interactive artist and performer The Space Cowboy and a vibrant showcase from the Kinship Doobai Dancers, opening with a Welcome to Country from **Aunty Jackie**.

Tickets include canapés, the full cabaret show and a small contribution to the *Winter Warmer 2026* campaign, with a full bar available, raffle and live art auction running throughout the night.

Guests will also hear directly from the campaign's four charity partners in conversation with Mandy Nolan, sharing first-hand insight into the impact of community support on the ground in Byron and Tweed.

We know from people that have been helped over the years by *the Winter Warmer*, that they felt supported, valued, safer, and less alone.

Limited tickets from events.humanitix.com/winter-warmer-02-07-2026.

Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby, from 7pm on 25 June. Tickets from <https://events.humanitix.com/floodland>

GIG GUIDE

IT'S FREE TO LIST YOUR GIGS IN THE GIG GUIDE

e: gigs@echo.net.au

w: echo.net.au/gig-guide

DEADLINE 5PM ON FRIDAYS

WEDNESDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OLE FALCOR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **IZZY DAY + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY**

THURSDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LUKE HAYWARD BAND**
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **TEMPLE OF FIRE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **YAZMINDI**
- BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 5.30PM **OPEN MIC AT THE TAV**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **LOOSE GOOSE, BRAVE DAISY, LUCY'S HOUSE, LOS HOUSEPLANTS F.C., DJ LIZA**
- THE TOP PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **TOP JAM NIGHT WITH THE MAX PAZ**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7PM **FLOODLAND SPECIAL SCREENING + SATELLITE Q&A**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- BROADWATER HOTEL 5PM **BARDONIAN**

FRIDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LUKE PAULEY + 42 BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **MELIA NAUGHTON - AMALFI ROAST**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **MRS OLE DUO**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DANI QUAYLE MUSIC**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OMAR DJ TRMTO**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **TIM STOKES & THE HOT COALS**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **MICKA SCENE**
- BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 5.30PM **OPEN MIC NIGHT**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5.30PM **BALCONY BEATS FT DENNIS L + KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ SOLOMON**
- HOTEL LISMORE 5.30PM **ADAM GARDINER + DJ SPEX**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, 8PM **MONSIEUR DIOP VINYL SET**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MARTIN WAY**
- CONDONG BOWLS CLUB 6PM **TWEED VALLEY JAZZ & BLUES CLUB FT. TROMBONE KELLIE GANG**
- SALT BAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **ELEEA**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **LIVING IN THE 80S**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 7.30PM **FAT ALBERT**

SATURDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SONIC FX**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **PAT TIERNEY**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **MELIA NAUGHTON - AMALFI ROAST**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **GUY CONTACT, SOLAR SUITE, HEADHUNTERS, MR. BROTHER & LIZA**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ AFRODISEA**
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, 5.30PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **NEON REVIVAL**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **BEATDUSTA**
- BALLINA RSL 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **NICK COLBY BAND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **FESTA JUNINA**
- BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **CHEEKY CABARET, 7PM BRIAN NANKERVIS, 8PM CHEEKY CABARET**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6.30PM **SAM BUCKLEY**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **PIANO BAR W/ JOHN**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **LEAH SENIOR**
- HOTEL LISMORE 9.30PM **CATH SIMES BAND**
- BROADWATER HOTEL 5PM **BROWNIE, SWAMPMOSS, RIVER DRIVE, LONELY SORT OF DEATH & 6TH FLOOR**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, **LAVA ARTS FESTIVAL**

- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MR TROY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 1PM **ADAM BROWN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **RADIO CITY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, 8PM **RICHARD CLAPTON**
- EDDIE'S GRUB HOUSE, COOLANGATTA, 8PM **HITCHEHIKE THE DAWN**

SUNDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PHIL & TILLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **PNAU**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, 12PM **WAX'O PARADISO + AL ROYALE, ZAC STARS, MILLIE & HOT SALAMI**
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM **DON ROGERS**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 2PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT DAN HOPKINS & THE GENEROUS FEW**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **LIVING IN THE 80S**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **CINNAMON SUN**
- BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **CHEEKY CABARET, 4PM BRIAN NANKERVIS, 8PM CHEEKY CABARET**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 3PM **OPEN MIC**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **BEN WHITING**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, 5PM **ROUND MOUNTAIN GIRLS**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **PAULLY + SCOTT WHATMAN**

MONDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALBY PITMAN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**

TUESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DEVU**

WEDNESDAY 1

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SAMSARUH**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**

Lismore Friendship Festival PRESENTS

2026

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LOVING LISMORE... ITALIAN STYLE

SUNDAY 5 JULY

LISMORE SHOWGROUND
10am - 3pm

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\$5 ENTRY OVER 16YRS
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Italian food, music, cars and bikes, tug-o-war, spaghetti eating competition, soccer, chess, craft activities, dancing.
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SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY JUNE 25
TO WEDNESDAY JULY 1

NOW SHOWING

TOY STORY 5 (G) NFT
Daily: 10:40AM, 11:20AM, 12:50PM, 3:00PM, 5:15PM, 6:00PM

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BATMAN (1966) (G)
Mon: 6:30PM - Cult Vault

NT LIVE: THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD (CTC)
Thurs, Sun: 6:00PM. Fri, Sat: 1:00PM

FAMILY FILMS

MINIONS & MONSTERS (PG) NFT
Daily: 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 2:45PM, 4:45PM, 5:45PM, 6:45PM

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG)
Daily: 1:10PM

TOY STORY 5 (G) NFT
Daily: 10:40AM, 11:20AM, 12:50PM, 3:00PM, 5:15PM, 6:00PM

ALL FILMS

BACKROOMS (M)
Daily: 1:40PM, 8:40PM

DISCLOSURE DAY (M)
Daily except Fri, Sat: 12:50PM, 2:50PM, 5:40PM, 7:45PM. Fri, Sat: 2:50PM, 4:00PM, 5:40PM, 7:45PM

GLENROTHAN (M) NFT
Daily: 10:50AM, 4:00PM

LEVITICUS (MA15+)
Daily: 12:50PM, 8:30PM

MICHAEL (PG)
Daily: 11:00AM, 6:00PM

OBSESSION (MA15+)
Daily: 3:40PM, 8:40PM

STAR WARS: THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU (M)
Sat: 10:30AM. Tues, Wed: 8:15PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

DISCLOSURE DAY (M)
Daily except Thurs: 10:00AM, 6:50PM. Thurs: 11:00AM, 6:50PM

MINIONS & MONSTERS (PG) NFT
Daily except Thurs, Mon: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 2:45PM, 5:30PM. Thurs: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 2:45PM, 5:30PM. Mon: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM

OBSESSION (MA15+)
Daily: 7:20PM

SUPERGIRL (M) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 3:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM. Thurs: 2:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM

TOY STORY 5 (G) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 9:45AM, 12:00PM, 2:15PM, 4:30PM. Thurs: 9:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:30PM

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CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

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

Echo



RUSTY
Rusty is a sweet, gentle and very friendly 5.5 year old American Staffy. He's fantastic with kids, knows all the basic commands and loves car rides. Rusty would do best as an only pet. He needs a confident owner and some lead training. A sturdy boy, Rusty also needs regular exercise to reach his ideal weight. If you love Staffies and lead an active lifestyle, Rusty could be the perfect companion. Rehoming Number R251000060



T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au
W: www.nras.org.au

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.

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

FOR SALE

MOBILITY SCOOTER



Excellent condition. \$600 Brunswick Heads Ph 0410009076

BUSINESS FOR SALE

VIBRANT Byron-based mobile juice stall est. 1985. Four perm. monthly community markets (3 LGA permits) + extra events, secure trailer, modern equipment, reliable customers ~\$50K. Ph 0431284741

SHORT TERM ACCOM.

2 MONTHS MULLUM

MULLUM pref mat fem/cple, cat-lover to caretaker/rent f/f hse, solar h/water. 19/7 to 15/9, no kids/pets, n/s, Sgls \$250pw cple \$280pw plus bills, incl Wi-Fi. 0432623165

TO LET

LOCAL REMOVAL

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

TO LEASE

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

POSITIONS VACANT

HC TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED!

