



Searching for our Common Wealth



Kane Guglielmi, maker of the film *Common Wealth* which screens in Byron on 10 July at Byron Theatre followed by a Q&A. Kane has spent four years filming around the world exploring why economic systems are so broken and what individuals can do to change their world. Read more page 28. Photo Jeff '\$\$\$???' Dawson

Public meeting called over Mullum carpark DA

Aslan Shand

The Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) has called a public meeting for Monday, 13 July at 6pm at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club to discuss the modified development application (DA 10.2025.212.1) for the carpark at 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby.

The MRA have highlighted a range of ongoing concerns that remain with the DA (not least that Council are still pressing ahead with it) and the fact that the DA still fails to meet a range of criteria around the sewer mains, essential access to adjacent businesses, flood heights, building heights, noise and traffic management, and whether Byron Shire Council (BSC) had the legal right to sell the land for \$1 in the first place.

'The Echo revealed this public land was sold for a dollar. What we're now asking is a more fundamental question: was Council legally entitled to sell it at all?' said MRA convenor Dale Emerson.

'Public land that hasn't been properly classified as operational land cannot be sold under the *Local Government Act* - full stop. Council's own reports authorising this transaction had no "legal Implications" section. We've looked for the classification instrument that would make this sale lawful. We can't find it. The Northern Rivers Planning Panel (NRPP) requires it to be produced before this DA goes

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Locals losing their homes for luxury \$2.5m retirement flats

Aslan Shand

For Kerry Pauley and the six other remaining permanent residents at the Glen Villa Resort on Butler Street, Byron Bay, news of the luxury retirement village that has been proposed for the site at 80-86 Butler Street has been devastating.

'When I sold my house in South Golden Beach and moved here 12 years ago this was my retirement home,' Kerry told *The Echo*.

Kerry points out that she

thought very clearly about where she would set herself up for her retirement and chose this site because 'it's flat and close to town. I knew that once I couldn't drive I'd still be able to walk to town to get shopping and catch up with friends.'

'I went through several interviews to be approved to buy this house and was told by Peter Croke, who originally owned this place, it has now gone to his daughter, he told me that it would never be sold. He told that to the others who

bought in as well. He even told one person that the property was in trust so it couldn't be sold.'

When permanent residents bought in they were buying the home they would be living in and leasing the land it sat on from the Glen Villa Resort.

'I pay a lease for the land,' explained Kerry.

'I own the house, which I must maintain myself. They do absolutely nothing for me. I've got to do everything myself to the house you know,

and they don't even mow the lawn.'

Unfortunately, for the permanent residents the developer DD Resort Living is putting together a development application (DA) for this site called Oasis Byron Bay, and the site of 12 Bay Lane as an affiliated club house, for luxury retirement living with one-bedroom flats starting for lease at \$2.5 million.

When Kerry first heard the rumours that the Glen Villa cabin, caravan, and camping site was on

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Council keeps Lavertys Gap option alive despite mounting concerns

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council has voted to continue investigating the use of Lavertys Gap as a water supply for Mullumbimby despite staff advice that the scheme faces major regulatory hurdles, water quality concerns, and increasing costs.

Councillors have narrowly backed a motion from Greens councillor Elia Hauge and independent councillor David Warth seeking further investigation of several 'hybrid' supply options that would combine water from Lavertys Gap with the Rous County Council (RCC) regional water network.

Councillors defy staff recommendation

The decision came despite a staff recommendation that Council abandon the hybrid proposal and proceed with a permanent connection to RCC water. Staff warned there were fundamental obstacles to obtaining state approval and concluded that Lavertys Gap had limited capacity to provide long-term water security for Mullumbimby.

Opponents of the motion also pointed to the cost of the ongoing investigations. Labor councillor Peter Doherty told the meeting that about \$640,000 of Council money had already

been spent examining future water supply options for Mullumbimby.

'We're potentially asking ratepayers for a 35 per cent rate increase,' he said. 'I think it's very important that we look at trying to rein in the spending and just connect to Rous and move on.'

The staff report found the weir's estimated yield was substantially below the town's current water demand and noted that water quality can deteriorate rapidly following rainfall events, potentially requiring costly treatment upgrades.

Staff said the additional treatment requirements, regulatory complexity, and limited water yield made it difficult to demonstrate that the scheme represented the best value for money.

Deputy Mayor Jack Dods, who initially supported the hybrid proposal, told the meeting the latest investigations had changed his view.

'The staff report is pretty clear and pretty damning,' he said.

'My fear... is we are just going to spend more money on reports, more money on consultants, more money on Council staff time to get another staff report back that says we can't do this.'

Value of multiple water sources emphasised

Supporters of the motion argued that the latest investigations had

not properly tested a time-based hybrid model, where Lavertys Gap would supply the town during normal conditions and RCC water would be used during droughts or periods of poor water quality.

Future pricing for water supply

Cr Hauge said rising RCC water prices, climate uncertainty, and the value of maintaining a local water source justified further investigation.

'We have a supply there. Why wouldn't we make use of it?' she said.

Cr Hauge also said the latest modelling showed there was sufficient flow over the weir to meet the town's daily demand for much of the time and argued that Council should complete the strategic planning work needed to determine whether the option was viable and position the project for future government funding.

She also pointed to the increasing cost of RCC water and the value of maintaining a second source of supply.

Independent councillor David Warth said Mullumbimby had relied on the Lavertys Gap supply for about 100 years and argued that a modern treatment plant could continue supplying the town well into the future.

Take sanctuary at this year's Byron Writers Festival

Thirty years and a stellar lineup is coming your way with this year's Byron Writers Festival, 14-16 August.

Coming into the heart of Byron for the first time it will unfold across seven iconic venues, including two marquees on the Byron Bay foreshore and in town.

'Themed "Sanctuary",

we present this festival at a moment of great global change, and as algorithmic tools offer a cheap illusion of creativity and understanding. From the festival stage to the bookstore and cafes, take sanctuary here alongside those nourished by the doing of writing, reading and thinking.'

say festival organisers.

From Trent Dalton, to the Baillie Gifford Prize-winner Richard Flanagan, and acclaimed journalist and human rights activist Antonionette Laffouf, this is Australia's favourite regional writers' festival.

Tickets on sale now at byronwritersfestival.com.

Public meeting called over Mullum's carpark DA

► Continued from page 1 any further.'

The MRA have stated that they have now identified a second sewer breach and that the attempt to fix the first sewer breach in the modified DA has failed.

The DA now allows for a 3.69m easement along the southern border over the top of the sewer line that the MRA identified for the developer Landcom following its submission of their first DA. However, as the MRA points out this easement does not meet the base requirement of a 4.17m easement. Further, it still fails to address adequate access issues for grease traps and gas deliveries that the existing businesses such as Pink Lotus and The Other Joint require.

'The Waste Management Plan is 37 pages long and doesn't mention Ottilies, Pink Lotus, or The Other Joint once,' said Mr Emerson.

'It doesn't mention the bin collection point those businesses use. It doesn't mention the grease trap servicing. It doesn't mention that Pink Lotus gets its gas delivered by tanker through the existing carpark, and that post-development there is no other way for a tanker to reach that

tank. We spoke directly to the grease trap contractor. He confirmed the logistics. And the proposed solution is a one-metre gated path through a locked residential courtyard, with a 1.8-metre security fence between the businesses and the path. That's not a replacement.'

The MRA have also confirmed that the proposed cantilever of the upper floors over the sewer line are prohibited building works under policy s.5.4.

While BSC requires that all DAs provide modelling that takes into consideration the impacts of the 2022 floods, this DA relies on the 2020 flood study. The boarding house rooms sit 240mm below the Flood Planning Level. Further, the DA will likely exceed maximum height allowances, and claims that the sewer easement corridor allows overland flow from McGoughans Lane to Station Street during a flood event. However, as both ends of that corridor are gated, which has not been included in the flood modelling, the MRA are requesting that new flood modelling be completed.

The modified DA has also failed to include a traffic plan or noise plan

for the 18-month-long build required. The build will require construction vehicles accessing the site via McGoughans Lane, a narrow, one-lane access route that is also a key delivery point for the local supermarket IGA and other local businesses including *The Echo*. There is no staging area, worker parking, concrete pump position, or haul route identified in any document.

'This is an 18-month construction program in the middle of the Mullumbimby CBD,' said Mr Emerson.

'Every truck goes through a lane that's barely four metres wide. There's no construction traffic management plan. The public hasn't seen the structural engineering advice. And if they're driving piles - which the sewer depth makes likely given the proximity - that's 100 to 120 decibels at 10 metres. Pink Lotus and The Other Joint are right next door. There's been no acoustic assessment of what an 18-month build does to the businesses alongside it. Those are people's livelihoods.'

Find out more about these issues and more at the public meeting on 13 July or contact the MRA at: mullumra@gmail.com.

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They thought they had their forever homes

► Continued from page 1

the market Kerry said management denied it. A few months later the resort manager came to Kerry and told her that it was being sold and that the owner, Peter's daughter Holly, had 'a certain contingency' to buy out permanent residents 'but that she didn't like lawyers and if I was you, I'd get in now'.

While several permanent residents took that advice and sold their houses Kerry rang her daughter who advised her that she should get legal advice. Which Kerry and six other permanent residents have done.

'I was in tears for six months,' Kerry told *The Echo*.

'Peter had said this could be my forever home.'

Instead of a forever home the developer is proposing to build 200 senior living apartments on the environmentally-sensitive site which is adjacent to wetlands.

'The developer told us that they would start selling the one-bedroom apartment leases at \$2.5 million,' said Kerry.

When the residents met with the developers the suggestion that they be provided with an apartment in exchange for their existing sites was immediately rejected.

'They didn't even pretend to give it consideration,' said Kerry's daughter Simone.

At the meeting with residents the Gold Coast-based developers tried to tell them that they would only have 60 days to vacate the site. Fortunately, the residents' pro-bono barrister Bill Priestley was quick to inform the developers, 'I think you may be unaware of NSW laws in relation to tenancy laws. The residents will have a minimum of 12 months, and if they wish, they can petition to NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) for a



Kerry Pauley with four other residents who are being told they need to sell their retirement homes to make way for luxury retirement apartments. Photo supplied

further six months to negotiate terms of purchase of their sites.'

Kerry and Simone have highlighted the stress and pressure these elderly residents have been under throughout the process. With Kerry saying those who have already sold have said they sold out for far too little.

'It's just heartbreaking to watch people be treated with what I feel is callousness and disregard,' said Simone.

'This has been going on over nine months now, my mum's physical health has just diminished. She has nightmares. She thought she had set herself up for her retirement. She doesn't have anything to fall back on and it is the way she's been treated, that's what upsets me the most.'

Not aged care

The developer has previously clarified with *The Echo* that the site does not provide an aged care facility, and both former Byron Shire Councillor Cate Coorey and the Byron Central Hospital

branch of the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association (NSWNMA) have made it clear that they have 'grave concerns' about the development and that 'this development will have a detrimental effect on the fabric of the Byron Bay community' highlighting that there isn't enough aged care facilities in the region to support a significant increase in older people in the town.

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

'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 DA is due to come to Byron Shire Council in the next few months and residents and the community are asking people to take a look and make sure they put in individual submissions to highlight their concerns with the DA.

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NAIDOC Week and 19th Arakwal NAIDOC Week short film screening

Celebrating the history, culture, and achievements of First Nations Australians, NAIDOC Week runs from 5-12 July with the theme '50 Years of Deadly'.

The Bundjalung of Byron are inviting everyone to join them at the Arakwal NAIDOC march and celebrations that kick off in Railway Park, Byron Bay at 9.30am on Wednesday, 8 July.

'There will be Arakwal dancers,

performers and an Elders tent, community stalls, and more,' said organisers.

Short films

The 19th Arakwal NAIDOC Week short film screening will take place on 7 July at the Byron Theatre.

'The filmmakers and film creatives featured in the 19th year of screenings are some of the leading lights in First Nations film today, blazing brightly on

Australian screens,' said organisers.

The program showcases seven remarkable short films, including *Bringing His Spirit Home* by alumni Dylan Nicholls from Kingscliff High.

The screening is a fundraiser for the Arakwal Bundjalung Corporation. For information on the program and tickets, go to flickerfest.com.au/tour/byron-naidoc or byroncentre.com.au, otherwise pick up a ticket on the door.

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Bay FM's Mia Armitage heads to Germany

Emma Setterfield-Smith

Northern Rivers journalist Mia Armitage has been selected for a prestigious international internship with Germany's public broadcaster, Deutsche Welle.

Armitage, who has spent almost a decade working in community broadcasting and has worked as a journalist at *The Echo*, travelled to Bonn earlier this month to take part in the six-month Mike Thompson/Clare Atkinson Internship.

Run through a long-standing partnership between Deutsche Welle and the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia, the internship gives Australian community broadcasters the opportunity to work alongside international journalists while developing their reporting, digital, and broadcast journalism skills.

Deutsche Welle is Germany's international public broadcaster, producing news and current affairs in 30 languages for audiences around the world. Since the partnership began, more than 30 Australian community radio



Mia Armitage receiving the prestigious international internship with Deutsche Welle. Photo Robbie Armfield

journalists have completed the internship.

Armitage who also runs Bay FM's Community Newsroom said she felt very excited, very nervous, and grateful for the support she had received throughout her journalism career.

'This wouldn't be happening were it not for the trust and support that I have received consistently ever since joining the community broadcasting sector, I think it's nine years now'

Mia says she is 'looking forward to discovering a whole new world of stories and voices while working in Europe', before returning to continue reporting on ongoing issues affecting

the Northern Rivers.

'It's amazing how many stories and voices I've been able to hear and share in such a relatively small place' she said.

Reflecting on her time reporting locally, she says covering the region's housing crisis, recovery from the 2022 floods, and the lives of people experiencing homelessness had shaped her as a journalist.

The internship includes four months in Deutsche Welle's English language newsroom before moving into television production for the final two months.

Armitage said she also hoped her selection would encourage other aspiring journalists to consider community broadcasting as a pathway into the profession.

She said she had not studied German at school or university but had taught herself through podcasts and practise while preparing her application.

'If I can do it, anybody can' she said.

■ Emma Setterfield-Smith is an intern for BayFM.

Stars align for Cape Byron Winter Festival



The rain cleared and the stars were out for last Thursday's Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School's annual Winter Festival at The Farm. The community and students came together to walk the lantern-lit spiral. A highlight of the evening came courtesy of the Class 6 students, whose fire stave dance lit up the winter sky to the delight of the gathered community. Photo Kurt Petersen

New funding path sought for rail trail, but is it too late?

Paul Bibby

Byron Council will investigate private sponsorship, tourism partnerships, and smaller staged projects as it seeks a new path forward for the long-delayed Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT) after a major federal funding bid failed.

Councillors recently backed a notice of motion from Mayor Sarah Ndiaye and Deputy Mayor Jack Dods calling for a detailed report into why the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program application was unsuccessful and what options remain to advance the project.

Alternative funding

The resolution asks staff to examine alternative funding models, including philanthropic contributions, charitable sponsorship, lotteries, public-private partnerships, and 'sponsor a section' schemes, while also identifying future grant opportunities. Council will also investigate breaking the Byron section of the trail into smaller, more achievable stages.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said councillors had been disappointed by the unsuccessful funding application and the lengthy wait for a decision.

'We have an opportunity now,' she said.

'The advice from Janelle Saffin... was break it up into smaller chunks to make it more deliverable.'

Federal feedback released during the meeting identified shortcomings in

the application, including questions around project readiness, outstanding design work and approvals, governance arrangements, environmental risks, and the absence of a formally executed agreement between Byron and Lismore councils.

Stronger detail around First Nations involvement was also sought.

Preparing the ground

Council General Manager Mark Arnold told councillors that a draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) had been prepared between the participating councils but had not been formally executed when the application was assessed.

Deputy Mayor Jack Dods said the rejection highlighted broader organisational issues within Council.

'We're always playing this kind of catch-up role,' he said.

'The original grant was clearly too ambitious. The cost was too high. It was not detailed enough because it took a 30,000-foot approach to implementing this thing.'

Cr Dods said Council needed more detailed plans for individual sections of the corridor to improve future funding prospects.

'What we're trying to do here is actually get some wins on the board.'

The motion also calls for a publicly accessible rail trail masterplan and investigation of sections that could potentially proceed

independently, including Bangalow, Billinudgel, Mullumbimby, and Byron Bay connections.

Call to arms

Speaking during public access, Pat Grier AM from the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Association (NRRTA) described the failed grant bid as 'a call to arms'.

'Let's get ready for grants coming on stream,' he said.

'It is not a disappointment not getting the grant. It is actually a call to arms to say let's get this rail trail up and running.'

Sign up with your support

You can support the rail trail by signing the online petition at www.northernriversrailtrail.com.au/support.

However, the failure of the federal application has pushed back the timetable for any significant construction within Byron Shire.

While the new motion seeks to improve the project's readiness and identify alternative funding sources, there is no guarantee that future grant rounds will be successful, particularly given the substantial costs associated with the Byron section of the corridor.

Meanwhile, the disused rail corridor continues to face pressure from erosion, vegetation growth, and adjoining development proposals. After more than a decade of debate, whether any section of the Byron rail trail is ultimately built remains uncertain.

New flight paths will begin operation at Ballina Airport from 9 July

You may notice changes to where aircraft fly in your local area.

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BaySounds opens the door for songwriters

Paul Bibby

Some songs arrive quickly. Others sit half-finished in notebooks, voice memos or guitar cases for years before somebody finally hears them.

For a handful of Northern Rivers songwriters, this year's BaySounds competition may provide that first audience, with the community radio and music initiative returning for a third year.

Run by BayFM and SAE University College Byron Bay, the competition has steadily carved out a place in the local music calendar, offering emerging songwriters a rare opportunity to have their work heard, recorded and performed.

Entries for the 2026 competition are now open, with unsigned musicians from across the Northern Rivers invited to submit original songs before the 12 July deadline.

The competition is open to artists from Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Tweed, Kyogle, Richmond Valley and the Clarence Valley.

There are separate youth and adult categories, with organisers encouraging



everyone from first-time songwriters to more experienced local performers to enter.

The winners will receive professional recording, mixing and mastering at SAE's Byron Bay studios, along with airplay on BayFM and opportunities to perform live. Runners-up will also have the chance to appear at BaySounds Live broadcasts or the Howl and Moan Records youth showcase in Byron Bay.

The judging panel this year includes musicians Ash Grunwald, Emily Lubitz and Mr Rhodes, alongside BayFM presenters Ange Kent and Nathan Kaye and SAE faculty lead Dirk Terrill.

Last year's youth winner, Seraph Hrubos from Cape Byron Steiner School, said the competition had opened doors.

'BaySounds helped me as a youth artist so much,' the now 15-year-old said.

