

Echo

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The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 41 #04 • July 8, 2026 • www.echo.net.au

Mullum Roots ready to Rock-et



Wild Rocket blast into Mullum as Mullum Roots Festival lights up the town this coming weekend. Three venues around Mullum will host music, while songwriting workshops will happen at the Drill Hall Theatre on Sunday. Full details at: www.mullumrootsfest.com. Photo Jeff 'It Is Rocket Science' Dawson

New flood maps could reshape development across Byron Shire

Paul Bibby

New flood mapping covering much of the Byron Shire could affect future development controls, with a major new study recommending that planning decisions be based on whichever flood source – river flooding or overland flow – produces the highest flood level.

The draft Byron Shire Overland Flood Study, endorsed unanimously by the Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee on 25 June, extends flood mapping beyond

traditional river flooding and identifies areas affected by local overland flow, sometimes known as flash flooding.

Prepared by consultants Engeny in the wake of the 2022 floods, the study examines local overland flooding across the Byron Shire.

It states that in areas where overland flooding overlaps with existing river flood mapping, 'peak flood levels from each flood source should be assessed, with planning controls applied based on the flood mechanism that produces the highest flood level'.

The new mapping will help strategic land use policy, and flood-related development controls across the Shire.

Unlike river flooding, overland flooding occurs when intense rainfall overwhelms drainage systems or flows across land before reaching creeks and waterways.

While the mapping has implications for future planning and development controls across the Shire, the study also identifies seven locations where flooding impacts are considered severe enough to warrant further investigation of mitigation works.

The report says the hotspots were identified because they involve concentrations of flood-affected properties or significant inundation.

They are located at Parkway Drive in Ewingsdale, Coomburra Crescent and Rajah Road in Ocean Shores, Fingal Street in Brunswick Heads, New City Road and Hollingsworth Lane in Mullumbimby, and Yelgun Creek and Palmer Avenue in South Golden Beach.

Preliminary mitigation options identified
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Inaugural DINGO Music & Arts Festival to light up Bangalow in October

It is a fusion of local and international art, music, performance, food, and thought that will be coming to you in Bangalow as part of the inaugural DINGO Music & Arts Festival across four days from 8 to 11 October.

From a Guinness World Record attempt to create The World's Smallest Jazz Club, to curated local foods, the festival is turning Bangalow into a town of experiences and opportunities for everyone to enjoy with a mix of free and paid events.

Hiatus Kaiyote

Leading the inaugural program are three-time Grammy nominees Hiatus Kaiyote, London's acclaimed Kokoroko, legendary Philadelphia selector Rich Medina, internationally celebrated DJ Coco Maria, alongside Australian artists Nai Palm, Miss Kaninna, Harry Angus and Barney McAll.

'Anchored in jazz and programmed through a contemporary lens, DINGO brings together internationally acclaimed musicians, left-field selectors, performance artists, chefs and thinkers for four days of performances, conversations and shared experiences,' say organisers.



Dr Stuart Grant, Si Jay Gould, Gary Ashton, Dai Hovey, and Merryn Jeann at Flow Records creating fun and festivities for you in Bangalow. Photo Jeff Dawson

'Unfolding across Bangalow's halls, galleries, record stores and public spaces, the festival invites audiences to move

through the town at their own pace, discovering unexpected encounters where music, art and community intersect.'

Completing the program is a handpicked lineup that traverses jazz, soul, hip-hop, electronic music and contemporary club

culture, featuring Steve Spacek, Andras, Don Glori, Benjamin Walsh Quartet, Greg Sheehan's The Time Of Life, Finn Rees, David Versace, D.D. Mirage, Clever Austin, Horatio Luna, DJ Mike Gurrieri, Lake Kelly, YL Hooi, Uncomfortable Science, Edd Fisher, EMOM: Northern Rivers, Free Jazz Church, La Sape Records, Musical Bonanza, Tralalablip, Zac Stars and more.

Reveling in new possibilities

Festival Director Si Jay Gould said DINGO was conceived as a festival deeply connected to both place and curiosity.