The cane season starts in June in the NSW Northern Rivers area: Condong, Broadwater and Harwood sugar mill sites. Send a brief driving history or resume to Wendy.Keel@sctlogistics.com.au

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

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

Flexible work hours – perfect 2nd income Email operations@byronbaytaxi.com

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
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

VAMOS FAT BIKE

HALF PRICE!

\$2000 (purchased 7/8/25 \$4000) 1600km No mobile coverage at my location. Email Theo on 4engeltener@tpg.com.au

ITEMS UNDER \$100

FREE PIANO

Free Kawai piano, excellent condition. Contact 0408022497

WANTED

TREE FERNS

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

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

GARAGE SALES

MYOCUM 68 McAuleys Ln Fri-Sun 10am-3pm. Winter clothes from \$3.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772



TREASURE HUNT
+ cool stuff

SUNDAY 28 JUNE

FROM 9AM AT LULU'S CAFE

MULLUMBIMBY · VINTAGE

CLOTHES · BITS & PIECES

TREASURES · COOL STUFF

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

HEALTH

'CRUNCHY' SPIRULINA available again in Aust, as well as powder and capsules. www.spirulinaplanet.com 0498327481

KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. 0403125506

SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

6681 3140

Mobile 0417 698 227

TUITION

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Experienced Professional Tutor

- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

PETS

PET SITTER AVAILABLE

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



Who gives a Cluck?

Adopt a Rooster.

This is Wally. He was dumped at an elderly woman's home west of Murwillumbah earlier this year. He's a medium sized rooboy, a bit bigger than an ISA Brown hen. He's at our Foster Carers and she says he's quiet, friendly and very keen to care for some girls instead of just looking at them in the distance!

Here's the link to adopt him (he's #64) or ask us questions. whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/

whogivesacluck.org @whogivesacluck



Meet Johnny, a big, handsome 'leopard like' tabby lad, who can't wait to meet you! He's very friendly, playful, and affectionate. At just 2yrs and 9 months, he's still very active and energetic, and loves to have fun climbing! He's just a lovely all round cat. Can be dominant with other cat's, so best as an only cat.

Desexed and vaccinated, microchip 9401000028968302 D.O.B 1/9/23 See our Facebook for video and more!

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



TURBO
Turbo is a 6 month old, Collie/Kelpie X. This lovely boy is smart and very energetic. He would suit an active family on property with a job to do. #991003002442489 Location: Murwillumbah

For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.

Please complete an Expression of Interest at: <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



ARCHIE

Meet Archie, Heeler x Staffy x Greyhound / Male2 years / Desexed Archie is a sweet soul who adores humans and is looking for a buddy that will look after him forever. He's a cuddler and happy to chill alongside you. He gets on well with other dogs and knows all the obedience basics. Archie needs a secure fenced area, ok with older kids, no cats or livestock

Call Julia on 0458 461 935 or apply via byrondogrescue.org MC: 991003002588255



NUDGE
Nudge is aptly named as she likes to give lots of nudges of affection. She's an outgoing young lady who is always happy to receive love & attention. Nudge would fit almost any family due to her fantastic personality. Why not call in & be nudged by Nudge!

To meet Nudge, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

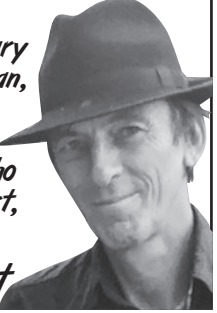
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm / Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook! AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000222

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday!

to the legendary comedian, ukulele player, and Echo stalwart, **Brian Mollet**



ONLY ADULTS

Need proper erotic relaxation?
TANTRIC MASSAGE

Men, Women, Couples. Ph 0480779325

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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.