'Songwriting competitions are so important, because they give young local musicians a way to get their music out there and heard.'

Ballina singer-songwriter Filly Mack, who placed second in the adult section in 2024, said BaySounds had helped her continue recording and writing from home.

'Every artist has a dream, and often it just takes a leap of faith, the right people and the right tools to help get you there,' she said.

The Northern Rivers has never been short of amazing songs. They emerge from school bands, open mic nights, rehearsal sheds, folk clubs, garages and spare bedrooms, often long before anyone beyond family and friends gets to hear them.

BaySounds has become one way of bridging that gap. For some entrants it may mean a first studio session, for others a first live performance or radio airplay. And for a few songs that have spent months, or years, waiting to be finished, it could simply mean finally being heard.

Entries close at midnight on 12 July.

1,000 voices raised to end rough sleeping by 2034



Ending Rough Sleeping Collaboration, Byron Shire members and community joined forces to solve homelessness at an Insights into Action event in Mullumbimby in March. Photo supplied

Ending rough sleeping is no small challenge for Byron Shire and the Northern Rivers but that is the aim of the Ending Rough Sleeping Collaboration and the release of the 1,000 Voices Byron Shire report just released.

The 'What we Heard' report involved around 30 organisations and more than 700 community members, providing insight into local homelessness impacts and the need for systemic change.

This is part of the regional effort 'Northern Rivers Zero' to end rough sleeping in the Northern Rivers by 2034

by making it rare, brief and non-recurring.

Urgent calls for change

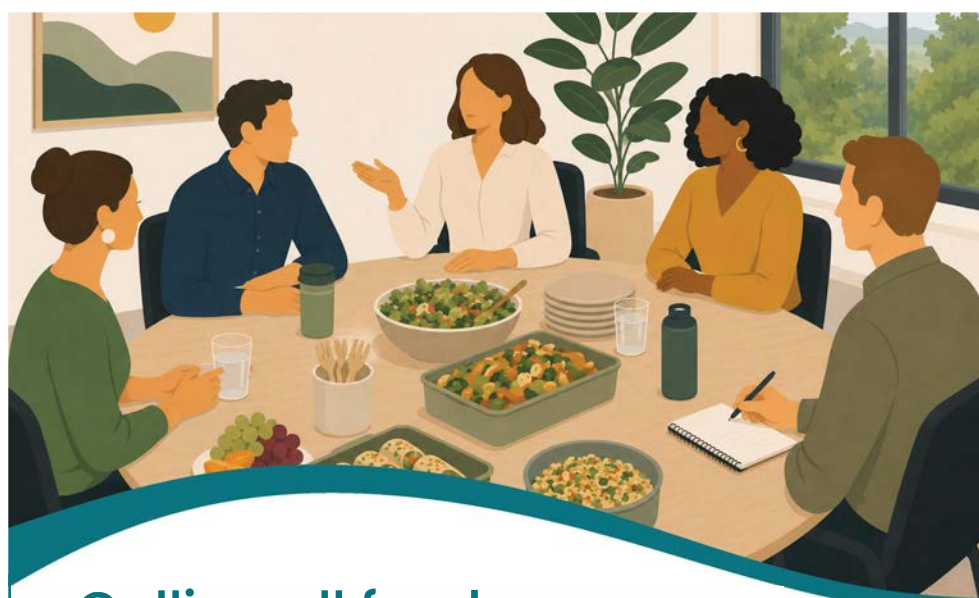
Ending Rough Sleeping Collaboration Byron Shire Co-Chair Dr Elizabeth Settles said the 1,000 Voices report's findings confirm that homelessness is widely understood as a complex and systemic issue, not an individual failing.

'Many, clearly see that homelessness is driven by factors like housing affordability, cost of living pressures and broader social factors like domestic and

family violence and mental health,' Dr Settles said.

'Many recognise that homelessness is not about individual choices, it's about systems that aren't working for everyone. They see people falling through the cracks and they want bold action to improve housing, services, awareness, and policy reform.'

The 1,000 Voices report, summary findings and Ending Rough Sleeping Collaboration Shared Agenda for Change are available at: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/1000-voices or at the Council chambers, 70 Station Street, Mullumbimby.



Calling all food and catering businesses

We are seeking expressions of interest from businesses to supply catering to Byron Shire Council for regular meetings throughout the year.

We would like to establish a list of businesses that can supply us with catering for a period of 12 months, starting August 2026.

Applications close on Friday 17 July, 4pm.

More information

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Positive future for Byron's visitor economy

Last Thursday saw Destination Byron bring together over 150 attendees looking at the future of Byron and its visitor economy.

Speakers included Rebecca Masci from the Brisbane 2032 Olympics Organising Committee, data commentator Simon Kuestenmacher and STR's Paul Hammond. Sessions covered visitor economy data, sustainable tourism and how the Byron Shire can capitalise on the lead up to the 2032 Games.

'It was encouraging to see a broad mix of people – from accommodation and

experience operators, media, community members, and all keen to collaborate to better manage and promote our Shire,' said Jeanie Wylie, Destination Byron's President.

'Tourism works best when everyone's pulling in the same direction, and the fact that so many people want to be part of that conversation gives me a lot of confidence and optimism about where we're headed.'

Byron Fest

The symposium also heard about Destination Byron's \$200,000 Regional

Night-Time Economy Program grant that will be used to help support the creation of Byron Fest, a new mid-winter festival planned for June 2027.

The festival will focus on arts and culture, sustainability, wellbeing, food and beverage, and entrepreneurship and is asking businesses and local organisations to sign up and participate in the event.

For more information about Destination Byron, Byron Fest or how to get involved, visit destinationbyron.com.au.

Pet adoption day – 4 July in Ballina

Northern Rivers Animal Services Inc (NRAS) are hoping the sun will be out for their monthly adoption day on Saturday, 4 July from 10am until 1pm at the NRAS Rescue Shelter at 61 Piper Drive, Ballina.

The volunteers say there are some beautiful animals available for adoption, including the various feline personalities of Romeo, Luna Moon, and Spencer or the sweet and gentle staffy, Rusty. There's also Lucky, the



Rusty is up for adoption. Photo supplied

lovable six-month-old playful pup with a gentle soul.

All animals up for adoption by forever families are vet checked, parasite

treated, vaccinated, micro-chipped, and desexed prior to adoption. Adoptions can also take place outside of the monthly adoption day, so people looking to adopt a furry friend should still keep an eye on NRAS' website at www.nras.org.au and has profiles of the animals in NRAS' care.

For any further information, call the shelter on weekdays between 10am and 4:00pm on 6681 1860, or email: shelter@nras.org.au.

Mandy Nolan wins Greens preselection for seat of Ballina

Aslan Shand

Mandy Nolan has won the Greens preselection to represent the party at the 2027 state elections for the seat of Ballina.

The preselection contest was a result of the current Greens Ballina state MP, Tamara Smith, announcing that she would not be contesting the next state election.

The contest also included Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye and Ballina councillor Kiri Dicker.

'I am absolutely thrilled to be the Greens candidate for Ballina and to continue the work of our MP for Ballina Tamara Smith,' Mandy told *The Echo*. 'I am committed to grassroots community engagement – I love this community and this place. It would be a privilege to be their voice at the table!'

Byron Shire Councillor David Warth says he will run as an independent, Kevin Loughrey is set to represent One Nation while the Nationals, who previously held the seat prior to Ms Smith, and Labor are yet to announce a candidate.

No Small Thing – changing lives for the better, together



Coordinator of NRCF's Women's Giving Circle, Amy Colli, says that the projects they support create meaningful change in the lives of women and girls. Photo Jeff Dawson

This Thursday, 2 July the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) Women's Giving Circle is bringing a stellar lineup of leaders to the Regent Theatre in Murwillumbah to discuss how progress happens across climate, gender equality, media, democracy, and community action – and why local action still matters.

The No Small Thing panel will be led by Cheek Media founder, Hannah Ferguson,

and brings together Grata Fund founder Isabelle Reinecke, former Nature Conservancy global director of gender equity Robyn James, and Coolamon Community CEO Evie Wood for a conversation about staying hopeful and effective in the face of large-scale challenges.

Empowering action

'The problems shaping women's and girls' lives are

vast, connected, and easy to feel powerless against. But the most powerful place to shift them might also be the smallest: the local, the grassroots, the room you're sitting in,' say organisers.

No Small Thing will run from 5pm to 9.30pm at the Regent Theatre, Murwillumbah. Tickets at: <https://events.humanitix.com/no-small-thing-nrcf-womens-giving-circle>.

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Have your say on plans for Gulgan Village

YOUR SAY
BYRON SHIRE

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

Youth internship program inspiring new volunteers

Students gaining practical emergency response skills while helping build the next generation of volunteers has been the focus of the NSW State Emergency Service Youth Internship Programs across the state during this school term.

NRAS July adoption day to go ahead

Northern Rivers Animal Services Inc are hoping the sun will be out for their monthly adoption day on Saturday 4 July at the NRAS Rescue Shelter in Ballina.

Help raise funds for Our Kids with Tutu Day

Northern Rivers locals are once again being encouraged to swap business attire, school uniforms, team shirts and everyday clothes for something a little more colourful by wearing a tutu on Friday 31 July to help raise funds for Our Kids.

Casino Suspension Bridge opens

Minister For Small Business, Recovery and North Coast Janelle Saffin joined Mayor Robert Mustow and Member for Page Kevin Hogan to officially open the Casino Suspension Bridge on Saturday 27 June.

Savour The Tweed returns, 22 October

Food and drink event, Savour The Tweed, returns to excite taste buds this spring, from Wednesday 22 October to Sunday 26 October.

Charge dismissed for activist hindering coal exports

An activist who came to national attention after being punched by a police officer while protesting, has had another charge dismissed in court today.

Schools Roadshow held in Lismore

The Rivers Secondary College Lismore High Campus hosted 80 principals and public school leaders from across the North Coast and New England on Friday 26 June as part of the 2026 Schools Roadshow.

www.echo.net.au

Govt's carbon credit scheme welcomed

The release of the government's proposed Improved Native Forest Method, which allows governments to claim carbon credits in return for stopping logging has been welcomed by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) and North Coast Environment Council (NCEC) as 'providing a way to end native forest logging on public land'.

'This is a game changer' said NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh. 'Over the past 100 years, logging has removed most large trees from state forests, releasing more than half the carbon stored in our forests into the atmosphere'.

'If forests are allowed to recover, then they can remove their lost carbon from the atmosphere and store it out of harm's way in their wood and

soils. The NSW government has said that the creation of the Great Koala National Park is predicated upon being able to claim carbon credits. Now they can proceed.

'They will be able to earn over \$300m in Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) over the first 15 years, which we are assured will go into park management and rehabilitation of degraded forests. We can repair some of the mess left by logging,' Mr Pugh said.

'Modelling by Mandala Partners for the Australian Climate and Biodiversity Foundation estimates that stopping logging of all NSW's native state forests could generate about 1.5 million ACCUs a year, returning over \$1.5b to the NSW government over 15 years to reinvest in regional forest management

and support an estimated 1,700 forest jobs such as pest and weed removal, fire management, and protection of cultural and environmental assets.

'Instead of paying \$20m to 30m a year to log and degrade NSW's public native forests, by protecting forests the government will be able to make over \$100m a year to pay for a transition package for affected loggers, forest management, new recreation facilities and forest rehabilitation,' NCEC spokesperson Susie Russell said.

'As the forests mature they will improve habitat for a multitude of threatened species, increase stream flows, reduce flooding, reduce fire threat and intensity, and better withstand the growing impacts of climate heating,' Ms Russell added.

Wollumbin art finalists announced



2026 WAA Finalist Kirsten Chambers' piece *Vanitas 2026*, oil on polycotton, 121x121 cm. Image courtesy the artist.

The finalists for the biennial Wollumbin Art Award (WAA), held by Tweed Regional Gallery, have been announced.

They are Tweed-based artist Kane Corowa, Gold Coast-based artist Beth

Andrews, and Byron-based artists Kirsten Chambers and Monica Buscarino. Finalists are vying for a \$15,000 first prize, to be announced at the awards night on Saturday, 29 August.

Ballina Shire Council finds savings in chairs

David Lowe

At its last meeting, as part of a long discussion about amendments to Ballina Council's delivery program and operational plan, there was a debate about whether Ballina Richmond Rotary Club should still be paid \$8,000 to set up chairs for the RSL Lighthouse Day Club.

Cr Kiri Dicker said, 'We never review this'.

'It happens extraneous to any Council policy. It's not discussed in a working party of any kind, because it's not considered. It doesn't happen through the community donations process.

'It just sort of sits separately...'

'When that Day Club started, there used to be a stage that had to be set up, with quite a lot of work involved. That stage is no longer set up,' she said.

'The Ballina RSL sub-branch is also applying for \$5,000 of in-kind fees to use the Richmond Room, so it costs us \$5,000 plus another \$8,000 extraneous to any sort of policy.

'It's worth noting that the RSL sub-branch has a considerable amount of investments. I just checked on their charitable status, and they make every year

\$450,000 in interest from their investments...'

'Almost no community groups get a cash donation from Council, it's almost always in-kind fees, and the fact that it's never reviewed, I can't continue to support that, for reasons of good governance,' said Cr Dicker.

Handshake deal

'It is literally a handshake deal,' she said, before suggesting that the arrangement should be wrapped up after 2026.

Cr Phil Meehan spoke in support of Cr Dicker's amendment, saying he had tried previously to

implement a similar change.

'I've been unhappy for a number of years with this concept of a donation that's outside, with no policy around it. No other group has access to it...'

'Inherently, it's not a good process, and I would say it's not equitable process... if there's a need to pay for chairs to be set up and somebody else doesn't want to do that, then the group can quite simply or easily move to a suitable space in Ballina RSL club, which should be provided for free,' he said.

'In the past, there's been an argument from representatives of that group: "Oh

no, the poor older folk, they'll get into the RSL Club and lose control and go and play the poker machines. We can't allow them to be exposed."

'That argument is a furphy, quite clearly,' said Cr Meehan.

Narrowly passed

'I believe Cr Dicker is actually being very kind here by saying this is the last year. If I was to move something, I would say we're not doing it anymore, because we have to have a better process.'

In the end, the amendment narrowly passed.

Cr Simon Chate was not present for the June meeting.

Tony Parkes – celebrating a full life

Everyone is welcome to celebrate the life of environmentalist Tony Parkes

(15/11/1929 – 11/06/2026) on Friday July 10, from 1.30pm, at Bangalow A & I Hall.

Local government assembly calls to restore Council funding

Tweed Shire Council say it has secured national support at the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly, with four key motions carried.

They say, 'The result strengthens the case for federal action on critical issues affecting regional, coastal and border communities, including sustainable funding, biosecurity and stronger collaboration between governments'.

Tweed Shire Mayor Chris Cherry said the four key

Tweed-supported motions were: Motion 91 – Restoring direct and sustainable Federal funding; Motion 139 – National Fire Ant Eradication Program funding; Motion 141 – Nationally consistent weed and pest animal regulations; Motion 198 – Improved consultation between state and local government.

Cr Cherry added a number of motions by other councils were adopted, some which are aimed at addressing Australia's housing pressures.

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Welcome Natalie Stokes

Natalie graduated with honours from The University of Melbourne in 1999 and has been providing dental care in the Northern Rivers region for more than two decades. Many patients will know her from her 19 years at Mullumbimby Dental Centre (now Maven), where she built trusted relationships with local families while caring for all aspects of their dental health.

Natalie offers high-quality general dentistry for patients of all ages, with a particular interest in preventive and minimal intervention dentistry.

She is passionate about helping patients understand their treatment options and empowering them to make informed decisions through open communication and education.

Known for her gentle, caring and patient manner, Natalie is especially skilled at helping nervous patients feel comfortable and reducing anxiety around dental visits.

She also holds a Diploma in Functional Nutritional Therapy, giving her a unique understanding of the connection between nutrition, oral health and overall wellbeing.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 41 #03 • July 1, 2026

The Karl Stefanovic pile-on

In 2011, Channel 9 scored a one-on-one interview with the Daili Lama during his Australian tour. It was handed to their larrikan breakfast guy – Karl Stefanovic.

Karl attempted a famously terrible joke that went like this ‘The Dalai Lama walks into a pizza shop and he says, “Can you make me one with everything?”’

It might have worked with mates at the pub but on TV with the Dalai Lama himself? The great man looked to his interpreter who had the impossible task of trying to explain ‘pizza shop’ in Tibetan. Karl struggled on looking more and more idiotic. When he realised the joke had backfired badly he laughed. Earnest, affable, accident-prone Karl, completely misreading his subject and fluffing the big moment.

Channel 9 posted the Daili Lama clip twice on YouTube – it became a fun meme with nearly five million views. It epitomised the Karl millions of Australians knew and liked. This was the same Karl that Channel 9 spent decades promoting. They successfully ran an audience campaign to help their star win the ‘most popular TV Presenter’ Gold Logie. The Gold Logie – it’s a TV entertainment award.

#KrushingKarl

So it came as a surprise this week when the *Sydney Morning Herald* (SMH) started to deploy multiple Walkley winning (real) journalists to savage Karl-the-Logie-winner for being too friendly in his podcast interview with a UK neo-Nazi.

In four days, the SMH ran at least eight news stories and six opinion and editorial pieces attacking his failure to meet high professional standards of journalism.

I take their point but not the astonishing breadth and volume of coverage. Over four days the SMH desks and sections covering the story included the national news; live blog; business; media & marketing; opinion; editorial; cbd; culture wars; on background;



‘I am guessing Karl has been given some terrible advice by hard right ‘mates’ who want to exploit his popularity for their cause.’

– Catherine Cusack

videos; entertainment; television; and of course podcasts. Video packages and ‘explainers’ have also been prepared and published.

I have subscribed for over 40 years to the SMH – I love that paper and its various campaigns for women’s rights, climate action, and investigations against the likes of Eddie Obeid and those accused of war crimes. Yes, they sure can wield a sledgehammer – but to focus all their cannons on a single podcast by a fading breakfast show presenter? It was weird. It was disproportionate and lacked context.

To make money a successful podcaster requires a streak of pure bastardry that Karl Stefanovic obviously lacks. Think of Candice Owen accusing French President Emmanuel Macron’s wife of being a man – and doggedly amplifying that conspiracy claim for years – even as the outraged Macrons are suing her for defamation.

I am not convinced a person who face-planted into his own pizza joke is capable of that.

I am guessing Karl has been given some terrible advice by hard right ‘mates’ who want to exploit his popularity for their cause. It is natural to try to make a future for himself but he has yet again misread the room and made a fool of himself. This time it’s not funny and Channel 9 have switched from defending him to throwing everything they own at him – unfortunately this includes their ownership of the SMH.