'We weren't interested in creating another festival that could happen anywhere. DINGO is built around Bangalow itself, where every venue and public space becomes part of the experience. This isn't a jazz festival but the whole festival "is jazz". We wanted to bring together artists from different worlds to improvise, take risks, and collaborate into new possibilities.'

Find out more at: www.dingofestival.com.

Where to from here for a healthy future?

Sometimes it is hard not to lose hope, with the depth and breadth of the challenges that have faced the Northern Rivers. From the droughts, fires, Covid, and the 2022 floods it's sometimes hard to see a way forward.

Imagine Northern Rivers (INR) has been finding a positive way to look at the future and since May 2025 they have hosted 26 workshops across the seven local government areas including Byron Shire.

In 2025 INR meetings were held in Byron Bay, Mullumbimby, Ocean Shores, and Brunswick Heads. Representatives from the civic, business, not-for-profit, government, university and cultural sectors, as well as general residents all

participated. They looked at what regenerative, safe and adaptive futures could be like within the lifetime of a child born today, and what we need to do, and stop doing, to get there.

Key ideas included: culture of connection, mutual aid and contribution; actively regenerating the environment; localised, circular and nature-based economies; affordable and sustainable housing; flourishing arts and creative centres; valued education systems; food security; universal access to healthcare; governance models strengthen local voices; and renewable energy.

'The intent is to inform and strengthen

community-led responses to the mess we find ourselves in,' said INR designer Carmen Stewart.

'I think we can all agree that our business-as-usual approach is no longer benefitting people or planet. We need to move towards regenerative futures across our region (and world). And the starting place is to develop a shared understanding of what's possible and the things we need to do (and stop doing) together, to guide us in a life-giving direction.'

You can review the Byron Shire workshops here and find out more about Imagine Northern Rivers at: <https://ittakesatown.org.au/insightsbyron>.

Beyond Blue charity rugby day returns to Bruns



The Mullumbimby Moonshiners Rugby Club. Photo supplied

Brunswick Heads rugby team, the Mullumbimby Moonshiners, will gather at Alby Lofts Oval, Brunswick Heads this Saturday, 11 July, for their annual Beyond Blue Charity Day, with the club's senior women's team reforming after a 30-year playing hiatus to run onto the field.

'One of our Moonshiner players lost their life to

mental health and our small community has really shown up for this Day, which continues to get bigger and better,' said Karly Jenkins, manager of the Moonshiners and also park manager of Reflections Ferry Reserve in Brunswick Heads.

'Over the years, we've all been touched by those impacted by mental health so it's important to make sure

this event is a success, and to be there for our mates.'

The Beyond Blue Charity Day will have three games – the under-18 men's team will play at 12 noon, the senior women's team will run on at 1.45pm and the senior men's team will play at 3.15pm.

Last year the charity day raised \$11,000 and there are hopes this figure can be beaten.

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NO WIN, NO FEE

Community rallies behind beloved Byron local facing cancer battle

Paul Bibby

Locals are rallying behind beloved Byron local Krystal Pillwein after she was diagnosed with stage 2 inoperable cervical cancer, launching a fundraising campaign to help ease the financial burden of her treatment.

Organised by Krystal's close friend, Katelyn Rew, the fundraiser aims to give the well-known community volunteer the support she needs to focus on her recovery rather than the financial pressures that often accompany cancer treatment.

Ms Rew said the diagnosis had come as a devastating shock, with Krystal now facing intensive chemotherapy and radiation. The treatment is expected to affect her ability to have children.

While the road ahead will be challenging, Ms Rew said the woman who has spent years quietly supporting others is now being held up by the community she has long served.



Krystal Pillwein (left) with friends Bianca Rayner and William Dalton at the Splashfest youth festival which they organised in 2024 to bring the community together. Photo supplied

Helping hand

'If you've spent any time in the Byron Bay community over the years, chances are you've crossed paths with Krystal, or felt the ripple effect of her kindness,' Ms Rew said.