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 4 WEEKS

DATE June / July	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
24	W	6:38 16:58	12:41 1:21	03:28 1.26 16:55 1.48	09:48 0.46 23:06 0.72
25	TH	6:39 16:58	13:14 2:17	04:26 1.19 17:44 1.56	10:32 0.45
26	F	6:39 16:58	13:50 3:13	05:21 1.15 18:26 1.63	00:07 0.66 11:15 0.44
27	SA	6:39 16:58	14:30 4:10	06:12 1.14 19:06 1.68	00:57 0.60 11:55 0.42
28	SU	6:39 16:59	15:16 5:06	06:57 1.14 19:44 1.72	01:40 0.54 12:33 0.40
29	M	6:39 16:59	16:07 5:59	07:39 1.15 20:21 1.75	02:19 0.49 13:12 0.39
30	TU	6:39 16:59	17:01 6:49	08:17 1.17 20:58 1.76	02:55 0.47 13:48 0.38
1	W	6:39 17:00	17:58 7:34	08:56 1.18 21:33 1.76	03:30 0.45 14:26 0.37
2	TH	6:39 17:00	18:56 8:14	09:34 1.19 22:09 1.74	04:04 0.45 15:04 0.38
3	F	6:39 17:01	19:53 8:49	10:15 1.20 22:44 1.71	04:39 0.45 15:45 0.41
4	SA	6:39 17:01	20:50 9:21	10:57 1.21 23:19 1.66	05:15 0.44 16:26 0.46
5	SU	6:39 17:01	21:46 9:51	11:44 1.23 23:56 1.59	05:53 0.44 17:13 0.52
6	M	6:39 17:02	22:43 10:20	12:35 1.26	06:32 0.43 18:05 0.59
7	TU	6:39 17:02	23:42 10:49	00:37 1.51 13:34 1.31	07:15 0.42 19:10 0.65
8	W	6:39 17:03	11:21	01:25 1.41 14:40 1.39	08:01 0.41 20:29 0.69
9	TH	6:39 17:03	0:44 11:56	02:25 1.31 15:47 1.50	08:52 0.39 21:56 0.67
10	F	6:38 17:04	1:51 12:37	03:34 1.23 16:53 1.63	09:47 0.36 23:20 0.59
11	SA	6:38 17:04	3:01 13:26	04:47 1.19 17:56 1.76	10:45 0.32
12	SU	6:38 17:04	4:12 14:25	05:58 1.18 18:53 1.88	00:32 0.49 11:43 0.27
13	M	6:38 17:05	5:21 15:33	07:01 1.19 19:47 1.97	01:31 0.38 12:39 0.21
14	TU	6:37 17:05	6:23 16:46	07:59 1.23 20:38 2.02	02:23 0.30 13:32 0.18
15	W	6:37 17:06	7:16 17:59	08:51 1.26 21:26 2.02	03:11 0.25 14:25 0.17
16	TH	6:37 17:06	8:01 19:09	09:41 1.29 22:11 1.96	03:56 0.24 15:15 0.20
17	F	6:37 17:07	8:39 20:14	10:30 1.31 22:53 1.85	04:39 0.26 16:04 0.27
18	SA	6:36 17:07	9:12 21:16	11:18 1.32 23:32 1.70	05:20 0.30 16:55 0.38
19	SU	6:36 17:08	9:42 22:15	12:09 1.32	05:59 0.34 17:46 0.51
20	M	6:35 17:09	10:12 23:12	00:11 1.53 13:03 1.33	06:37 0.39 18:45 0.64
21	TU	6:35 17:09	10:42 14:04	00:49 1.37 14:04 1.34	07:15 0.43 19:59 0.73
22	W	6:35 17:10	11:14 0:09	01:33 1.22 15:12 1.37	07:58 0.46 21:26 0.76

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



The Echo's Market Guide

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

MONTHLY MARKETS:

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



FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:

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

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



Echo

VIGILANT SINCE 1986

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE**000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510
Mullumbimby 6629 7570
Byron Bay 6685 9499
Bangalow 6629 7500
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE** Storm & tempest damage, flooding...132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue..... 6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER..... 6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL..... 6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS..... 6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby) 6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line.....1800 656 463
LIFELINE131 114
MENSLINE.....1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily 6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE..... 6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information 6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)..... 6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS..... 6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE 6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service... 6628 1898

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Together She Thrives

Together She Thrives is inviting women to join a free bushwalk to Whian Whian Falls on Saturday 27 June, from 9am to 1pm. This beautiful guided walk follows Rocky Creek through stunning rainforest scenery, waterfalls and natural boulder formations. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature, enjoy some gentle exercise, and meet other women in a relaxed and supportive environment. Participants can carpool or meet at the falls. A reasonable level of fitness is required. Bookings are essential and can be made via togethershethrives.org.au. Together She Thrives also invites women to a free board games afternoon on Monday 29 June, from 1pm to 3pm at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club. Come along for a fun and relaxed afternoon of board games, laughter, friendly competition, and connection. This is a free event, however bookings are essential. To register, visit togethershethrives.org.au.