In politics, conflict of interest disclosures are mandatory and made up front – not mumbled three quarters of the way into a speech that you should not even be making, because you are too

compromised to speak objectively.

The same ethical rules of disclosure apply to news media. It goes to trust. Some SMH stories have made a short mention that ‘Channel 9 owns this masthead’. Technically they ticked the box. But morally? Should they have allowed themselves to be used like this at all?

Channel 9 decided to allow Karl to try to ‘reinvent himself’ in exchange for a pay cut, to save themselves money. It was a critical mistake that lies at the heart of how this happened. Yet the SMH lopsided reporting is not holding anyone but Karl accountable.

I am certainly no apologist for Karl’s podcasts. But how big a threat is he to democracy? My bigger worry is protecting the integrity of the SMH. Because they are more than an arm of someone else’s corporate strategy. They really are a cornerstone of trust.

News Corp has already failed many integrity tests by becoming an activist rather than a reporter of news. So the traditions of the SMH matter more now than ever. Yet it’s bannerhead: ‘Independent. Always.’ no longer feels accurate. Denying that credibility would be a far bigger blow to democracy than any Karl podcast.

The lesson to everyone seeking to champion Australia’s better angels against the hard right is to believe in, and protect, the power of integrity. Nietzsche’s excellent advice: when fighting monsters, one must take great care not to become a monster yourself.

■ Lennox Head-based Catherine Cusack is a retired NSW Liberal MLC.

Free conversation helps birthing

I was a home birth. I chose to have my children in a hospital. That was my choice.

There is a lot of attention going to freebirthing at the moment. But the reality is that women have been freebirthing since they started birthing. That’s a damn long time.

There is no 100 per cent guaranteed way to go through a pregnancy and give birth to a child that does not run the risk of danger, and potential death, to both foetus and mother. Not in a hospital, with the best medical attention, or at home without any medical interference. Birthing is a risky business.

Historically, one to two per cent of mothers, and up to ten per cent of babies, died during or shortly after birth. There have been some pretty horrifying medical interventions to try to save either the mother or the child. There are still practices that could be improved, there is human error, there is misinformation, there are not always medical answers, and there is always risk. It is the calculation of that risk that every potential parent, nurse, midwife, doula, and doctor must consider when making a decision that impacts the outcome of a birth and everyone involved.

The Northern Rivers has been a place that has made space for home birthing. We had amazing midwives like Pam Sonia and Jude Holland (aka MeMa) who worked with Dr David Miller to give families a chance to birth in a way that they felt was the best outcome for them. Thanks to their work we saw the old Mullumbimby Hospital have one of the best birthing suites in the region.

They did have training, they had doctors on hand, after Jude had waded through the floods to a birthing mother, they had Dr Miller flown in by helicopter and then the birthing mother taken by firetruck through floodwaters to get to medical services. They knew when to ask for assistance, they sought medical intervention when it was needed.

One of the key reasons often cited for freebirthing is a former negative hospital birthing experience, or feeling coerced into medical intervention. When you are in the middle of birthing, let alone a contraction, decision-making is challenging.

Demonising freebirthing doesn’t get the best outcomes for the mother and child, nor does demonising medical intervention.

People should be allowed to make their decisions on how they want to bring their children into the world. But we also need to make informed decisions and beating up on freebirthing is not going to allow people to make more informed decisions. It is more likely to drive freebirthing underground with increased risk and more negative outcomes for babies, mothers, and families.

Understanding the risks is key to making informed decisions, understanding people’s reasons for not wanting high levels of medical intervention is key to engaging with people from all walks of life and ensuring the best outcomes for everyone involved. Engaging from both sides of the debate will give us the best outcomes for everyone involved.

Aslan Shand, editor



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Local Byron biz down 50 per cent – why?

What on Earth is going on in Jonson Street, Byron Bay?

I ventured to the newsagent in the middle of town on Saturday morning at 6am when it's still dark, and found it surrounded by a wall of orange barricades.

It was spooky.

My chat with the newsagent went along the lines of: Do you get any compensation for this disruption? Answer: No.

How much business have you lost? Answer: 50 per cent.

Why on Earth do they need to barricade you in. Answer: Don't know. Maybe so we can't see what is going on.

I commented that I should write on their behalf, to *The Echo*, so I am.

We know from all the signage that they are fixing the drains, but why do they need these huge walls which obviously cost time and money?

That isn't fixing the drains.

Get the job done faster. Get more help if there aren't sufficient workers.

Byron Bay has lost so many local businesses, and this is costing our only newsagent, our long-term community newsagent, 50 per cent of their business.

It's not sustainable for a business.

Anyone reading this, go and have a look for yourself, and find a reason to go to the newsagent. They deserve our support before we lose another business.

Josephine Beams
Byron Bay

■ *The Echo* confirmed Josephine's claims with the newsagent on 29 June.
– **Letters Ed**

African tulip tree

There is a beautiful large, bright, orange-flowered tree, the African tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*), which grows vigorously in our Northern Rivers.

You will see it on any drive around your area. Unfortunately, its flowers



Image AI prompt by Hans Lovejoy

are highly toxic to our native bees. Research from Uni of Qld (UQ) has found that the flower's nectar contains compounds that quickly paralyse and kill native bees.

It is classified as a pest tree in Qld, NSW and the Northern Territory, an invasive tree which can dominate local gullies and waterways.

In our coastal regions, native bee-attracting trees include the coastal banksia, broad-leaved paperbark and coastal cypress pine, while for inland rainforest and alluvial plains areas (e.g. Lismore, Mullum), pink bloodwood, weeping lilly pilly, tulip wood and guioa.

Smaller shrubs like grevillea and bottlebrush are ideal attractors. Basil, rosemary and thyme can also help our native bees bridge seasonal flowering gaps.

Australia's native bees are vital to our ecosystems and our agriculture, but sadly their long-term survival is increasingly precarious.

We can all do our bit whether it be planting native bee-attracting flora, limiting our use of harmful garden pesticides or removing the African tulip tree from our gardens and footpaths.

Bronwyn Morris
Montecollum

Mullum water

Thanks councillors Warth, Hauge, Ndiaye, Kay and Lowe for holding the line against the conservatives (Lyon, Dods and Labor) and Council staff, who all want to close Lavertys Gap Weir as a water source and use only Rous's water for urban supply to Mullumbimby.

Rous is the supermarket of water in our region and its price rises are already on its books. Like the supermarkets did to dairy farmers, Rous is poised to squeeze the environment for more water.

Rous has been delighted to take on the new customers of Mullumbimby, before even knowing where the extra water will come from.

In this regard, Rous officially claimed that adding Mullum has no influence on whether it builds Dunoon Dam or not.

How can that be?

When I first dwelt in Byron Shire, we staved off Rous's plan then for a dam on Wilsons Creek at Federal.

Then in the 1990s, Rous pivoted to its next choice, the Dunoon Dam.

Following intensive community consultation, it promised to find other ways of sourcing water and to never build Dunoon Dam.

But it didn't sell the extensive real estate it had acquired for the project. Until Rous sells, we need to assume the DuD will be built.

The other ways of sourcing water include demand management – things like subsidising urban rainwater tanks. Both Rous and Byron Council have dropped this in recent years.

Duncan Dey
Main Arm

Councillor's integrity

In last week's *Echo*, there was a wonderful editorial, plus another article about the Station Street development for affordable housing in Mullumbimby.

The essence I received from both articles was there has to be change in the way we as a community are able to decide on our own future.

As an example, in the editorial 'Could you be a better councillor?', Aslan Shand pointed out that even though we had a tremendous number of submissions against the development of the Station Street affordable housing behemoth, councillors disregarded 740 submissions and voted for the development.

This is the biggest
▶ **Continued on page 12**

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► Continued from page 11 submission I believe that Council has ever had, and yet the reason that councillors voted against the community submissions was that they had gotten into power by promising their voters affordable housing.

In this particular instance, and in the revised DA, the final result is still an eyesore with little tiny studios and the loss of serious community parking and facilities.

It makes me wonder if there just cannot be a better way for decisions to be made. The fact that councillors can quietly say 'yes, yes, yes' and then vote 'no, no, no' just doesn't seem right for me.

How is it that councillors can promise things to rate-payers (in this case affordable housing), and then, when the majority of the community does not want a particular flawed affordable housing proposal, they still vote for it, even though they are obviously not supporting the majority of the community's wishes?

As a system, it stinks.

There has to be a better way. I am told by many people there is no better way.

I don't believe it.

I believe there's always a better way, and here in this day of incredible technology, surely there is a way that we can make decisions more democratically and more related directly to current community opinion.

Ian Blair Hamilton
Myocum

Overdevelopment

I was horrified when my eyes landed on the resubmitted housing/commercial DA by Landcom and Byron Shire Council at 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby.

It's a very vital convenient carpark - haven't we 'been there done that'?

It was previously rejected by residents of Mullumbimby - they gave an emphatic 'No', to this takeover/grab.

Aren't councillors required to act on 'the will of the people'?

Amazingly, in a letter from state government corporation Landcom, they said (and I quote), 'We believe that the amended application addressed Council's concerns that the application can be supported and recommended for approval to the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP)'.
Again, the 'will of the people' has been ignored and I question Council's concerns.

Then again, regarding it being 'supported' and 'recommended for approval' to the NRPP... do you know



Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbey

who is on that Northern Regional Planning Panel?

Jillian Spring
Billinudgel

Slow down

Just when you think it can't get any worse on the roads, dodging e-bikes and ridiculous-sized vehicles, now we get impatient and aggressive morons who want to overtake at stop signs!

Slow down people!

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

Not alone

Residents of Morrison Ave Mullumbimby, rest assured you are not alone.

I have been writing to Byron Shire Council (BSC) for 15 years requesting Council to fix the death trap called Blackbean Lane Federal.

Council informed me that half the lane is owned by Council (the northern end) and the other half is owned by Crown Lands.

Further, that the Crown Lands section was closed in 1973.

Council stated that the community should only use the northern end to access Federal Drive. I have yet to see a public notice advising the 'community' accordingly. Crown Lands advised me that the lane was not closed and that it is public through road.

During Covid in 2021, Council permitted ITV to film 'Love Island' on the property on the Crown Land section of the lane.

Large cranes, bulldozers, mobile offices and hundreds of vehicles successfully ripped out the whole of that section of the lane.

Allegedly funds were provided by ITV to remedy the damage. This has not happened. A deep chasm remains.

I decided to try turning right onto Federal Drive at the northern end of the lane.

There is no clear line of sight. There is a speed limit of 80km/h (excessive) on Federal Drive, but many drivers see the stretch of road as an excellent dry run for the Grand Prix.

It is a terrifying experience

venturing out or entering the lane at either end.

Council informed me that they have no intention of fixing the lane as it is not considered to be a 'Council asset'.

It is evident that correspondence to Council is for the most part ignored, especially submissions against DAs.

If they were read and understood (many of which far exceed the quality of the DA), Council would be legally bound to refuse many applications.

As Council has filled in potholes on the Crown Lands section of the lane in the past, and there has been a development (approved by Council), on that section of the lane Council has a responsibility to care for it.

Crown Lands are not required to maintain their roads.

Council is not legally required to make all roads safe in the Shire if there are insufficient funds.

However, if Council is forewarned of a hazard and fails to act then there may be grounds for action in negligence, i.e. the protection from malfeasance does not apply.

To my horror, Mayor Sarah Ndiaye is requesting that ratepayers lobby government to provide more funds and in the same newspaper I read that Council is seeking a substantial increase in rates.

I allege that Council is devoted to serving the needs of developers and tourists at the expense of ratepayers.

More funds would encourage further indulgence and discrimination.

As the only service I receive from Council is garbage, I propose that I dispose of my own garbage and seek the blessing of Council to withhold my rates until I accumulate sufficient funds to have Blackbean Lane re-engineered.

If this fails, I reckon it is time for an independent investigation into the administration of BSC.

Hilary Bone
Federal

Calls for more public transport

Public transport in the Northern Rivers currently consists of a few buses that run infrequently and have very few passengers.

Friends of mine have had to move from the area when they can no longer drive a car.

This is surely unacceptable in this day and age. The lack of public transport has the greatest impact on students and the aged.

In order to rectify the situation, the following actions would improve the situation.

In Mullumbimby, a free mini-bus service should be established which would be a service for residents living within five kilometres of the town centre.

These should be provided with wheelchair access.

This would result in less demand for parking in the town centre.

In addition, the suspended railway between Mullumbimby and Byron Bay should be reopened and, if the patronage of this service was strong enough, the service should be extended to Lismore.

The latter extension would benefit those attending university and living in Mullumbimby and Byron Bay.

A survey of residents and shopowners indicated strong support for reopening the railway.

In addition, the railway would defer the need to duplicate Ewingsdale Road, which is becoming congested for longer periods of time and requires duplication now.

This would be extremely costly to do because the road has to be built on a swamp.

A private company is prepared to operate the service should this be necessary.

To maximise the success of this service, consideration should be given to subsidising the fares.

Constructing new railways in the region is too costly because of the hilly terrain and the dispersed nature of the towns and villages.

Therefore the bulk of the public transport would have to be provided by buses.

Mini-buses would be adequate for most services now.

These would need to be frequent enough and be scheduled in such a way that they minimised the journey time between towns and met the time demands of the users.

Chris Abraham
Mullumbimby

Independent audit

I was so shocked to see on our Council community page that company Micromax has been employed to do a survey of our residents to gauge if we are disappointed with our services provided by Council.

Council has not only wasted much of our rates, but has left major infrastructure to become an unacceptable state. I can only question why?

Community: it's time to get involved in notifying state governments about an independent audit.

The audit needs to look at why our infrastructure has been neglected for decades.

Where has all our money gone? The unsustainable growth of development when our major infrastructure is not fit for purpose. Community, it's time to speak up, especially when I have been told Council is going to push for an unacceptable 35 per cent increase to our rates.

This continuing decline in meeting Council's obligations for community needs while also passing more high-density developments cannot continue.

We certainly need to address these concerns.

Annie Radermacher
Brunswick Heads

Multiculturalism

Right across the planet, the soccer World Cup is grandstanding multiculturalism in all its splendour!

It's a great kick in the guts for all the anti-woke, anti-immigrant, anti-diversity, neo-fascist right (wrong) wing conservatives who have hijacked the Divided States of America and much of the western world.

Here in Australia, the World Cup could not have been better timed to coincide with Hanson's ludicrous idea of monoculturalism.

SBS is the national broadcaster of the World Cup.

The same SBS Hanson wants to get rid of. Its on-air presence must be a constant reminder to her of how multicultural Australia really is, despite her pathological need to make it otherwise.

Imagine if every woman in Australia thought and looked like Pauline Hanson and every man in Australia thought and looked like Barnaby Joyce.

Now that's monoculture. Hairdressers would go mad dyeing the grey roots of endless queues of red-heads.

And dentists would be driven berserk having to straighten, extract and clean an endless procession of

badly-neglected teeth!

And can you imagine these Hanson-Joyce look-alikes filling restaurants, all with the same monocultural menu? Chowing down on 'chops and two veg' or 'bangers and mash', with 'fish and chips' on Friday? Chardonnay-sipping mashed-avocado eating lefties would be reduced to small cohorts meeting secretly in basements to talk about anything but the weather!

Hanson's mono-vision dystopia means SBS will be closed down, the beloved ABC reduced to a subscription streaming service. Gina Rinehart-owned media will rule the airwaves. What these fundamentalists don't realise is that SBS and the ABC are the Australian culture!

Without them, this nation would be a cultural desert. Hanson said, 'I didn't change... Australia did'. Well let's hope we didn't change that much. Federal Labor, the independents and the Greens are really the only adults left in the room.

Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

Ecological sustainability

Close to 40 years ago, at a time when the ozone layer was threatened and revealing 'holes' in same, the climate science narratives warned humanity of the huge threat that this situation presented to the survival of humanity and sentient beings.

This very climate layer was essential to all life on the planet. Consequently, this dangerous trigger to all life on Earth alerted humanity to best-practice survival policies.

Indeed, it was during this time a spontaneous Green movement arose in both the cities and regions. Thus we saw 'ecological sustainability' become a dominant value in human consciousness.

Activists and civil society rallied socially to this new imperative consciousness.

Not wishing to be left out we also saw the word 'sustainability' harnessed by corporate capital.

A very strong consciousness was necessary by activists to alert civil society to be aware of the capitalist narratives that defined 'sustainability'.

Simply put, ecological sustainability, in terms of consciousness, was sentient/Earth rights orientated while corporate narratives governing the world's 'sustainability' were, and are,

capital/power-focused.

The demarcation between the two (ecological sustainability and sustainability) could not be wider!

They are not bedfellows. They are defined by opposing consciousness.

Civil societies are now experiencing the devouring nature of social authoritarianism.

Thus, we hear in all dominant institutions the rise of the word 'sustainability.'

Seldom do we ever hear the phrase 'ecological sustainability'.

This creates a very dangerous time for human consciousness – and societies in general. So effective is the corporate spin that residents everywhere are expressing extreme frustration with governing bureaucrats.

Human rights and sentient rights are dismissed in this spin. Furthermore, Sydney-centric government has assumed the 'big daddy' role in public policy narratives that govern development on floodplains.

The most dangerous example of 'corporate sustainability' ever, floodplains are up to 25 feet deep in waters in the lower layers of Earth, and wetland sites undergoing development. This means that the amount of fill is really a 'decorative frill' for development.

Fill enables the spreading of waters nearby.

'Tis the nature of sand. Thus corporate sustainability dismisses the Human Rights Charter which upholds safe housing for all, and overrides any public policy addressing rights and safety.

It condemns future generations to death-defying housing as climate change tragedies mount.

Sinkholes appear everywhere, roads collapse, underground pipes erode, allowing dangerous toxins into the sea.

And so on. Even insurance companies are not willing to play this corporate game by issuing policies.

Civil societies are held captive to venal vision aided by 'corporate sustainability' maxims and practices.

But money flows. Time to uphold the powerful community consciousness of ecological sustainability in these very fraught times, folks.

We all depend upon the bigger picture that aids all life. Green consciousness/government embraces grass roots democracy, aided by same. 'Tis written in the political charter.

Jo Faith
Newtown

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A deeper dive into Gulgan Village's affordable housing

Arakwal Corp deal left out of proposal but still promised; five per cent affordable housing pegged at around 27 dwellings

Hans Lovejoy

If approved, Gulgan Village, proposed on the highway end of The Saddle Road across 37.9 hectares, could eventually (after a development application process) house up to 1,000 people in around 550 homes, 'depending on the housing mix' (source: *Gulgan Village Civil Engineering Report*).

Now on exhibition, there are 26 documents associated with the planning proposal at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/ppr/under-exhibition/gulgan-village.

To put the increase in population into perspective, the 2021 Census recorded the Brunswick Heads population at 1,905 residents.