Classes in digital skills will be held: Mondays and Fridays until 26 June at the Byron Community Centre, 69 Jonson Street, from 2.30pm to 4.30pm
Cost: free, all welcome. Bookings essential. Classes are for 50+ only

Lismore Rainforest walk 28 June

The next guided walk at the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens is at 10am this Sunday, 28 June. Andreas will take visitors through the Useful Plants Garden for a one-hour, unpaved but easy walk. Immerse yourself in the beautiful rainforest, featuring plants used by Aboriginal people for over 40,000 years, for medicine, tools, food and shelter. The walk begins in the Sensory Garden and continues into the Useful Plants Garden. Plants are labelled and signage also gives extra details about these wonderful native plants which you can grow in your home garden. Meet at the Visitor's Centre at the Botanic Gardens (Wyrallah Road, East Lismore) at 9.45am. Bookings are essential, email publicity@friendslrbg.com.au \$5 for adults, children are free. And we'd love you to join the Friends for morning tea after the walk. Gold coin appreciated. Wear sturdy shoes, hat and warm clothes.

Byron Bay Seniors

A midwinter celebration will be held Thursday, 25 June from 1pm to 3pm at the Byron Community Cabin, Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Tickets: \$10 online Via Humanatix. All proceeds support the Byron Seniors Club.



Christmas in July

The Crowley Care Auxiliary is hosting a Christmas in July Luncheon on Thursday, 23 July 2026, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm at Crowley Activity Centre in Ballina. Tickets are \$45 per person and include Christmas nibbles, lunch, dessert, live entertainment and lucky door prizes. All proceeds support activities and programs for Crowley Care residents. RSVP by Thursday, 16 July to Crowley Care Reception at 154 Cherry Street, Ballina - phone 1300 139 099. BYO drinks. Please advise of any dietary requirements when booking.

Free Nia Dance Class - Brunswick Heads

Together She Thrives invites women to enjoy a free morning of movement, music, connection and wellbeing on Wednesday, 8 July, from 10am to 11.30am in the Memorial Hall. Nia is a joyful movement practice combining dance, mindfulness and gentle fitness. Suitable for all ages and fitness levels, no experience is necessary. The session will conclude with a relaxing guided meditation. This is a free event, but bookings are essential. Visit www.togethershethrives.org.au.

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.

The Garden Table Luncheon

A meeting for local elders at the Brunswick Bowling Club will be held on the last Wednesday of every month, between 12 and 2pm. This is a meeting of great locals to have fun, share a cuppa and listen to short talks about healthy ageing. All welcome. Any queries please call 0407 597 273.

Zonta group

Zonta Northern Rivers, will be holding monthly meetings at Ballina RSL. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month, commencing at 6pm, and we 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.

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.

Byron Seniors

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

Soul song

Community-led singing, devotional uplifting songs, short meditation, inspiring readings, non-denominational. Held first and third Sundays from 10am to 11.30am at the Scout Hall, Bangalow Showgrounds. All welcome. For more info call Sue 0402 052 457.

Seniors activities at the Byron Community Cabin

Seniors activities at the Byron Community Cabin, Carlyle St, Byron Bay: Seniors Chair Yoga Tuesday and Fridays, 10am to 11am - Contact Pippy 0421 926 785, by donation. Free Tai Chi with Baz - Tuesdays 11.15am till 12.15pm, Thursdays 2pm till 3pm. Still Here Theatre - Senior's theatre group. All ages welcome to our fun drama and theatre workshops. Thursdays 10am to 12pm at the cabin. By donation. Contact Brin on 0423 120 280.

Cake can save the world!

Every month, the good women of the Bangalow CWA pick up their weapons of choice. A cake tin, some eggs, some flour, some sugar and a whole lot of love. As a grassroots organisation dedicated to improving the welfare of women, children and the vulnerable, the making and baking of cakes for the monthly cake stall is how they raise the much needed funds to support the good work of Liberation Larder, Fletcher Street Cottage, The Winsome Hotel, The SHIFT Project Byron Bay and the Bangalow Community Pantry. The next cake stall is on Saturday, 28 March from 8am to 1pm at the CWA Rooms in Bangalow, 31 Byron Street, Bangalow. While you are there,

why not find out about becoming a member?

Bruns U3A

Lifelong learning for retired folk in their third age. Our interest groups are Tuesday forum, garden group, foodies, movie and lunch, men's shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, Mahjong, Walkers and talkers, Shabashi, table tennis, chess, debating group, ukelele. For days, times email info@bvuu3a.org or call Denise 0423 778 573.

Friends of Libraries

Friends of Libraries wish to thank all who kindly donated books for the Annual Book Fair in July, in doing so, you have greatly contributed towards making the up and coming Book Fair yet another great four day event. For those still wishing to supply books please hold on to them until next year.

Suffolk Park Land and Dune Care Group

Join the Suffolk Park Land and Dune Care Group and help protect and restore our beautiful local environment. We meet on the last Sunday of every month for hands-on activities, including dune restoration, weed removal, planting natives, and learning about local ecosystems. It's a great way to meet like-minded people, enjoy the outdoors, learn new skills, and contribute to the health of our coastline and community. To join, simply text your email address to 0428 942 903.

Older adult exercise

Chair-based older adults exercise classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up, or if you have any questions, please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Brunswick Heads

Women's Social Tennis
Mondays 7.30 to 8.30am. All levels welcome. Just rock up - no need to book, \$5 members, \$7 non. Cash only. Email brunstennis@gmail.com.

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

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



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ACCOUNTANTS & BOOKKEEPERS

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

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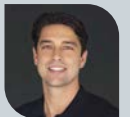
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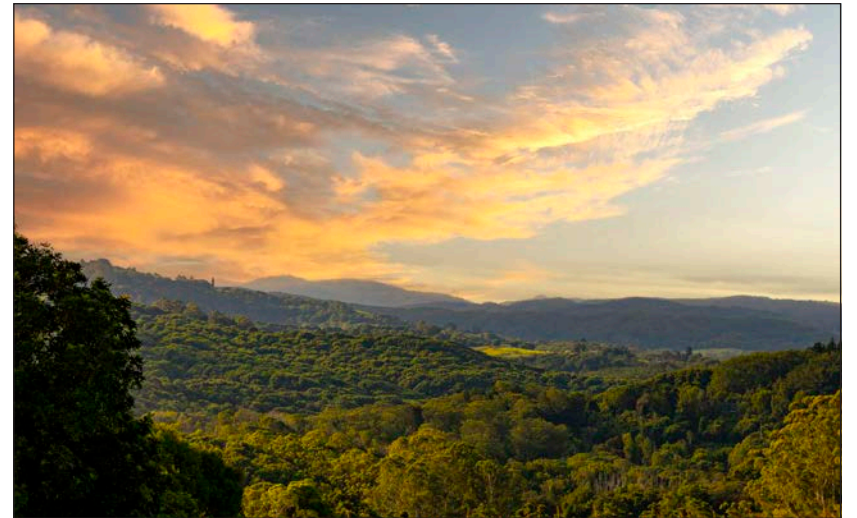
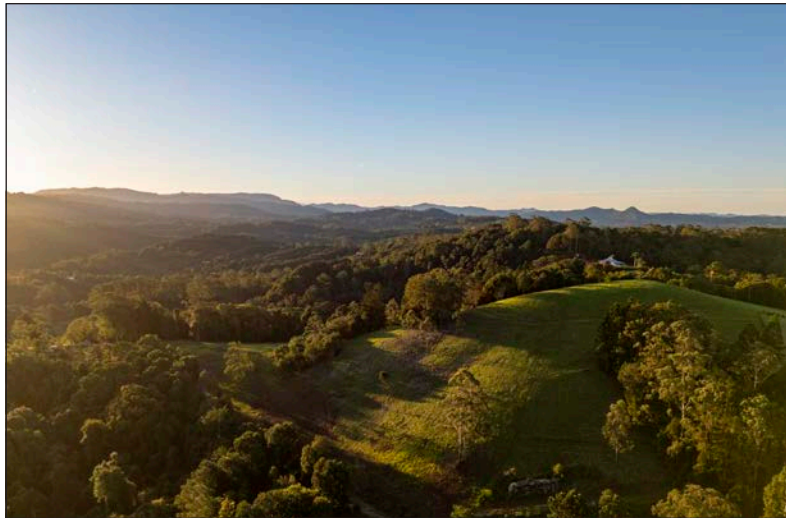