And that's not all that is planned for The Saddle Road – the Engineering Report says, 'This excludes the BILS 5 land that is subject to a separate Planning Proposal'.

So aside from assessing how this proposal will impact the Shire's sewage and water capacity, the local road network (which Mullumbimby depends upon) and whether this proposal

meets community expectations around open spaces and density, let's focus on the affordable housing aspect.

The director of the proponent, Gulgan Road Property Pty Ltd, is Brandon Saul, the developer behind the Habitat precinct in the Byron Arts & Industry Estate, and the revamped Fletcher Street Cottage homeless drop-in centre. He was also instrumental in plans to build a cluster of group homes for at-risk single-parent families, which is also located within the Gulgan Village site.

He told *The Echo* that following on former Cr Paul Spooner's housing trust model, he became involved with Byron Shire Community Housing (www.bsclt.org).

According to www.bsclt.org, 'Property owned by Byron Shire Community Housing [will] never to be sold onto the speculative market.'

'This is a community-led, as opposed to government-led, solution', he said.

He says the reason he got involved was that he was 'frustrated at seeing hundreds of women and



Council's Gulgan Village map on their website (as illustrated left), and the map provided by the developer on www.gulganvillage.com (pictured right).



children living in cars in Byron – almost all of whom have work'.

'We are donating that land to the trust as a seed project and will be in perpetuity, managed by a community housing provider.'

'We hope it can be replicated throughout Byron Shire. The land donated to the community land trust is actually above and beyond the five per cent going to Council for affordable housing and the five per cent going to the Arakwal,' Mr Saul said.

He says the model is based

on one set up by [US Senator] Bernie Sanders in Vermont.

'The ambition of the trust is that it can be expanded, and not reliant on government funding. The trust is one component of the proposal.'

'The pilot is for three houses with five independent living quarters in each house. The best practice is to mix single elder women with younger women and their children'.

Asked why there was no mention of the trust within the planning proposal, he replied, 'I think they weren't in the documentation because they weren't actually part of "what was required". It's just something we decided to do off our own bat above and beyond what was required', he said.

Voluntary planning agreement (VPA)

According to the unsigned draft VPA between Council and the developer (contained in the planning proposal), the affordable housing contribution (page 42) is now listed as just five per cent, from the original ten. This is a variation approved by Council which falls under the Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme 02 (AHCS 02).

The land had been pegged as 10 per cent in total for affordable housing.

As reported by Paul Bibby in March 2025, Mr Saul had committed five per cent to the Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation, with the remaining five per cent being for affordable housing.

The Echo asked Mr Saul why there was no mention of any land dedicated to the Arakwal Aboriginal Corporation in the Planning Proposal.

Mr Saul replied that 'Arakwal didn't want to be in the scheme and wanted self-determination – so they were taken out of the VPA and the scheme'. He added councilors unanimously agreed to the Arakwal proposal, and there is a '100 per cent legal commitment – it will be documented and a condition of consent'.

Council planning staff previously warned at the February 2025 meeting that the lack of official inclusion in the proposal created a risk for Council. Yet Council's website confirms the developer's 'separate agreement with the Bundjalung of Byron Bay (Arakwal) Aboriginal Corporation...'

The Echo sought clarity from Arakwal Corp, but they declined to comment.

Staff have also flagged key issues with the plans as being traffic and access, infrastructure servicing, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

As for the five per cent left that is pegged for affordable housing, it equates to around 27 dwellings and the rest, presumably 500, would be at market rate.

Mr Saul explained how it would work: 'The formal affordable housing scheme will be controlled by Council, who will in turn work with community housing providers, who provide housing at

a range of "less than market prices" (sometimes for free).

'The organisation that we started to house women and children will effectively do the same. Some will be at a market discount, some will be at a peppercorn rent (for women escaping domestic violence, for example)'.

Along with neighbourhood centres, local services and community facilities, there are precincts proposed for housing throughout the estate.

80m² micro lots

They include much smaller dwelling footprints (micro lots), higher density, and 11.5m height limits (higher than what has previously been allowed in Byron Shire).

According to the Draft Byron Development Control Plan (DCP), there would be a manufactured home precinct, while regular lots sit around 350m² and up, with the upper limit being 600m².

Mr Saul downplayed the changes in planning rules, saying he was not sure the smaller blocks were viable.

But he did defend the height rule, saying it gives more flexibility. 'While it is three storeys, it will be more like two and two-and-a-half'.

'The tiny home movement is moving ahead, and the government are yet to keep up,' he said.

'We really need social housing and housing diversity. This will not be traditional suburbia; it will be a village with a mix of housing solutions currently not available', he added.

■ For more information visit www.gulganvillage.com and www.newoldways.com.au.

■ For more, including a Q&A with Mr Saul, visit www.echo.net.au.

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Women to the front: the female voices shaping the 2026 Byron Writers Festival

The 2026 Byron Writers Festival program puts women front and centre. Journalists, novelists, and an award-winning columnist bring an extraordinary breadth of stories to Bundjalung Country this August.



Acclaimed journalist and human rights activist **Antoinette Lattouf** joins the festival to discuss *Women Who Win*, her book celebrating the courage and conviction of women who defied expectations and shattered barriers. Lattouf's own landmark legal victory sparked a global conversation on power, prejudice and the price of integrity in the press, making her one of the most compelling voices in Australian public life today.

Walkley Award-winning columnist and public education activist **Jane Caro** brings *Rich Kid, Poor Kid*, an unflinching examination of how decades of policy decisions have created a two-tiered education system in Australia – and what it will take to fix it.

Meg Mason, whose novel *Sorrow and Bliss* became a global phenomenon, returns with her new novel *Sophie, Standing*

There, a tender and darkly funny exploration of heartbreak, isolation and the redemptive power of books. Few writers working today capture the interior experience of women's lives with as much precision, wit and compassion.

Raised by five strong matriarchs, Brisbane-based high school English teacher turned award-winning novelist **Sita Walker** brings *In a Common Hour*, a sharply observed novel set inside a state high

school in a single hour. Drawing on her two-decades of experience in the classroom, Walker deftly illuminates the antics at play after the fallout of a student prank.

Award-winning nonfiction writer and former political journalist **Sonya Voumard** shares *Tremor*, a deeply personal account of living with a little-known movement disorder. Voumard brings the same unflinching clarity to her own story that she

has long applied to others.

Journalist, sustainability consultant and author **Lucianne Tonti** arrives with *Good Witch*, a manifesto that traces the legacy of witch hunts to the present day – presenting the argument that the devaluation of feminine knowledge and the degradation of the natural world are intertwined crises.

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

Osher's next act: transforming recovery into a toolkit

Best-selling author **Osher Günsberg's** new book, *So What? Now What?* is a mental health toolkit and a compelling follow-up to his critically-acclaimed 2018 memoir, *Back, After The Break*.

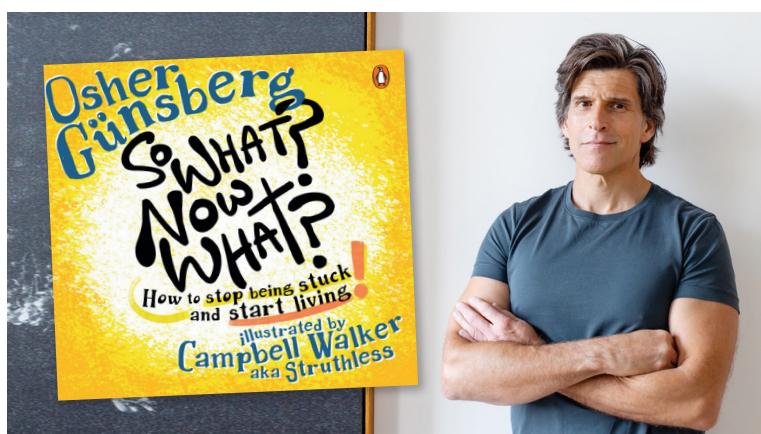
The passionate advocate's widely publicised journey to sobriety and mental health has inspired many. In collaboration with illustrator Campbell Walker, the book provides an engaging and practical guide to getting 'unstuck' and taking action.

"The first book was what happened to me, a descent into a period of incredibly difficult mental ill health, and the second book is the best way I could find to describe what to actually do about it," Günsberg said.

"It resonated with a lot of people, that experience of knowing they're not alone. People were coming up to me and often disclosing issues for the first time, and I was looking at what I could do for those who might not have the means to get the help that I accessed.

"Starting that journey was to give them this book, which is the very method that I used, aside from the prescription pharmaceuticals, to get myself a lot better.

"I made the book as digestible as possible. That's why it's a graphic novel, if it wasn't, it would probably



be 200,000 words long.

"To help others and be of service is an important part of any ongoing recovery, and some of this stuff is pretty dark which is sometimes difficult to write about."

Günsberg is also a familiar presence on Australian television, including hosting roles on *Australian Idol*, *The Bachelor*, and *The Masked Singer*. He is comfortable in the writers' festival circuit.

"I discovered this thing that I can do in front of a crowd when I was very young, it's something that I do well, I study it, and I pursue mastery at it," he said.

"I enjoy connecting with people through performance, whether on radio, on a podcast or on stage. I enjoy being in a crowd of many, and there's a feeling that comes through a room when they all reach a kind of collective recognition.

"If you get a big laugh in the room, that means that among the

300 or 3,000 people, or however many people, most are feeling the same way, and in that moment, we are who we are as humans.

"We are told every day that we are different, polarised, fractured. It's important to recognise in those moments we might vote differently from the next person, but we both laughed at that thing; therefore, we have something in common.

"It's important to have that, and I like making those moments happen."

His dedication to supporting others' mental health remains a driving force.

"One in five Australians is affected by complex mental illness, that's a lot of people," he said.

"Things got better once I understood it wasn't just me, I wasn't alone, and I want to give others what I received."

Osher Günsberg will appear at Byron Writers Festival 2026.

Your festival, your way

The 2026 program spans three days of ideas, storytelling and conversation across the Byron Bay township – from the heart of downtown to the foreshore. A festival pass is your all-access key to enjoy the most of everything that's on offer.

Three-Day Pass:

This is the complete festival experience! Across Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from dawn till dusk, the three-day pass opens all doors from Jonson St Stage and Haven, to the Byron Theatre and Beach Hotel, all the way to the picturesque foreshore at Byron Surf Club and the Bay St Stage. Early birds can join the Saltwater Cleanse followed by Coffee & News at Beach Hotel. Stay to hear Kerry O'Brien deliver the Thea Astley Address before hearing ABC Radio National's Top 100 Australian Books with authors like Trent Dalton revealing their Top 10. With sessions from 8am running late into the afternoon, across seven iconic venues, a three-day festival pass is the ultimate way to explore wherever your curiosity leads you.

One-Day Pass:

Enjoy a full day of the festival program. Whether you're a lover of storytelling or politics, poetry or environmentalism, each day's program has something on offer for absolutely everyone. Your one-day pass grants you access to all sessions within the ticketed precinct venues – choose your day based on the writers and sessions that matter most to you.

What's included in a pass:

To enter festival venues, all passholders will exchange passes for a wristband at the box office at the Festival Hub, Railway Park from 8am, or the ticket desk at the Bay St Stage from 7:45am each day. You'll also have access to all free programming across the weekend at the Bay St Stage and Market Stage where there will be live music alongside artisan markets and food vendors.

Festival passes cover all ticketed session venues: Byron Theatre, Wategos Room, Jonson St Stage, Byron Bay Surf Club, Beach Hotel, Bay St Stage, Byron Bay Surf Club and Haven Gallery.

Feature events, workshops, and some experiences are ticketed separately.

• Passes are selling quickly, get yours and all tickets now at www.byronwritersfestival.com.

2026 MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL

A boutique music festival set in the village of Mullumbimby

THE SECOND ANNUAL MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL ARRIVES IN MULLUMBIMBY ON 11-12 JULY, BRINGING TWO DAYS OF ORIGINAL MUSIC AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO THE TOWN'S FAVOURITE VENUES.

Created by singer-songwriter and festival founder Lou Bradley, the event champions roots, blues, alt-country and folk, a nostalgic Australian Pub music, from a lineup of acclaimed artists and rising talent. The festival will take over the Civic Hall, Ex-Services Club, Top Pub, and Mullum High School, focusing on original songwriting and honest, homegrown performances.

FRIDAY NIGHT'S GALA OPENING CONCERT AT THE CIVIC HALL

This event with **The Pinks**, **The Midnight Choir**, **Zee Gachette** – the moody acoustic version of her other act **Z-Star**, **Kyle Lionheart** and host **Ellen Briggs**, has almost sold out, setting the tone for a vibrant weekend ahead.

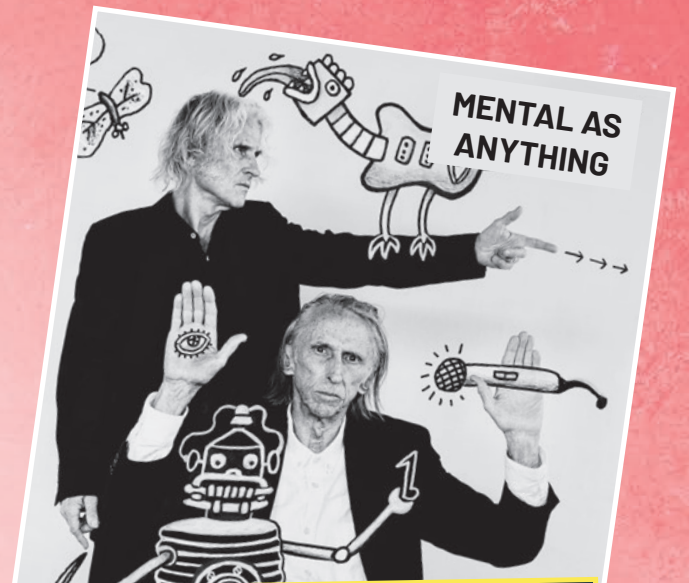
The weekend program features performances from the iconic Australian band **Mental As Anything** playing on Saturday, **Busby Marou** on Sat and Sun, **Alex Lloyd** both days, **Marcia Howard**, **Women Of Country**, **Bill Chambers**, **Youth Battle Of The Bands** and many more. It's a rare chance to catch top-tier music in local settings.

OUR FIRST YOUTH BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Byron Youth Centre and Mullum Roots presents the very first Youth Battle Of The Bands at Mullumbimby High School.

LOVE BUS

Once again the Love Bus will shuttle festival patrons between venues and there will be a continual free shuttle service going back and forth from the village to Mullum Leagues and Mullum Showgrounds.



BUSBY MAROU



“We’ve built this festival around original songwriting and I’m really looking forward to bringing in the Youth Battle of the Bands to complete our ethos of original music through community connection.”

Lou Bradley, Festival Director

Please support local cafes, pubs and shops between sets

ALL INFORMATION AND REMAINING TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.MULLUMROOTSFEST.COM

Children under 15 free with an adult.

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2026 MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL

11-12
JULY



MENTAL AS ANYTHING

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DAVE GRANEY & CLARE MOORE | ROB SNARSKI & LINDY MORRISON
HAYLEY GRACE & THE BAY COLLECTIVE | BILL CHAMBERS
MARCIA HOWARD & DAMIAN HOWARD | THE PINKS | HARRIET KILLIPS
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
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Crocs U10 go undefeated at Gala Day

Daniela Ulloa

The United Shores, U10 Crocs soccer team enjoyed a fantastic day of football at the 2026 Richmond Rovers MiniRoos Gala Day, held on Sunday, 28 June, at Neilson Park, East Lismore. The event brought together young footballers aged five to 11 from clubs across the region, celebrating grassroots soccer in a fun, friendly, and inclusive environment.

The Crocs were in outstanding form throughout the day, winning all three of their matches.

From the opening whistle to the final game, the team displayed excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. Every player contributed, whether it was making important tackles, creating scoring opportunities, or encouraging teammates on and off the field.



U10 Shores United Crocs celebrate a day of fun at the Richmond Rovers MiniRoos Gala Day. Photo supplied

Their willingness to work together and support one another was the key to their undefeated performance.

Confidence and fun

The players demonstrated how much they have grown throughout the season, showing confidence with the ball, smart decision-making, and a positive attitude in

every game. Their effort and enthusiasm were matched by the wonderful support from families and friends who cheered them on from the sidelines.

A special thank you goes to the Crocs' coaches Nick and Hen for their dedication, encouragement, and commitment to developing each player's skills and confidence.

Top female player shares tips in Byron

Colin Beaton

Croquet players from across the Northern Rivers area were privileged to spend time recently with Australia's top female golf croquet player, Alison Sharpe. The former world number-one player shared coaching tips at Byron Bay with the region's development squad that aims to prepare players for top level competition. She was the guest of honour at an evening function with local members at the Byron Bay Croquet Club (BBCC).

The Northern Rivers Croquet Association has just completed a week of golf competitions hosted in Lismore, Casino, Byron Bay, and Cherry Street Ballina. Byron Bay players were very successful. Denis Cummings won the advantage singles with Heather McCalman runner-up. Denis also partnered Barbara Barrett to claim the advantage



Alison Sharpe demonstrates a jump shot for the development squad. Photo supplied

doubles title, undefeated. Jay Pearse was runner-up in the advantage women's singles. Dennise Simmons and Werner Borkhardt were undefeated in winning the prestigious Crusader Cup, an open doubles competition. Werner also won the open play singles with Stuart Elliott, runner-up.

Upcoming fun

The Byron Bay Club in conjunction with Cherry

Street Ballina and Lismore clubs will be hosting the Croquet NSW 2026 Golf Croquet Single and Doubles Advantage Championships from the 7 to 12 July. This well supported annual event will bring players from across the state to play on Northern Rivers lawns, with spectators welcome.

■ Colin Beaton is the President of BBCC.

The John Mitchell Memorial Golf Event

On Sunday, 16 August, the Lennox Head Lions will be staging their annual Golf Tournament at the beautiful Byron Bay course. This tournament commemorates one of the founding members of the Lennox Head Lions Club, who originally initiated this major fundraiser.

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

Fundraiser

The event aims to raise \$20,000 to be distributed between the local Westpac Helicopter Service and Byron Bay's Fletcher Street Cottage. Both these organisations play



Become a sponsor of the John Mitchell Memorial Golf Event. Photo supplied

pivotal roles in the welfare of our communities, with the Westpac Helicopter in numerous local rescue missions, while Fletcher Street Cottage coordinates an expanding role of protecting vulnerable women during increasingly difficult economic times. They also provide meals and emergency accommodation for the disadvantaged. These are truly two deserving recipients which seriously

need support. 'At this stage we are so fortunate to have our major Diamond Sponsor, Clarence Property, already established and our other long-term supporter, Zep Finance has joined us again as a Platinum Sponsor,' said organiser Lyn Menchin.

'We still have one Platinum, one Gold, and three Silver sponsorships available. Please contact Wayne Blackie on 0403 196 621 or Derek Audus on 0418 971 902.

'So, come on all you avid golfers. Join us for a fabulously fun day while supporting two admirable local charitable organisations. It's \$240 for a team and you can reserve your spot by contacting the Byron Bay Pro Shop.'

Mud bath at Bangalow – Rebels vs Ballina men's XV

Hywel David

Heavy rain in the lead-up made for treacherous conditions for rugby at Bangalow, with Ballina ultimately proving too strong for the Rebels in a 41-12 defeat played out in increasingly muddy conditions.

The Rebels made a bright start, Luc Lévêque breaking the line and carrying into Ballina's 22, winning a penalty which Valpy slotted for an early 3-0 lead. The slippery conditions soon took their toll, however, with handling errors from the Rebels leading to a scrum and an unconverted Ballina try to level the scores at 3-5. Ballina extended their lead shortly after, working a lineout and maul over the try line to make it 3-10.

The Rebels responded with sustained pressure of their own, a series of forward

carries deep in Ballina's 22 earning a penalty which Valpy converted to close the gap to 6-10. A further penalty, this time from an offside infringement, allowed Valpy to add three more and bring the Rebels within a point at 9-10. The Rebels were keeping good ball through multiple phases, and a high tackle from Ballina presented another penalty opportunity, though this one was missed.

Slip sliding away

Ballina hit back from a scrum near halfway, breaking through with a strong individual run before their forwards drove it over for a try, extending the lead to 9-17. A lengthy Rebels attack yielded one final penalty before the break, with Valpy converting to make it 12-17 at half time.

The conditions continued

to worsen in the second half, with the pitch cutting up badly as both sides searched for a foothold. Ballina were the side to find it, working through phase after phase to score under the posts and push the lead to 12-24, before slicing through the Rebels' line in open play for another try to make it 12-31.

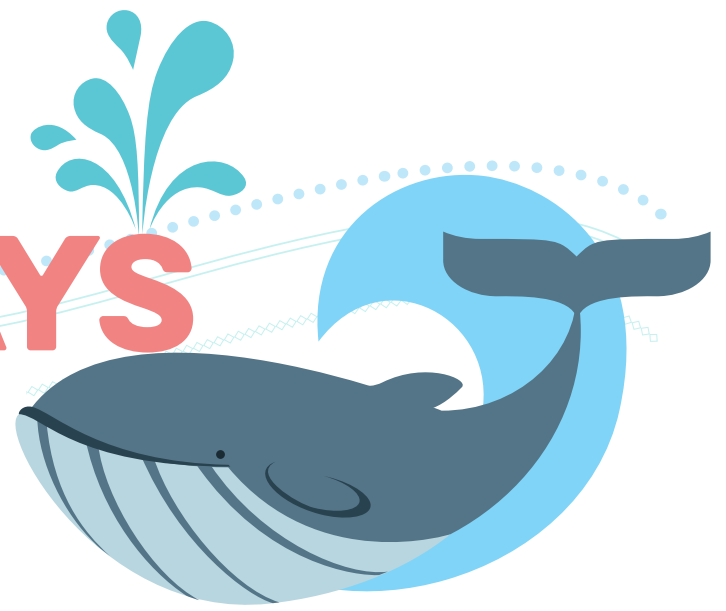
Ballina's tempo continued to cause problems, working the ball wide with quick hands to score in the corner and extend further to 12-36. Despite the Rebels earning a series of penalties deep in their own territory, Ballina's game kept the Rebels pinned back, and a final line break and try closed out the scoring at 12-41.

Rory Miller was awarded Man of the Match for his tireless effort on his return to the starting XV after recovering from jaw surgery.

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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



BETTER BY BIKE

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

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

0408 444 858
betterbybike.com.au

BALLOON ALOFT

Winter school holidays is the best time to kick the kids out of bed and go for a hot air balloon flight – clear skies and a special morning together! With the solstice sunrise later than the rest of the year, your flight meeting time is easy and the views are crisp.

If you've got friends visiting in the Shire or simply due for some quality outdoor time together, everyone will immensely enjoy this unique experience, not to mention a delicious Three Blue Ducks breakfast together following the flight.

Bookings and gift vouchers at
www.balloonaloft.com

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Their purpose-built vessel offers a safe, intimate, marine biologist-guided tour, perfect for families wanting a more meaningful and memorable whale watching experience.

www.outoftheblueadventures.com
0407 522 422
info@outoftheblueadventures.com

HAVEN GALLERY

School holidays are looking a little different in Byron Bay this year, with Haven Gallery offering families a hands-on alternative to the usual holiday scramble.

Housed in the reimagined former Woolworths building on Jonson Street, Haven's current exhibition, PLAY, features 19 works by international artists spanning light, sound, digital environments and tactile installations, including a 360-degree cinema dome.

The immersive format means children can explore at their own pace, while parents can take a breather on the terrace with a coffee from Jimmy's Coffee, on-site for the duration of the holidays.

Running 6 to 17 July to coincide with the NSW school holiday period, the exhibition is designed to appeal across age groups, offering an indoor, weather-proof activity for the break.

Tickets and details: havengallerybyron.com

SPAGHETTI CIRCUS JULY HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Three days of circus adventure for kids aged four to 14 at Mullumbimby Showground Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15, and Thursday 16 July.

Choose one day, two, or all three. Kids explore tightrope, trapeze, tissu, German wheel, juggling, acro balance and more – guided by Spaghetti Circus's experienced, passionate coaches.

HALF-DAY (4 TO 6 YRS) · 9.30AM–12.30PM
\$55 PER DAY

FULL-DAY (7 TO 14 YRS) · 9.30AM – 3.30PM
\$85 PER DAY

Early bird pricing available until 30 June. Active & Creative Kids Vouchers accepted – use code ACTIVE at checkout.

Spaghetti Circus is a registered charity serving 200+ young people across the Byron Shire and beyond every week.

Spots are limited.

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Good Taste

Dining Guide

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

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Sun 12.30pm to 8pm

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www.rosefinas.place

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THREE BLUE DUCKS

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

Open: Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm
Saturday 8am – 6:30pm
Sunday 8am – 8pm

Address: The Farm, 11 Ewingsdale Rd, Ewingsdale
www.threeblueducks.com/byron

NO BONES BYRON BAY

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nobones.co

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Open: every day except Wednesday 6.30am to late

Address: 14 Lawson Street, Byron Bay
www.rocabyronbay.com.au

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Open: 7 days: Breakfast 7.30 – 10.30am
Lunch on verandah from 12 – 3pm
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crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest

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mannahaven.com.au



www.echo.net.au/good-taste



The Good Life

Celebrating native foods this NAIDOC Week at Mullumbimby Farmers Market

Allie Godfrey

NAIDOC Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and learn from the world's oldest living culture, and one of the easiest ways to do that is through Australia's remarkable native foods.

Every Friday at Mullumbimby Farmers Market, local bush food educator Bec from Playing With Fire shares her passion for native ingredients, helping visitors discover their unique flavours, nutritional benefits and deep cultural significance. Her stall is a treasure trove of bush tucker products, including teas, spice blends, syrups, cordials, vinegars, fruit powders and native edible plants for the home garden.

For anyone keen to grow their own bush foods, Bec recommends easy-care coastal varieties such as warrigal

greens, pigface and karkalla, while native thyme and native basil thrive in shadier gardens and bring distinctly Australian flavours to everyday meals.

One of her most popular products is her handmade wattleseed biscuits, showcasing the rich, roasted flavour of one of Australia's most versatile native ingredients. She also offers powders made from Kakadu plum, Davidson plum and rosella, perfect for adding to smoothies, yoghurt or breakfast bowls.

Many native foods have also been valued by First Nations peoples for thousands of years for their medicinal properties. Kakadu plum is famous for its exceptionally high vitamin C content, while many native herbs and fruits have traditionally been used to support health and wellbeing. Modern research continues to confirm the remarkable nutritional value of these ancient foods.

There's also something new on the horizon, with Bec soon introducing native popcorn to her range – a delicious new way to experience Australian bush flavours.

NAIDOC Week also provides an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the enduring culture, knowledge and traditions of the Bundjalung people. Everyone is warmly invited to attend an Acknowledgement of Country at New Brighton Farmers Market on Tuesday, 6 July at 8.30am, and again at Mullumbimby Farmers Market on Friday, 9 July at 8.30am.

■ Mullumbimby Farmers Market is open every Friday, both from 7am to 11am. Visit Bec at Playing With Fire and discover the incredible flavours, stories and traditions behind Australia's remarkable native foods.



Jem and Rash from Food Culture: the importance of proper seasonal whole foods, herbs and spices in maintaining optimum health is tested by time, but often overlooked.

Winter wellness begins in the pantry

For thousands of years, the kitchen was the pharmacy.

Long before supermarket shelves and medicine cabinets, families turned to nourishing broths, warming spices, medicinal herbs and seasonal foods to support their health through winter. While modern medicine has an invaluable place – particularly for serious illness – many everyday winter rituals have been forgotten or aged out.

Winter invites us to slow down and strengthen rather than just fight symptoms.

A pot of homemade bone broth or vegetable stock provides warmth, minerals and comfort. Garlic, ginger

and onions have been treasured across cultures for generations, not only for their flavour but for their ability to support the body's natural defences. Turmeric, cinnamon and black pepper gently warm the body while adding depth to soups, curries and teas.

Herbal teas have long played a role in seasonal wellbeing. Elderflower, chamomile, peppermint and thyme have all been used traditionally to soothe a throat, calm the nervous system and support healthy respiratory function. An evening cup of herbal tea becomes powerful medicine and calming ritual.

Whole foods also nourish in ways isolated supplements cannot. Oats, legumes, nuts, seeds and whole grains provide the fibre that feeds our gut microbiome – an ecosystem now recognised as playing an important role in immune health. Fermented foods such as sauerkraut, kefir and yoghurt continue another ancient tradition of supporting digestion and resilience.

One of the great lessons our ancestors offer is that health is rarely found in a single miracle ingredient. It is built through small daily choices repeated over time.

This winter, before reaching automatically for a quick fix, consider returning to these timeless traditions. Brew a pot of herbal tea. Simmer a nourishing soup. Add an extra spoonful of herbs and spices to dinner and come in-store to find everything your growing pantry might need.

Sometimes the oldest wisdom still offers the gentlest path back to health.

■ Food Culture Bulk Foods – Refill, Reuse, Reimagine Shop 22A . 82 Rajah Road, Ocean Village Shopping Centre 02 6680 1122 foodculturebulkfoods.com.au

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Take a step off the Rail Trail in South Murwillumbah, and you'll find Pulp Fiction Bookshop, which has become the go-to destination for readers, collectors and curious browsers alike. With thousands of carefully selected second-hand, rare and collectible books spanning everything from literary classics, esoterica, politics, history, art, music and children's favourites, every visit offers the chance to uncover something unexpected. Whether you're riding the Rail Trail or exploring the Northern Rivers, Pulp Fiction invites visitors to slow down, wander the shelves and enjoy the simple pleasure of discovering a book you didn't know you were looking for. Alongside its extensive book collection, the store also offers a range of carefully selected designer thrift. Our online collection is 6,500+ strong and we post world-wide. It's the kind of independent bookshop where an hour disappears before you know it – and where every shelf promises another story waiting to be found.

Open 7 days 10am–3pm
309 Tweed Valley Way
South Murwillumbah
0403 169 616



The Northern Rivers Rail Trail currently has two operating sections: the north from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek (24km) and the south from Casino to Lismore (29.7km). Together, they showcase the diversity of landscapes, villages and experiences that make the Northern Rivers region so unique.

The Rail Trail is a shared recreation and nature trail created along a disused railway line. Free to use, it provides a safe environment for walkers, cyclists, horseriders in designated areas, and people of all abilities to enjoy the outdoors.

Northern section Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek (24km)

The northern section starts at the heritage-listed Murwillumbah Railway Station, just 36km south of Gold Coast Airport. Here visitors will find the Visitor Information Centre where they can pick up a trail map, purchase souvenirs and catch up on the latest updates.

The station also offers parking for 60 cars, with overflow available during peak times. There are four retail stores including bike hire and shuttle services, bathrooms, picnic facilities, an e-bike charger, bike pump, fix-it station and water bubbler.

The 24km trail connects the villages of Murwillumbah, Stokers Siding, Burringbar, Mooball and Crabbes Creek. Along the way, users will cross 16 restored bridges, pass by ten historic bridge relics and travel through two tunnels. The Burringbar Range Tunnel is the highlight at 524 metres long. It is unlit to protect resident microbats and glow worms, so visitors need to bring a light. The second tunnel, Hulls Road Tunnel, runs for 50 metres.

Scenic stops, village cafes and a short connection to the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre add to the experience. There is also a 2.2km section at Upper Burringbar where horses are permitted, and dogs are welcome along the trail on a short leash.



BEYOND BYRON E BIKES

Looking for an unforgettable school holiday adventure?

Beyond Byron E Bikes, located in Mooball opposite the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, is the perfect place to start exploring. Ride at your own pace on premium German-made e-bikes featuring gel seats, mudguards and puncture-resistant tyres for a smooth, comfortable ride.

Bring the whole family – they've got kids' e-bikes, family cargo e-bikes, tag-a-longs, baby seats and even dog trailers, so everyone can join the adventure. With beautiful scenery, great food stops and plenty to discover along the way, it's a day out you'll remember.

Book online at www.beyondbyronebikes.com.au

MOO MOO ROADHOUSE

Located on the Tweed Valley Way in the quaint village of Mooball, the Moo Moo Roadhouse has been a popular pit stop for locals and tourists for many years, and has now added the abundance of Rail Trail cyclists and walkers to its fan club.

Whether you're walking, riding or driving, the Moo Moo Cafe is the perfect spot to fuel up, grab a bite to eat, drink some awesome coffee and check out the great range of motorcycles, memorabilia and antiques they have on display. And they have free wi-fi!

Monday to Friday 6am–5.30pm,
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02 6677 0057 @MooMooRoadhouse

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**Southern section
Casino to Lismore (29.7km)**

The southern section offers a different but equally memorable experience, stretching almost 30km through rolling farmland and historic townships. Riders and walkers will encounter the Naughtons Gap Tunnel, one of the highlights of the trail. Just before the tunnel, there is a short, but steep, climb with sweeping views across the countryside at the top.

Closer to Lismore, the trail connects directly to Nesbitt Park. This family-friendly destination is perfect for a break, with BMX tracks for kids, plenty of space for a picnic and easy access to the town.

Parking is plentiful along the southern section, with multiple access points between Casino and Lismore. Several starting points also provide dedicated float parking, making it easy for horse riders to join the trail. A dedicated bridle trail stretches for more than 20km alongside the main trail, offering a safe and scenic route for equestrian users.

A trail for everyone

With two sections now open, the Northern Rivers Rail Trail is fast becoming one of the region's signature attractions. Whether you are chasing adventure, seeking family-friendly activities or simply looking to enjoy the beauty of the Northern Rivers at your own pace, the trail offers something for everyone, with more to come as future stages are completed.

**CASINO
LISMORE
TRAIL**



BETTER BY BIKE

Better by Bike makes family adventures easy. Located at Murwillumbah Railway Station, it's the most convenient way to start the Rail Trail ride! The fleet includes premium e-bikes, fat-tyre e-bikes, and family-friendly setups with tow-behind bikes, child seats, and chariots. Every bike comes with comfy gel seats, puncture-proof tyres, helmets, tunnel lights, locks, and waterproof pannier bags, so riders can relax and enjoy the scenery.

With full trail support – including on-the-spot flat tyre fixes and insider tips from the local team, rides are safe, fun, and stress-free. Families love the experience, shown in hundreds of 5-star reviews. For longer stays, bikes can be delivered to Byron Bay or the Tweed Coast. Open seven days!

betterbybike.com.au
0408 444 858

BURRINGBAR GALLERY

Discover timeless treasures in Burringbar, less than five minutes from the Rail Trail.

Burringbar Gallery celebrates its eighth year of trading this year and their new collection of antiques is worth the journey. Offering a superb selection of antique and vintage furniture, artworks, statues and collectables, they source pieces from around the world and showcase unique local artworks.

Enjoy a selection of carefully-curated individual statement pieces from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Cafe dining available at Teakwood Cafe next door. They look forward to seeing you soon.

0408 998 446
6184 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar

HOSANNA FARMSTAY

With the Northern Rivers Rail Trail passing through Hosanna Farmstay, they're a memorable stop and favourite trail attraction.

Hosanna Farmstay offers old-fashioned fun through hands-on farm and nature experiences. Bring a picnic or pick up food onsite, then settle in at one of their picnic tables or shady spots beneath the trees.

Day visitors can enjoy animal feeding, chick cuddles, treasure hunts, the playground and fort, dam swimming, jetty jumping, the 25-metre waterslide, kayaking, bushwalks and creek exploring. On Saturday afternoons, enjoy live acoustic music and pizza.

Hosanna Farmstay
02 6677 9023
4 Tunnel Road, Stokers Siding
hosannafarmstay.com.au

BURRINGBAR GALLERY



Open Wednesday to Sunday 10 – 4pm
(or by appointment)
Ph: 0408 998 446 6184 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar



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Walk-in: \$13 per person at reception
Rail Trail Option: please see reception

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Open to the public:
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Offering local produce, barista coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches, sweet treats & ice cream. The perfect place to recharge!



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blackfiggallery.com.au
[@blackfiggallery](https://www.instagram.com/blackfiggallery)

BLUE KNOB

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

BURRINGBAR GALLERY

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www.burringbargallery.com.au

GALLERY COSMOSIS

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or by appointment 0431 331 205
gallerycosmosis.com

GARAGE GALLERY

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

H'ART GALLERY

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

HAVEN GALLERY

102 Jonson St, Byron Bay
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lismoregallery.org
[@lismoreregionalgallery](https://www.instagram.com/lismoreregionalgallery)

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

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m-arts.com.au/

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

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2 Jubilee Ave, Mullumbimby
Open Thursday to Saturday 11am–3pm
mullumclayworkers.com

MZ GALLERY

Byron Bay Contemporary Artspace
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0468 718 045
www.byronartspace.com

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ninbella.com

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Wednesday 10am–7pm
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NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

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Open Wed–Fri 9am–3pm,
Sat–Sun 9.30am–1pm
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nrcgballina.com.au

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

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



WRITERS FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH OVER 150 AUTHORS ANNOUNCED!

Byron Writers Festival is set to take over Byron Bay from 14–16 August, unfolding across outdoor marquees and iconic venues to create a bustling festival precinct.

Featuring over 150 international and Australian authors, with 110 sessions across three days, the world-class event will present literary heavyweights in the heart of town.