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In the hills above Byron Bay, a new land release emerges in one of the Northern Rivers' most tightly held hinterland enclaves, Riverbelle comprises just seven exclusive acreage homesites, ranging from approximately 2.4 to 6.4 acres, within the Coorabell hinterland. Elevated across a contoured ridgeline, each lot has been carefully sited to capture a distinct outlook, from wide valley panoramas and layered mountain horizons to rainforest-framed clearings and aspects towards the Wilsons River corridor.



Rather than a conventional subdivision, Riverbelle has been conceived as a small collection of individual land narratives. Each homesite carries its own identity, defined by orientation, elevation and vegetation. The result is a release that favours variation over uniformity, allowing buyers to choose land that reflects how they wish to live within the landscape.

The wider setting carries a deep ecological and cultural history. Once part

of the original Fernhill dairy farm, the land has been under continuous care since the mid-1970s, when it was acquired with a focus on regeneration and restoration. Over successive generations, extensive tree planting and careful land management have returned large areas of steep country to rainforest, including remnants of the Big Scrub ecosystem preserved within community title land, and protected riparian zones feeding into the Wilsons River.

Today, the landscape stands as a living record of that long-term stewardship. Organic farming practices introduced in the 2000s have supported the return of biodiversity, with regular sightings of native birdlife, koalas, platypus, kangaroos and wallabies across the property. It is a working example of regeneration unfolding over decades rather than years.

Infrastructure has been kept deliberately minimal, with full power provided to

each lot, while water storage and septic systems are to be designed by future owners in response to their chosen homes. The framework prioritises flexibility while maintaining environmental sensitivity and respect for the land's character.

One of the defining features of Riverbelle is its release structure. Deposits are being taken now, with settlement anticipated in 2028, providing purchasers with extended lead time to

design and plan while also participating in future value growth. Only seven lots will ever be released publicly, with the balance retained by the family to preserve privacy, ecological integrity and the original vision for the site.

In a region where hinterland land is increasingly scarce, Riverbelle distinguishes itself through restraint rather than scale. It is not positioned as an estate in the conventional sense, but as a carefully considered

holding, where land, legacy and long-term intention remain closely intertwined.

A place where seven lots carry seven distinct stories, and where the next chapter is still to be written.

Riverbelle: Wilsons River frontage and mountain views

Address:
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Coorabell

Agent:
Tara Torkkola 0423 519 698,
tara@byronbayfn.com

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6/241 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga. Sat 10-10:30am
5/18 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 10-10:30am
2/38 Garrick St, Coolangatta. Sat 10.45-11.45am
33/5 Island Dr, Tweed Heads. Sat 11-11:30am
29 Townsend Cres, Terranora. Sat 12-12:30pm

First National Byron

39 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Wed 12-12:30pm
20 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Wed 1-1:30pm
20 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Thurs 9-9:30am
1 / 1-2 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Thurs 12-12:30pm
8 Pastures Street, Cumbalum. Thurs 12.30-1pm
103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11:30am
23 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 12-12:30pm
39 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 1-1:30pm
134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2:30pm
2/11 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9:30am
50 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9:30am
12 / 12 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9:30am
9 / 27 Kalemajere Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9:30am
3 Cudgerie Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9:30am
4 / 182 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9:30am
1 / 7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10:30am
134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10:30am
20 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10:30am
2 / 16 Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10:30am
3 Hayter Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10:30am
3 / 40 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10:30am
1 / 1-2 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10:30am
44 / 11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
8 Pastures Street, Cumbalum. Sat 10.30-11am
25 / 88 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.45-11.15am
10 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11:30am
23 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11:30am
83 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11:30am