Meg Mason, author of the international bestseller *Sorrow and Bliss*, appears with her hotly anticipated new novel *Sophie, Standing There*, while UK-based social philosopher and author Roman Krznaric will speak on History for Tomorrow: Inspiration from the Past for the Future of Humanity.

Headliner Richard Flanagan brings *Heresies*, a new collection of essays. See him in conversation with Kerry O'Brien on festival Saturday as Kerry delivers the 2026 Thea Astley Address.

Make the most of the festival with a three-day or one-day pass. Passes are selling quickly, get yours now at www.byronwritersfestival.com.

Byron Writers Festival

Celebrating 30 years
14–16 August

Tickets
byronwritersfestival.com

THE ARTS



ART IN THE HEART OF MULLUMBIMBY: EXHIBITION 12

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

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

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

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

Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre
60 Stuart St, Mullumbimby



Gerwyn Davies at the Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio, 2025. Photo: Aaron

SUNBURN- GERWYN DAVIES

3 JULY - 22 NOVEMBER 2026

This exhibition brings together a series of vibrant textile and photographic works that reimagine the ephemera, icons, and images of the nation's glittering Sunrise Strip.

Drawing in part upon the immense Tweed Regional Museum collection, postcards, souvenirs, and signs are refashioned into sequins and spandex. A party of costumed figures dis/appear beneath elaborate sculptural forms, relaxed in photographic worlds that conjure the distinctive visual landscape of coastal Australiana. A Tweed Regional Gallery initiative. The Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence studio is supported by benefactor Mr Tim Fairfax AC via the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd. Gerwyn Davies is represented by Jan Murphy Gallery (Brisbane) and Michael Reid Galleries (Sydney/Berlin).

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre
Wednesday to Sunday, 10am - 4pm, free entry
2 Mistral Road (cnr Tweed Valley Way)
Murwillumbah South
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



THE NEWRYBAR ART COLLECTIVE

The Newrybar Art Collective showcases a rotating collection of contemporary works by local and emerging artists in the heart of Newrybar Village. Featuring paintings, ceramics, sculpture and mixed media, the gallery offers something new with every visit. Wander through the gallery and meet the artists as they create and exhibit their work.

Open: Monday to Saturday, 10am - 4pm
12 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar
[@newrybarartcollective](https://www.instagram.com/newrybarartcollective)

H'ART GALLERY

Art in the heart
INSPIRED LOCAL ART

Mullumbimby
Comprehensive Health Centre

Sunburn: Gerwyn Davies

3 July - 22 November 2026

Gerwyn Davies *Sunburn* (detail) 2025, archival pigment print, 85 x 150 cm
Courtesy the artist, Jan Murphy Gallery (Brisbane) and Michael Reid Galleries (Sydney/Berlin) © The artist

A Tweed Regional Gallery initiative. The Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence studio is supported by benefactor Mr Tim Fairfax AC via the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd.

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

NEWRYBAR ART COLLECTIVE

MEET THE ARTISTS EVENT

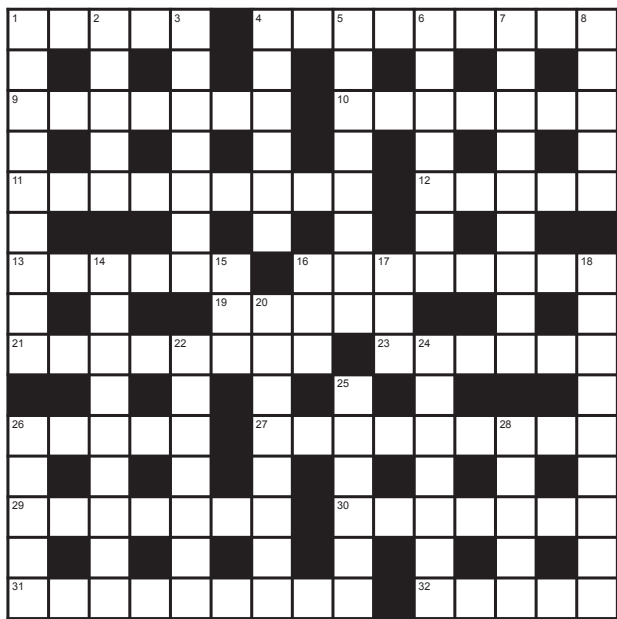
WED 8th JULY

4-7pm

12 OLD PACIFIC HIGHWAY, NEWRYBAR 2479

JOIN US FOR ART AND DRINKS
FOOD AVAILABLE AT THE TWILIGHT MARKET

Insta: @newrybarartcollective



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Tailless insect site (5)
4. Climaxes back in internal life forms (9)
9. Rode around with wine to get organised (7)
10. Lace also finishes uniforms for military displays (7)
11. Protraction of former relationship stress (9)
12. Joint in blank letter (5)
13. School supply from ages old queen (6)
16. Follow too close as one side of the coin meets barrier (8)
19. Sounds like something drawn in the sand to straighten (5)
21. Complete check for U.S. period (4,4)
23. Path through life is cause for concern and hesitation (6)
26. Take a load off a Radiohead instrument (5)
27. Sickness afflicted vitality (3,6)
29. Sway, manipulate and so on, and bring back to office (7)
30. Wild samba got it back for Indian staple (7)
31. Plant-based anabolic mess around final cut (9)
32. Idiomatic word gleans mixed result and loses energy (5)

DOWN

1. Wanton browse into tea variety (5-4)
2. Trainee of French eaten by cat (5)
3. Unknown singer all shook up about medical device (7)
4. Chaotic inroad to make a priest (6)
5. Stomach in Spanish gets label for German greeting (5,3)
6. Last season ballet distorted popular sport (7)
7. Electrocute hand gesture leads to severe repercussion (5,4)
8. Song told her to wake up and prepare issue (5)
14. Everyone had extra play with guys and time allowance (9)
15. Her attraction hid inside informer (3)
16. Apex is mine in a different direction (3)
17. Business abbreviation begins in new company (3)
18. One of us ground fish (9)
20. Fallen branch is initially taken in current operation detail (8)
22. Inside voices urge on medical professional (7)
24. Those biased against elders have stages I modified (7)
25. Toss in lass to get comprehensive (6)
26. Stop talking and apply for hedge plant (5)
28. All returned with mother ruminant (5)

Quick Clues

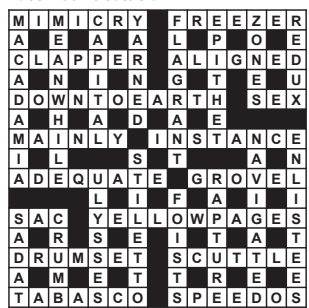
ACROSS

1. Position of a gene on a chromosome (5)
4. Complex interrelated systems (9)
9. Demanded (7)
10. Inks (7)
11. Lengthening (9)
12. Lowest part of a leg (5)
13. One that wipes away (6)
16. Rear door of a hatchback (8)
19. Bring into agreement (5)
21. Punctuation mark (4,4)
23. Rush in an uncontrolled manner (6)
26. Indian lute (5)
27. Malady (3,6)
29. Choose for a second term (7)
30. Rice variety (7)
31. Horticultural (9)
32. Informal speech (5)

DOWN

1. A type of binder with rings (5-4)
2. Military student (5)
3. Pump and spray device (7)
4. Decree (6)
5. G'day in Berlin (5,3)
6. Team game (7)
7. Effect of an explosion (5,4)
8. Comedian Youssef (5)
14. Plot of gardening land (9)
15. Rodent (3)
16. Piece of advice (3)
17. 'Monsters, ...' (3)
18. Mortal (9)
20. Related to the planning of an organisation (8)
22. Specialised doctor (7)
24. People with certain prejudices (7)
25. International (6)
26. Rum and fruit juice drink (5)
28. South American mammal (5)

Last week's solution #7



When No Means MoNo

Mandy Nolan

Pauline wants monoculture. No one really knows what she means. And we know that Pauline definitely doesn't know what it means, she just knows it will create disturbance. So I've done a bit of a deep dive on what the mono might look like.

At a very basic level we are talking white Australian culture with no ethnic or First Nation influence or input. Other than Anglo. And if you come here, or if you live here, or if your ancestors have 60,000 years of continuous culture, then you too must stand under the fish and chip flag and bask in the high cholesterol glow of what it means to be 'Aussie'.

Under the new mono you can still eat fish and chips. But you can't have pizza. Too Italian. Maybe ham and pineapple will be permitted. Definitely no pasta. You definitely can't eat sushi rolls. Or fried rice. Or sweet and sour pork. Maybe if you get a permit from the council you can eat honey chicken once a year as it is an Anglo/Asian fusion. There will be no schnitzel nights at the local pub, no pad Thai, no massaman lamb, no hummus, no baba ghanoush, no olives, no camembert, no croissants, no Turkish delight and when you are drunk there will definitely be no kebabs.

Oh, just a heads up, it's gonna be hard to get drunk. For a start you can't drink foreign beer. So no Sapporo, no Asahi, no Heineken. You can however drink XXXX and Tooheys. But under the mono, beer is currently under review. You see it isn't actually Aussie. Or Anglo.

The first true brewers of beer were Sumerians which is modern day Iraq/Iran. That is the birthplace of beer, and our American allies have been bombing them. The other beer origin story is Ancient China who had a crack in 7000 BC. So sadly under the new mono, beer itself may have to go.

Champagne is clearly out. And wine too. It seems to also dates back to China, and Armenia. I thought we could have rum – as it was the first colonial bevvie to take off – but the first distillation took place on a sugar



Under the new mono you can still eat fish and chips. But you can't have pizza. Too Italian. Maybe ham and pineapple will be permitted. Definitely no pasta.

cane plantation in Barbados. So rum is Caribbean, and will not be allowed in the mono under the fish and chip flag. We can probably still use meth (from an Aussie dealer) and drink water. Although we may be a bit short of water with the amount we need to run the big data centres. Although the water usage may diminish with google searches being limited to *The Box, Kath and Kim, The Paul Hogan Show* and anything related to fish and chips.

There will still be footy. Because the English invented that, and we are including the culture of the colonisers as the core foundation of the 'mono'. If we didn't, we wouldn't even have a

fish and chip flag. We can have tomato sauce. Although it does originate from South America, and we know how Trump feels about Mexico so sauce isn't on the mono. Soz.

Soccer is under review. There are definite roots back to the empire but the high-achieving, culture-creating Chinese were kicking balls around, playing a soccer-adjacent sport called cuju, during the Hans Dynasty. This was around 200 BC, and the ancient Greek and Romans were having a crack as well. Soccer may have to go. Apologies to the Matildas and the Socceroos, they sound very Aussie, but they might have to take up AFL. Which will remain a mainstay in the mono.

Welcome to the monoculture. A handful of white Australians of no ethnic or Indigenous origin eating fish and chips with no sauce at the AFL.

Monoculture is boring. And it's potentially fatal. In agriculture, monoculture creates an endless food supply for pathogens. Without diversity, disease spreads and the crop dies.

The mono will kill us. Embrace the multi.

And in their own words. If you don't KNOW don't MONO.

■ 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 Jupiter makes its grand entrance into look-at-me Leo, this week's communications could get edgy with Mercury retrograde in sensitive Cancer...



CANCER THE CRAB

ARIES: If direct questions aren't getting straightforward answers this week, be advised that with your planet boss Mars sparking both intellectual chemistry and arguments, words can be either your worst enemy or most useful tool. Wield them wisely and keep your focus on solutions rather than faults.

TAURUS: Healing planet Chiron's already at work in your sign, and this week's Mercury retrograde suggests that an unresolved dynamic from the past, to do with something not communicated, could resurface to forgive and finally release a worn-out story, setting the foundation for more solid and secure future connections.

GEMINI: Mars firing up Gemini during July gives your already quick wits an extra edge. As Mars activates the motivation and mojo to go for what you want, don't waste this precious firepower: direct it. Be bold but strategic. Stay ahead of the game, and position yourself where what you're offering is unmissable.

CANCER: As your birthday season centres around Cancer's casa and connections, nourish yourself with good food and close company. While you wouldn't have ordered up Mercury retrograde in your sign, good news is it could stimulate a recognition of something you've forgotten, a reassuring remembrance of what's really important.

LEO: Bountiful big-picture Jupiter striding down the heavenly red carpet to join Venus in Leo guarantees all the attention and recognition you could wish for in the coming year as the monarch planet amplifies your courage and flair, radiating its golden glow to enhance your self-expression and personal leadership.

VIRGO: Your planet guide Mercury, back-spinning for the next three weeks alerts Virgos, if past patterns are resurfacing, to let these reconnect you with something important you might not yet have fully realised. Rather than resisting difficult memories, allow yourself to engage them with interest, rather than blame or shame.

LIBRA: Magnified by Jupiter and current solar energy in your public sector, this week's Venus likes taking the stage, so use the positive momentum to share your gifts generously. Only snag? Mars marching into the sign of multiple choice can complicate decision-making, but don't rush. Listen to your intuition.

SCORPIO: This month's sun, in its most care-giving placement energising your partnerships and social connections, is an excellent time to think about joining or starting up a resource-sharing group. With astral focus on your close bonds, show and tell your nearest and dearest how much you appreciate and value them.

SAGITTARIUS: For the first time since 2015, your planet guide Jupiter struts into flamboyant, extrovert Leo, firing your creative imagination to warp speed. Jupiter and Leo both dream big but sometimes ignore the fine print, so by all means indulge unfiltered brainstorming, but do your research before making commitments.

CAPRICORN: A rare Pluto/Uranus alignment is activating breakthroughs in communications and collective freedom movements, which invite Capricorns to discard mindsets that are no longer in synch with current conditions. If this seems like reinventing the playing field, it is, and your planet guide Saturn's firmly positioned to assist.

AQUARIUS: Jupiter checking into your relationship sector and the sign of creativity suggests your best recipe for success for the foreseeable future will be allowing your individuality to shine, using your personal skills to make the world a better place and inspiring the people around you to express their own unique talents.

PISCES: If life has felt lately like a nonstop onslaught of emotional surges and impulses, your planet ruler Neptune slowing down for its annual retrograde may come as a relief, as Neptune's five-month hibernation offers a chance to bring family baggage or unresolved issues into awareness for repair and release.

seven

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Eclectic Selection

What's on this week



Sonic FX cross eras with ease, blending rock, pop and soul – they fit comfortably into the emerging yacht-rock genre (who knew?). Danceable rock music from the '80s with great melodies, danceable grooves and most of all, memorable hits loved by all generations.

Friday 7pm at Club Lennox. Free show.



Founded in 2005 by Sir Bob Cornelius Rifo, an Italian musician and producer, **The Bloody Beetroots** has undergone various transformations over the years, but has never wavered in its ability to captivate audiences globally.

Friday 8pm at the Hotel Brunswick. Tickets from \$35.17 at moshtix.com.au.



A night of dark folk and gothic musings with **M.E. Baird & The Fold** – after Covid, cancer and

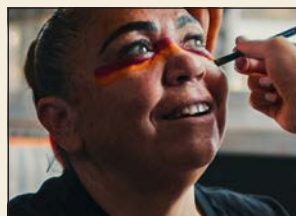
chaos, M.E. Baird will be putting his band (of local legends) back together for the first time in five years for a rare and unique gig.

Saturday 6pm at Pearce Creek Hall. Tickets \$40/\$30/under 16 free, at humanitix.com.



George Smilovici is a Cuban-born singer, guitarist and songwriter whose music reflects a lifetime immersed in Latin rhythms and world music traditions. Drawing on his Cuban roots, George blends Latin jazz, Cuban son, flamenco influences, acoustic blues and reggae into a rich and soulful sound.

Sunday 1pm at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Free show.



The Arakwal BoBBAC, Flickerfest and iQ Inc are thrilled to present their annual evening of inspiring **First Nations storytelling** celebrating NAIDOC Week 2026, and this year's theme '50 Years of Deadly'. This year's First Nations Spotlight program will take you on a special journey with some incredibly strong and powerful stories, whose compelling voices will inspire, move and delight.

Tuesday 6.30pm at the Byron Theatre. Tickets from \$21.85 at flickerfest.com.au/tour/byron-naidoc.



Named after The Regent Cinema, which was built in 1947, Jazz at **The '47 Club** aims to bring regular evenings of live jazz to the beautiful and historic Murwillumbah venue – first up is vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, **Susy Hull and The Shy Guys**, hailing from Melbourne, bringing the swing, warmth and charm of New Orleans classic jazz.

Wednesday, July 8 from 6 pm. The Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah. General admission is \$25, tickets at yodelaymusic.com.



One of the Picture House's most highly demanded shows is back with its infamous winter season! With the ongoing success of its signature show, the **Cheeky Cabaret**, it was inevitable that the team would put together its own all-burlesque show, with fabulous results.

Thursday to Sunday at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets from \$30 at brunswickpicturehouse.com.



The Cruel Sea

Prepare yourself for a deep dive into the heart of a quintessentially Australian sound with indie rock revolutionaries **The Cruel Sea** at the **Beach Hotel** this August.

Formed in Sydney in the late 1980s, The Cruel Sea made waves with their swampy, surf-infused blues and roots sound, blending everything from spaghetti western and country honk to zydeco and acoustic rock. When charismatic frontman **Tex Perkins** joined the band, his deep, gravelly vocals added a whole new dimension to their already distinctive sound, propelling them into indie rock royalty.

Hits like 'Better Get a Lawyer', 'Black Stick', and the unforgettable 'The Honeymoon Is Over', made them a household name, and their 30th anniversary tour in 2023 proved they've still got it.

The Cruel Sea's live shows are masterclasses in moody, soulful rock, with bluesy guitar riffs and Perkins' powerful, ocean-deep vocals driving the sound. You'll hear the classic tunes that made them giants in the Australian music scene but expect a few surprises too – new tracks from their brand new album *Straight Into the Sun* or a revival of their number one album *Three Legged Dog*.

One thing's for sure: this is a show not to be missed. Get hold of your tickets now to see one of the most respected and enduring indie rock acts in the country.

The Cruel Sea supported by Jez Mead and Vandalism Angel play the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay from 8pm on Friday, 21 August.

Tickets on sale now via Moshtix.

THE GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL
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 @thenorthernbyronbay

THUR 2 JULY	Trilla 6pm, DJ Quendo 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
FRI 3 JULY	Z Star Trinity 7pm, Sarah Grant Trio 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
SAT 4 JULY	JB's Blues Breakers 7pm, DJ Jamie Lowe 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
SUN 5 JULY	Dan Hannaford 5pm, Vinyl Sundays ft Monsieur Drop 8.15pm
MON 6 JULY	Lachie Dwyer 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
TUES 7 JULY	Marshall Okell 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
WED 8 JULY	J.R.Higgins 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT

COCKTAILS!

NORTHERN BOTTLESHOP



Get ready to JAM

JAM is a neighbourhood event showcasing incredible local DJs and raising money for local charities.

Each JAM is held in a different town and at a different venue across the Northern Rivers.

A JAM party will be your classic Sunday session with funky house tracks, smooth vocals and friendly energy. JAM is for everyone to come as they are and celebrate our diverse and fabulous community. There is no better way to finish your weekend than jamming on the dance floor to great tunes, with old and new friends.

The very first JAM party will be held on **Sunday at Wandana Brewing Co** in Mullumbimby.

The next JAM will be held a few months later, aiming to bring future JAM events to other local venues, support other local charities and profile DJs from that neighbourhood to headline the Sunday session.

Sunday's JAM event will feature legendary local DJs Abel Toro and on vinyl DJ Inch. They will be supported on the decks by JAM resident DJs, and organisers, GI Jode and Peppin, who live in Ocean Shores.

The aim of the JAM events is to cover costs and raise money for a local charity. The neighbourhood DJs, local photographer, security and staff will be paid for their talent and time. The JAM Sounds crew, including resident DJs GI Jode and Peppin are donating their time.

They are thrilled to be supporting local charity Queer Family for the first JAM – organisers have a great understanding and appreciation of the important services and support that Queer Family provide.

The support comes at a time when Queer Family continues its search for a permanent home after losing their home base in the 2022 floods, and recent challenges forced the organisation to scale back some programs.

Despite these hurdles, Queer Family remains an important source of connection, belonging and support for many people across the region.

Attendees will be encouraged to donate to Queer Family via QR codes on posters around the Wandana Brewery. After event costs are covered, JAM Sounds will donate any additional funds from ticket sales to Queer Family. The more tickets purchased, the greater the support that can be provided to Queer Family.

Resident JAM DJs GI Jode (Jodie Wilkins) and Peppin (Warren Peppin), along with their partners Amber and Andrew are organising the event and future JAMs.

Sunday from 3pm to 10pm at Wandana Brewing Co, Mullumbimby. Tickets to JAM are \$30 online via Humantix, or \$40 on the door at Wandana – if not sold out.

What do we owe each other?

Some films arrive as an invitation to gather, reflect, and begin a conversation. **Common Wealth**, screening at **Byron Theatre** on **Friday, 10 July**, feels made for that kind of room.

At a time when housing stress, loneliness, mental health pressures and economic insecurity are felt daily across the Northern Rivers, writer and director **Kane Guglielmi** asks a clear question: what kind of society are we creating?

Raised within a conservative, capitalist worldview, Guglielmi travels across eight countries, including Australia, Switzerland, Norway, Mexico, Singapore, the UK, Italy and the US, exploring ideas of fairness, community and shared prosperity. The film's journey is global, but its pulse is personal. In his director's statement, Guglielmi says the project emerged from 'a pivotal and tumultuous period' in his life, after years of struggle left him asking why so many people were suffering financially, mentally and socially.

'I didn't want to make a film that was politically divisive,' he says. 'I wanted to create something that was unique, truly global, unifying, and that offered plausible solutions to the status quo with a sense of heart, soul and optimism.'

That is the strength of *Common Wealth*. It is not a shout across the barricades. It is a warmer, more generous invitation to reconsider the systems we often mistake for inevitability. Featuring **Dame Vanessa Redgrave, Carlo Nero, Dominic Frisby, Fred Harrison** and leading thinkers on economics, land and social policy, the film asks how communities might value contribution, dignity and wellbeing ahead of extraction.

For Byron audiences, the conversation lands close to home. This region understands beauty, pressure and resilience. It knows housing scarcity, disaster recovery, the fragility of local belonging, and the unease of watching place become product.

'Films can illuminate an issue, but communities decide what to do with the light.'

Guglielmi says making the film restored the hope he had been longing for. His wish is that it serves as a gentle reminder that meaningful change begins when people choose 'selflessness over selfishness'.

The Byron Theatre screening includes a **live Q&A** with Guglielmi, giving audiences the chance to continue the discussion together. It is the kind of night Byron does particularly well.

Common Wealth screens at Byron Theatre on Friday, 10 July at 7pm.

Tickets are on sale now at byroncentre.com.au.

CALLING ALL SONGWRITERS

BayFM and SAE University College Byron Bay have joined forces for the 3rd annual **BaySounds**. It's the only songwriting comp in the Northern Rivers for unsigned independent artists. Your original song will be judged by industry professionals Ash Grunwald, Emily Lubitz and Mr Rhodes.

Prizes – thanks to our sponsors:

- Professional recording at SAE Byron Bay studios
- A playing spot at BaySounds Live Outside Broadcast or Howl and Moan Records Youth Showcase
- Music NSW mentorship
- Home recording kit from Broadcast Components
- Guitar from Son of Drum.

Two categories, youth and adult.

Entries close Sunday 12 July.

Snap the QR code or go to sae.edu.au/baysounds



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INTERVIEW



**BILL CHAMBERS
THE FAMILY MAN**

Bill Chambers decided early that he would be a musician one day – in the course of making his dreams come true, Tyler Chambers has grown up in a musical family. He has sat side-stage, either at his sister Kasey’s or his father Bill Chambers’ shows, since he was born.

Between them Bill and Tyler bring A LOT of different guitars to a gig. Tyler is currently touring in Bill’s band while writing songs and preparing for his first solo recording. They are currently working on Bill’s seventh album.

Seven spoke to Bill Chambers at home on the Central Coast in the lead up to his show next week.

Bill tell me – you’re bringing your son Tyler?

Yeah! He’s 18 now and right into similar music to what I am, which is great. He started off wanting to be a punk rocker! That’s fine by me, but just lately he’s been more into country and roots music, and he’s working on his first album.

He’s obsessed with Gram Parsons at the moment – he even wants to dress like him with flared jeans and the boots.

Is he a typical teenager? Do you get one grunt answers for every question?

Sometimes. Yeah – but he’s a good

teenager. He’s pretty much happy being home and doing things with my wife and I, but he’s a typical teenager in some ways.

What stage are YOU up to in your musical career?

I’m just taking it easy. I’m a grandfather, of course. I’m enjoying life. I do a lot of recording at home. It’s nice recording other people – producing and playing on records and stuff. These days a lot of people record remotely, so that they’ll do it at home, but they’ll send the files through to us to maybe do a harmony or do a guitar part.

But I’ve just finished a new album – I’m just gonna just put it out on Bandcamp and distribute it at gigs, yeah. So we’re not making a big fuss, we’re concentrating on Tyler’s record.

I’m at a time of life where I’m just enjoying what I do, and I don’t expect to be the next big thing, so we’re definitely concentrating on my boys.

Has the reality of your life in music matched your vision?

It’s way surpassed the vision. When I was seven years old, my dad took me to a Chad Morgan concert. Yep, and of all people, Chad Morgan! And I said to myself, then at seven years old, I’m going to be a musician.

Maybe I thought there was big money in it or something. I said to myself, ‘I want to

travel the world and play music’. I didn’t know anything about how that could happen, but many, many years later, when Kasey got famous and she put a band together, well, I’ve been traveling the world for the last 25 years. My dreams have come true. We’ve played on the Letterman show, been to the UK, Europe, and the US many, many times. Yeah, I feel like my dreams have gone through the roof. It’s a beautiful thing – and we’re still doing it. We did a tour last year in America, and that was pretty successful. We’ve toured a lot in the States – a big tour bus. It was so much fun. You can just do the gig, crawl into bed, and that gets you to the next town overnight.

What is your current earworm?

Mostly songs that I’m co-writing with Tyler – he’s on this mission. He’s very obsessed with all that West Coast sort of country-rock movement, so at the moment we’re writing songs, sort of road songs, songs about travelling, songs about things you see when you’re out in the desert.

That’s what is going through my head at the moment, thinking about what we’re going to write about today.

What’s inspiring you at the moment?

What’s getting you out of bed every day? My little studio, I’m setting it up so it’s a little more user-friendly, doing some woodwork. I love doing woodwork. Yep,

and that gets me motivated. In fact, I think I enjoy the woodwork better than the actual audio recording. But now I love the whole studio thing. I’m still obsessed with guitars. I’ve got about 60 guitars.

60 guitars! I’m going to ask you the hardest question of all – what’s your favourite?

My favourite is my old Telecaster that I bought new in 1970 – I bought an old Fender Telecaster, new then, but that’s the oldest one I’ve got. I still use it. I’ll be flying with it to Darwin.

What are you looking forward to at the Mullum Festival?

Well, meeting the other artists, there’s quite a few other artists that I’m looking forward to catching up with. Lou Bradley, of course, I’m going to do a duet with her – I always look at the artists, and I think this looks like a really cool festival – and it’s the first time I’m doing a major festival with my boy, too.

Bill, are you having enough fun?

Do I sound like I am?

You do. You sound like you’re having lots.

I’m having a lot of fun just playing music!

Bill and Tyler at the Mullum Roots Festival are playing at the Top Pub on Saturday, 11 July, from 6.30pm and Sunday, 12 July from 3.30pm at the Mullum Civic Hall.

MAGNIFICENT

COMMON WEALTH

BYRON THEATRE
FRI 10 JULY

+ POST-FILM DISCUSSION LIVE ON STAGE!

7PM

GARAGE BYRON THEATRE TICKETS

NEW EVENT

Local Mullum DJs
ABEL TORO + DJ INCH

Resident JAM DJs
GI JODE + PEPPIN

QR CODE \$30 TICKETS ONLINE

SUPPORTING QUEER FAMILY

SUNDAY 5 JULY / 3-10PM / WANDANA

BRINGING THE JAM TO YOUR LOCAL

<https://events.humanitix.com/jam-mullum-jul2026>

The Cruel Sea

JEZ MEAD
VANDALISM ANGEL

FRI 21 AUGUST

BEACH HOTEL
BYRON BAY



LisAmore! returns

There is something quietly remarkable about LisAmore!

Every year, thousands of people make their way to a corner of the Northern Rivers and, for a few hours, swap the everyday for something altogether warmer – the aromas of fresh pasta and cannoli in the air, the sound of an accordion drifting across the grounds, children twirling spaghetti with the kind of concentration usually reserved for far more serious pursuits.

This year, LisAmore! returns bigger than ever, with a new home at the Lismore Showgrounds giving the festival the space it has long deserved – the grounds will

come alive with live opera, **Domenico and the Latin Mafia**, a tug-of-war, the beloved **Spaghetti Competition** for kids, and a food offering that stretches from wood-fired pizza and slow-roast porchetta to tiramisu, gelato and prosecco.

At its heart, LisAmore! has always been about more than Italian food and music. It is a celebration of the migrants who helped build this region – and an open invitation for everyone, Italian or otherwise, to share in that story.

LisAmore! 2026 is on Sunday at the Lismore Showgrounds from 10am to 3pm. \$5 entry.

Disclosure Day

If you found out we weren't alone, if someone showed you, proved it to you, would that frighten you?

From legendary three-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker **Steven Spielberg**, comes the gripping sci-fi thriller **Disclosure Day**.

As the world stands poised on the brink of World War III, cybersecurity specialist Dr. Daniel Kellner (Golden Globe-winner **Josh O'Connor**) steals from the Wardex Corporation – a secret arm of the US government – a piece of extraterrestrial technology and related files, detailing various events of human-alien contact dating back to the Roswell incident. Branded a foreign spy, making him the target of federal authorities, Daniel goes into hiding at a convent with his girlfriend, Jane Blankenship.

In Kansas City, television meteorologist Margaret Fairchild (Academy Award-nominee **Emily Blunt**) is preparing for work when a cardinal flies into her home, briefly observes her, and then flies away. The incident awakens



latent psychic abilities, allowing Margaret to intuitively understand the thoughts and emotions of others.

Together Daniel and Margaret try to reveal the truth to the world all at once, while facing intense government secrecy.

Featuring an all-star ensemble cast, including Academy Award-winner **Colin Firth**, Academy Award-nominee **Colman Domingo**, and **Wyatt Russell** and **Eve Hewson**.

Returning to the sci-fi genre over 40 years on from his critically-acclaimed works, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, Spielberg weaves a chilling story of control, knowledge and power in *Disclosure Day* making audiences question if we are truly alone in this universe and what we would do if we found out we weren't.

www.palacecinemas.com.au

GIG GUIDE

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

WEDNESDAY 1

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SAMARUH**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **NT LIVE PRESENTS: THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **LIVE IT UP: THE MENTAL AS ANYTHING STORY**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**

THURSDAY 2

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **STEPPERS**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **SOUL SANGHEE**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 4PM **KITA ALEXANDER**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TRILLA + DJ QUENDO + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **TEMPLE OF FIRE**
- CLUB PARADISO, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **KWASI BRUNI**
- FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL 5.30PM **KIERAN LARKEY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- THE TOP PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **TOP JAM NIGHT WITH THE MAX PAZ**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **CUT WORMS + JOHN ANDREWS**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **WINTER WARMER – HOMELESSNESS RELIEF FUNDRAISING CABARET**

FRIDAY 3

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **PABLO LAVERDE + VYBEZ BAND**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **ANDREW MORRIS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **Z-STAR TRINITY + SARAH GRANT TRIO + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ ALICE Q**

- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 6PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **THE BLOODY BEETROOTS + TAYA**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- NEWRYBAR HALL 7PM **MULLUMBIMBY FOLK ORCHESTRA**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 7.30PM **2000S THEME KARAOKE NIGHT**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SALVE JORGE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5.30PM **BALCONY BEATS FT SLINKY 7.30PM KRAPPYOCKE WITH JESS,**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **SONIC FX**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **CUT WORMS + JOHN ANDREWS**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 7.30PM **THE GREAT CREEDENCE REVIVAL SHOW**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, 4PM **PHANTOM LIMBZ**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 4PM **REGENT REMIX FEAT TAZ MILLER**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **PHIL GUEST**
- CONDONG BOWLS CLUB 6PM **ELLIANA & DAVE**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, 8PM **COUNTDOWN**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7.30PM **UNLIMITED PEPPERS**

SATURDAY 4

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **SALI BRACEWELL + HEIDI KAIRL DUO + BENSON + JOEY TUCKSHOP**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **SCREENING: BEYOND BORDERS – PATAGONIA**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **ANDY V**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM **DJ AFRODESIA + DJ DEEP PEPA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JBS BLUES BREAKERS + DJ JAMIE LOWE + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **PIANO BAR W/ JOHN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **MANDY HAWKES TRIO**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- PEARCES CREEK HALL 6PM **M.E. BAIRD & THE FOLD**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **YOLAN**
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, 5.30PM **STU KULELE TRIO**
- BALLINA RSL 6PM **JOCK BARNES**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **GUY & NICCI**
- BLAH BAR, LISMORE, 4PM **SNAKE MOUNTAIN + VOMITX BOMBX, GUSSET RATS, OVER COMPENSATOR, NU3IT AND 10 PACK SCREWDRIVER**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 4PM **AKMAL SALEH**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **DAVE CAVANAGH**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 1PM **SUNSET GROOVE**

- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5PM **MILO GREEN**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **LUCY GALLANT**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **FORTUNATE SONS**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 12PM **MOTHER MAGNETIC**

SUNDAY 5

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **EPIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **DAN HANNAFORD + VINYL SUNDAYS FT MONSIEUR DROP**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 5.30PM **LUKE BENNETT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **ROUND MOUNTAIN GIRLS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 1PM **GEORGE SMILOVICI**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **JAM**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **GRAVITY'S GUMBO**
- STOKERS SIDING HALL 3PM **MULLUMBIMBY FOLK ORCHESTRA**
- BALLINA RSL 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT DARREN JACK**
- LISMORE SHOWGROUNDS 10AM **LISAMORE!**
- CUDGEN SURF CLUB, KINGSCLIFF, 3PM **X-PORT**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **MR JOHN + TOM ROBERTS**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 12PM **ALAN FLETCHER & JENNIFER HANSEN, 6PM DIRTY HARRY**

MONDAY 6

- CASA LUNA, BYRON BAY, 6PM **HUSH POETRY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LACHIE DWYER + DUELLING PIANO BAR**

TUESDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **19TH ARAKAW NAIDOC WEEK SHORT FILMS SCREENING**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHAL OKELL + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- BALLINA RSL 2PM **TAY TAY TRIBUTE SHOW**

WEDNESDAY 8

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **KIRSTY WEBECK: LOST FOR WORDS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **J.R.HIGGINS + DUELLING PIANO BAR**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **SUSY HULL AND THE SHY GUYS + MARY MAX AND THE JAZZ TRADES COLLECTIVE**

PALACE CINEMAS
BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY JULY 2
TO WEDNESDAY JULY 8

MOANA
STARTS WEDNESDAY

NOW SHOWING

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

A CLOCKWORK ORANGE (R18+)
Mon: 6:30PM – Cult Vault

OPERA DI ROMA: LOHENGRIN (IC10)
Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA DOUBLE FEATURE (M)
Sun: 2:00PM

THE INVITE (MA15+)
Fri: 6:30PM – Movie Club Preview

FAMILY FILMS

CATS IN THE MUSEUM 2: TREASURES OF EGYPT (PG)
Daily: 11:00AM, 1:00PM

MINIONS & MONSTERS (PG)
Daily: 10:40AM, 12:40PM, 2:40PM, 4:10PM, 6:10PM

MOANA (PG) STARTS WEDNESDAY
Wed: 11:15AM, 1:10PM, 3:00PM, 6:10PM, 7:15PM

TOY STORY 5 (G)
Thurs, Sun, Mon, Tues: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:15PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM, Fri: 10:30AM,

12:45PM, 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:15PM, 7:15PM, Sat: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:15PM, 6:15PM, 7:45PM, Wed: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:15PM, 6:15PM

ALL FILMS

BACKROOMS (M)
Daily: 8:20PM

DISCLOSURE DAY (M)
Daily except Wed: 11:00AM, 2:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM, Wed: 2:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM

GLENROTHAN (M)
Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:10AM, 12:45PM, Sun: 10:50AM, 12:45PM, Wed: 12:45PM

JACKASS: BEST AND LAST (IC10) NPT
Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 12:50PM, 3:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:10PM, Sat, Sun: 3:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:10PM, Wed: 12:50PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM, 8:10PM

LEVITICUS (MA15+)
Daily except Fri, Mon: 8:30PM

MICHAEL (PG)
Daily: 10:30AM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM

OBSESSION (MA15+)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 5:00PM, 8:30PM, Sat: 5:30PM, 8:30PM, Sun: 8:30PM

SUPERGIRL (M)
Daily except Wed: 1:10PM, 7:30PM, Wed: 7:30PM

THE CHRISTOPHERS (MA15+)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 2:50PM, Sat: 3:20PM

THE DEATH OF ROBIN HOOD (MA15+)
Daily except Sun, Wed: 1:15PM

THE MUSICIANS (PG)
Daily: 10:40AM

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG)
Daily: 10:30AM

TUNER (MA15+)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues: 3:45PM, 6:10PM, Sun: 6:10PM, Mon, Wed: 3:45PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

DISCLOSURE DAY (M)
Daily except Wed: 4:30PM, 7:00PM, Wed: 4:30PM

JACKASS: BEST AND LAST (IC10) NPT
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 2:40PM, 7:30PM, Mon, Tues: 12:15PM, 2:40PM, 7:30PM, Wed: 7:30PM

MINIONS & MONSTERS (PG)
Daily except Wed: 10:00AM, 12:30PM, 2:30PM, Wed: 10:00AM, 12:40PM, 2:30PM

MOANA (PG) STARTS WEDNESDAY
Wed: 10:15AM, 12:00PM, 2:40PM, 7:00PM

OBSESSION (MA15+)
Daily: 7:15PM

SUPERGIRL (M)
Daily: 9:45AM, 12:00PM, 2:15PM, 5:00PM

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border):

\$14 per column centimetre

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

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

WANTED TO RENT

SEEKING self-cont studio/flat for mindful conscious-living woman. Exc refs, n/s, d/f, quiet tenant. Around \$430/wk, O. Shores, Bruns or Mullum. 66854196 Pls leave msg and number.