61 Bentwing Place, Tintenbar. Sat 11.30am-12pm
6 / 1-5 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
39 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am-12pm
58 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12:30pm
2 / 11 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12:30pm
195 North Teven Road, Teven. Sat 1-1:30pm
1 / 2 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 1-1:30pm
26 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1:30pm
31 Arkinstall Road, Tuntab Creek. Sat 1.15-1.45pm
18 Heritage Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 2-2:30pm
10 Mayfield Street, Eltham. Sat 2.30-3pm

Harcourts

213 Skyline Road South, Wyrallah. Sat 9.30-10am
19 Dalmacia Drive, Wollongbar. Sat 10-10:30am
23/136 Cherry Street, Ballina. Sat 10-10:30am
14 Forestoak Way, Goonellabah. Sat 10.15-10.45am
65 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 11.15-11.45am
43 Bentinck Street, Ballina. Sat 11.30am-12pm
98 Diadem Street, Lismore. Sat 11.30am-12pm
74 Dolphin Drive, West Ballina. Sat 12-12:30pm

Mana RE

10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 09-09:30am
146 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10:30am
33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10:30am
7 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11:30am
16 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11:30am
59 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 12-1pm

Raine & Horne

837 Nobbys Creek Road, Nobbys Creek. Sat 9.00-9.30am
2 Tree Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.00-9.30am
63 Tyalgum Road, Byangum. Sat 11.30am-12.00pm
1243 Kyogle Road, Uki. Sat 11.30am-12.00pm
629 Tumbulgum Road, Tyalgah. Sat 12.30-1.00pm
2981 Kyogle Road, Kungahur. Sat 12.30-3.30pm
20 Panorama Drive, Kungahur. Sat 12.30-3.30pm
3 Panorama Drive, Kungahur. Sat 12.30-3.30 pm

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Tim Miller Real Estate

45 Walmsley Road, Bexhill. Sat 9-9.30am
42 Johnston Road, Eltham. Sat 10-10.30am
21 Booyong Road, Clunes. Sat 11-11.30am
31 Charlotte Street, Bangalow. Sat 12-12.30pm
272 Sneaths Road, Wollongbar. Sat 1.15-1.45pm

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81 Harwood Road, Burringbar. Sat 10-10.30am
6439 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 11-11.30am
11 Bian Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
3/23 Poinciana Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 1-1.30pm
93 Burns Point Ferry Road, West Ballina. Sat 2.30-3pm

New Listings

First National Byron

2/11 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park
2/16 Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores

Mana RE

81 Kielys Road, Mooball

Tim Miller Real Estate

21 Booyong Road, Clunes. Sat 11-11.30am

Auction

Mana RE

59 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 1pm (on-site)

Raine & Horne

837 Nobbys Creek Road, Nobbys Creek. Sat 10am



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Last Saturday's sellout Festival Of The Stone certainly seems to indicate an appetite for smaller 'niche' music festivals. It didn't hurt that Stone & Wood not only launched this year's batch of Stone Beer, but also Fletcher St Cottage gets some much-needed funds to keep up their amazing work. 2,000 party people rocked their socks off and pigged out on some mighty fine vittles. Photo Jeff 'Stoned Piggy' Dawson

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'A new investigation has confirmed that songs by Australian and NZ musicians are among the millions which have been stolen for use in AI datasets,' according to an investigation by *The Atlantic*. This includes AC/DC, Kylie Minogue, INXS, Cold Chisel, Tina Arena, Midnight Oil, Sia, Crowded House, Lorde, Yothu Yindi and more. Time to say 'no' to an AI copyright carve-out.

Donald Trump's grandfather arrived in the USA as a draft dodger and became embroiled with the world of casinos and brothels before making his real money from prospectors in the Klondike gold rush. It seems his income was linked with prostitution, thus founding the American Trump family on the basis of sex with miners. History rhymes, it is said.

■■■■■

The consequences of voting One Nation (PHON): SA senator Sarah Game's regressive abortion legislation (that seeks to only allow abortions after 24 weeks where the pregnant person's life is at risk rather than based on sound medical assessment) passed the upper house with PHON backing. It was quickly voted down in the lower house. Formerly PHON, Sarah Game has moved further into crazy town joining the extremist Family First Party.

■■■■■

'The old world order is dying, and the new world struggles to be born. Now is the time of monsters' according to one meme featuring Elmo!

■■■■■

In the meantime Trump takes the prize for SMDS (social media derangement syndrome).

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