TO LEASE

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Brunswick Valley Landcare
Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore

Become a volunteer!

For more info or to register

0421 244 640
brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



Want to volunteer?

Volunteers are the heart of our community.

Your time, energy and dedication help shape a more connected, vibrant and caring Byron.

We simply couldn't do it without you!

02 6685 6807
volunteers@byroncentre.com.au



Volunteer with Community Transport

Make a difference in someone's day

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communitytransport.net.au



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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**

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LEAF IT TO US - Tree Care Specialists
Local, qualified, insured, free quotes.
Big to small we enjoy it all -
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SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas
6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

HART TREE SERVICES

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

Fully insured • Free quotes
0427 347 380

FOR SALE

ELECTRIC BIKE E-Rider Model 7D, as new, <1000k, serviced \$600. 0437825594

CARPET (New, offcut) Acacia Hill 2970 x 2460mm \$160. Ph 0437825594

WANTED

TREE FERNS

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

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

GARAGE SALES

SISTERS OF SALVAGE

Pop Up Shop

Sat 4 July not before 8am
Vintage, designer, mens and womens clothes + bric-a-brac
43 Fingal Street Brunswick Heads.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Praeipce

For the record Ayla Constance Eldridge(c) of Stokers Siding, New South Wales is permanently domiciled on the Land and Soil of Terra Australis. I am not a voluntary transactor in commerce, and the paramount security interest holder of all estates, property, assets and collateral, both registered and unregistered, and all associated copyright protected trade names. My lawful Reconveyance to the Land and Soil jurisdiction of Terra Australis, was recorded with Public Recording Number RPP44 63900 05100 46678 76600 on Proclamation Date June 26th 2026. All usufruct subjugation ties have been severed with the occupying corporate government of Australia. The corporate Australian kakistocracy and its affiliates are instructed to immediately cease and desist misaddressing Ayla Constance Eldridge(c) in fraudulent debased Dog-Latin, GLOSSA and to cease and desist infringing on my estate, property, assets, collateral and copyright protected trade names.

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WHERE TO GET THE ECHO

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

FUNERAL NOTICES



Valarie "Val" Timms

12th May 1932 – 25th June 2026

Val passed away peacefully at Tweed Valley Hospital closing the curtains on a full and beautiful life.

Dearly loved wife of Howard (dec.)

Loving mother & Mother-in-Law of Chris & Junko, Terry & Debbie, Laurie & Helen, Lindy & Mark, David & Lynley.

Granny Val to 10 precious grandchildren, Amber, Jasmine, Ryan, Kentaro, Kelsey, Hilary, Angus, Alex, Duncan & Locky. Great Grandma to 15 beautiful Great Grandchildren.

Family and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Val's life at **Uniting Church Mullumbimby at 10.30am on Monday 13 July.**

Followed by private family internment service at Mullumbimby Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family request that you donate to Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
www.rescuehelicopter.com.au/you-can-help/in-memoriam

BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
6684 6232

Bobby Burt

29 Jan 1947 – 24 June 2026



Formerly of Suffolk Park. Late of Ballina. Dearly loved husband of Pauline (dec). Known identity of Byron Bay as a Baker. Friend to many.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a celebration of Bobby's life to be held at Rainbow Chapel, Rainbow Avenue, West Ballina on Friday 10, July 2026, commencing at 2 pm. Please refer to Guardian Funerals Ballina website (Upcoming Funerals) for livestream link. After the service a private cremation will take place.

Guardian Funerals
Ballina 02 6686 7036

HEALTH

AFRO/CARIBBEAN FOLK WOMEN'S DANCE CLASS

Explore movement, rhythm & storytelling through dance.

Thurs, 23 juillet · 4-6pm
Tintenbar Hall
Text Ray 0492 010 772

Justice Haldane Hankin (Hal) 1929-2026



Another original Bay character laid to rest.

Memorial gathering for family and friends at the **Byron Bay RSL, Saturday 4th July 1pm.**

HAWAIIAN MASSAGE

Ocean Shores, Michaela, 0416332886

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

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Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

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

POSITIONS VACANT

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

WORK WANTED

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

BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday Anna
We love you, The Echo Crew

PETS

PET SITTER AVAILABLE

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

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nras.org.au
byrondogrescue.org

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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 adcopy@echo.net.au



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ACCOUNTANTS & BOOKKEEPERS

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Conceived by the acclaimed Sacred Space Architecture, the home is a masterclass in contemporary coastal design, where form, light and landscape are seamlessly intertwined. Terraced tropical gardens have been thoughtfully created to deliver a private, resort-style oasis, offering a rare sense of seclusion and calm within one of the region's most desirable lifestyle enclaves.

At the centre of the home, the gourmet kitchen makes a striking statement with a substantial island bench and premium integrated appliances, designed for both relaxed daily living and effortless entertaining. Seamless bi-fold doors open the main living domain to an expansive alfresco deck, where the pool, gardens and Pacific Ocean create a breathtaking backdrop for long lunches, sunset drinks and easy coastal gatherings.

Inside, the residence unfolds with warmth, volume and ease. Light-filled living and entertaining spaces have been carefully oriented to embrace the eastern aspect, drawing the ever-changing ocean outlook into the heart of the home. Soaring ceilings, skylights, a feature bay window and a fireplace add character and atmosphere, creating interiors that feel refined yet deeply welcoming.

The primary suite offers a truly privileged experience, waking to soft ocean light and the possibility of watching whales from bed. A beautifully appointed ensuite enhances the sense of retreat, creating a private sanctuary that feels calm, considered and luxurious.

Outdoors, the sun-drenched pool terrace



centres around a crystal-clear 15-metre lap pool, framed by tranquil lounging zones designed for long summer afternoons and relaxed entertaining. Thoughtful inclusions such as an outdoor solar shower, underground rainwater harvesting system and integrated exterior lighting elevate both sustainability and ambience.

Comfort and practicality are equally considered, with air conditioning, ceiling fans, a 20-panel solar system and a double garage with workshop space adding everyday ease and efficiency.

Despite its private, elevated setting, the home remains wonderfully connected. Ocean Shores village shops, cafes and the Country Club are just a leisurely five-minute stroll away, with New Brighton Beach



approximately 15 minutes on foot. Brunswick Heads is around six minutes by car, Byron Bay is within easy reach, and both Ballina and Gold Coast airports are conveniently accessible.

Set within the coveted Byron hinterland lifestyle region, this is a truly one-of-a-kind coastal offering — an elevated sanctuary where architectural excellence, privacy and breathtaking ocean outlooks converge in perfect harmony.

For further information on this stunning home contact Adrian Howe, Christie's International Real Estate New South Wales.

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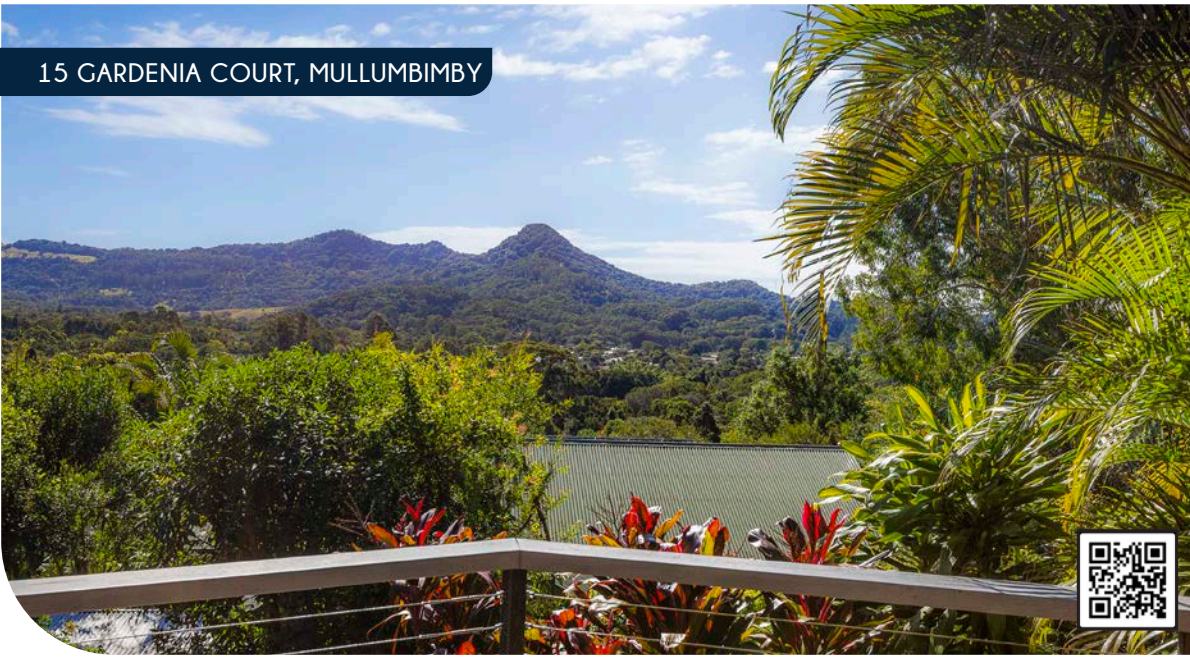
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Sweeping Hinterland Views From Mullumbimby's Highest Position

4 bedrooms 2 living areas 2 bathrooms 2 car spaces

1100M²

- Elevated north-facing position with sweeping hinterland views to Mt Chincogan, Wollumbin & Koonyum Ranges
- Versatile layout with 3 bedrooms plus separate studio and additional living/workspace
- Beautifully established terraced gardens
- Located in a quiet cul-de-sac, minutes to Mullumbimby town centre

PRICE | \$1.55M - \$1.65M
OPEN | Sat 4th July 11 - 11:30am



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668



Sally Green
0488 030 116

20 BEACHSIDE DRIVE, SUFFOLK PARK



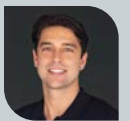
200 Metres to Tallow Beach, Beachside Living at its Best

4 bedrooms 1 living area 2 bathrooms 2 car spaces

694M²

- Beautifully renovated home with seamless indoor-outdoor living
- Flexible four-bedroom layout with a luxurious main suite
- North-facing pool, cabana and private tropical gardens
- Walk to Tallow Beach, cafés, shops and schools

EOI | Closing 27th July 5pm
PRICE GUIDE | \$2.5M - \$2.7M
OPEN | Thurs 2nd July 9:30 - 10am
Sat 4th July 10 - 10:30am



Oliver Aldridge
0421 171 499

480 LEFT BANK ROAD, MULLUMBIMBY CREEK



A Private 76-Acre Hinterland Haven with Creek Frontage & Horse Trails

6 bedrooms 4 living areas 4 bathrooms 6 car spaces

30.99HA

- Spacious residence with fireplace, sunroom and expansive covered verandahs with sweeping views
- Versatile separate studio with vaulted ceilings and luxe bathroom, ideal for guests or creative use
- Fully equipped rural holding with orchards, veggie gardens, sheds, water storage and horse riding trails
- Creek, billabong, grazing paddocks and native bushland just 5 minutes from Mullumbimby

PRICE | \$2.9M - \$3.1M
OPEN | By Appointment



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



Paul Prior
0418 324 297

1/2 HAZELWOOD CLOSE, SUFFOLK PARK



Spacious, Low-Maintenance Home - walk to Shops and Beach

3 bedrooms 1 living area 2 bathrooms 1 car space

- Three-bedroom, two-bathroom duplex with single lock-up garage and internal access
- Light-filled living spaces with high vaulted ceilings and seamless indoor-outdoor flow
- Covered entertaining deck overlooking established gardens, plus a private north-facing patio
- Walk to Tallow Beach, Suffolk Park shops, cafés and local schools, with Byron Bay just minutes away

PRICE | \$1.195M - \$1.26M
OPEN | Sat 4th July 9 - 9:30am



Su Reynolds
6685 8466



Anna Gilham
0402 128 355

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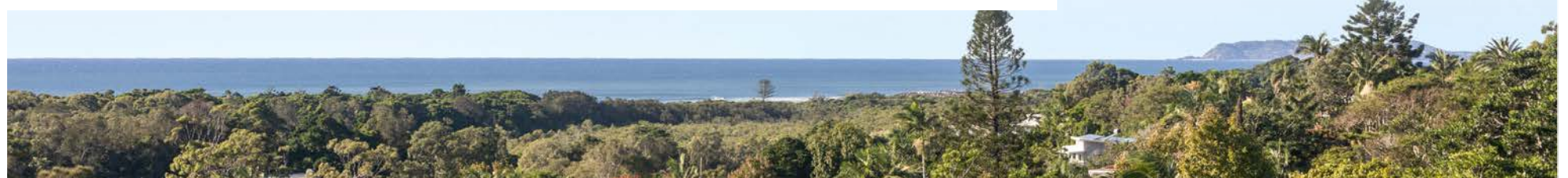
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MULLUM VET

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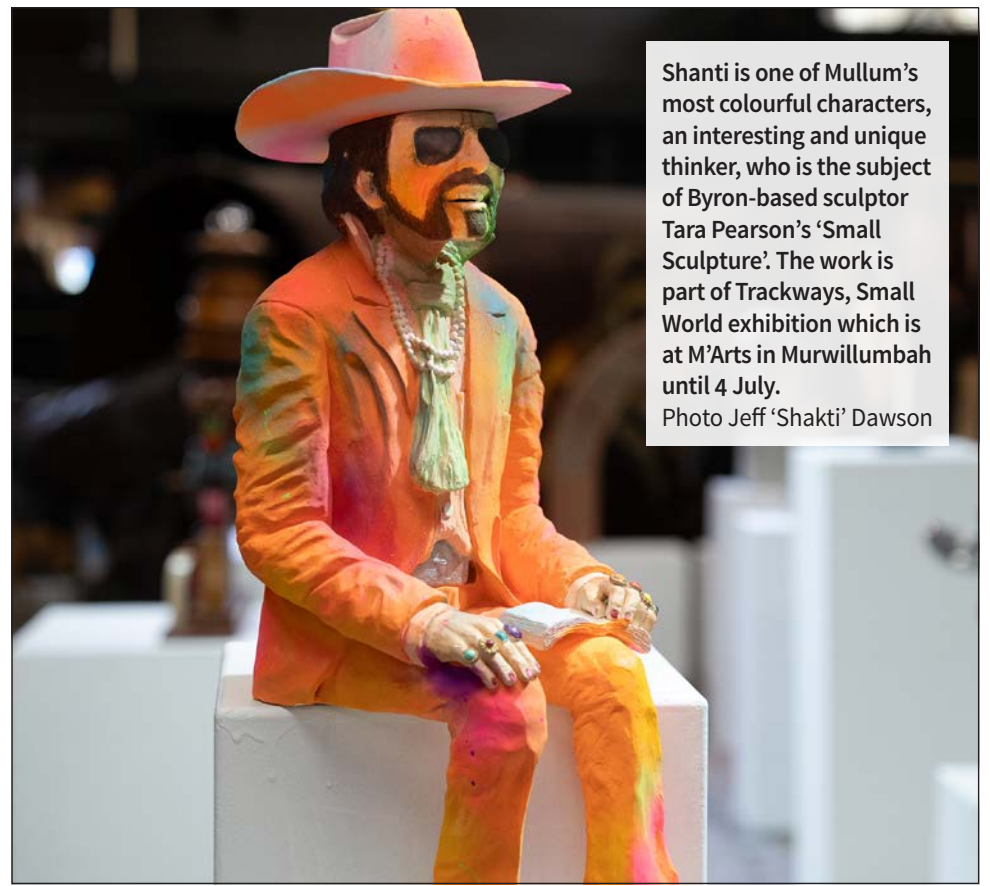
Please call our friendly staff on 6684 3818 to make a booking.

While Pauline Hanson has tried to hold up Paul Hogan and Norman Gunston as examples of Australia's 'monoculture' Hogan has come out swinging, telling the *Australian Financial Review* that 'she's living in the past'. He points out that migration has made Australia what it is today and that she is 'racist' and 'sounds very much like this stupid boofhead over here, Trump'.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The Mexican police are after 'Mexican Batman' who has been drawing moustaches and cat whiskers on the faces of bike thieves after duct taping them to lamposts around Lagos de Moreno in Jalisco in Western Mexico.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The women of the nearby Mexican state of Michoacán have taken their frustration at the lack of law and order one step further. According to www.news.com.au, 'a group of women have taken up assault rifles to protect their communities from the ruthless Jalisco New Generation cartel. The heavily armed women have even built a homemade tank and set up roadblocks in a desperate bid to stop cartel gunmen responsible for a bloody wave of local homicides.'

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Have you ever wondered how to get the excitement of a shopping spree or the anticipation of ordering your favourite food without having to pay for it? Welcome to the dopamine sites! They are apparently trending with young people in South Korea and offer you fake consumption experiences. The hyper-realistic sites give



Shanti is one of Mullum's most colourful characters, an interesting and unique thinker, who is the subject of Byron-based sculptor Tara Pearson's 'Small Sculpture'. The work is part of Trackways, Small World exhibition which is at M'Arts in Murwillumbah until 4 July.
Photo Jeff 'Shakti' Dawson

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■ ■ ■ ■ ■
'Glycans - tiny, complex sugar chains that coat your cells and protein' may reveal disease long before it's detected according to a new study by Edith Cowan University's School of Medical and Health Sciences. 'Glycans are constantly shifting, reacting to your lifestyle, environment, and even hidden illness. That makes them a real-time snapshot of your health - and potentially a powerful early warning system.'

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