'She has been a constant pillar of support, always the first to raise her hand when someone needed help, and never asking for anything in return.'

Krystal became a familiar face to many following the 2022 Northern Rivers floods, volunteering in the clean-up effort before spending the next three years helping flood-affected residents through the Woodburn Hub.

'She gave her time, energy and heart to hundreds of people navigating incredibly difficult circumstances. That is who she is at her core - someone who gives, uplifts, and quietly

holds others through their hardest moments,' Ms Rew said.

Alongside conventional treatment, Krystal is also pursuing complementary therapies, nutritional support, and lifestyle changes to give herself the best chance of recovery.

Friends say these additional costs, combined with reduced capacity to work, have placed significant financial strain on her.

Ms Rew said the fundraiser was an opportunity for the community to return some of the generosity Krystal had shown to others over many years.

'We are coming together as a community to support her, to ease that burden, and to allow her to focus fully on her healing,' she said.

People wishing to support Krystal can donate via the GoFundMe campaign, which can be found at <https://gofund.me/7bc41003d> or by searching for 'Support Krystal Through Her Healing Journey' on the GoFundMe website.

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\$30,419 for Byron's Fletcher Street Cottage

The Festival of Stone sold out in June with over 2,000 people enjoying good music, great food, and the festival's namesake Stone Brew Beer. They also raised \$30,419 for Fletcher Street Cottage which helps deliver vital services and programs for locals experiencing homelessness and hardship. This includes

meals, showers, crisis relief, housing support and a dedicated Women's Space.

'Festival Of The Stone is all about community and we're so thrilled that Byron has once again rallied together to raise these much-needed funds for Fletcher Street Cottage while also having a great time. Good music, good beer and a good

cause,' said Paul Tansley from Stone & Wood.

Since it began, Festival of the Stone has raised over \$130,000 for local charities.

'We're incredibly grateful to Stone & Wood and everyone who came along to party with a purpose at Festival of the Stone this year,' said Damian Farrell,

Manager, Fletcher Street Cottage.

'To see our community come together in this way means so much. These funds will make a real difference for Byron locals doing it tough, helping us provide practical support, connection and care at Fletcher Street Cottage when it's needed most.'

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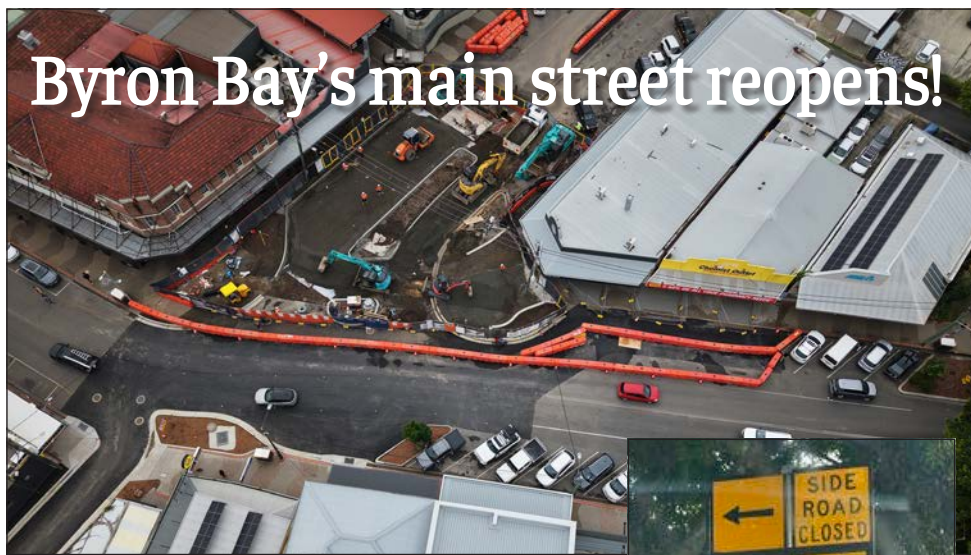
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Byron Bay's main street reopens!

Top: Jonson Street has reopened. Photo Jeff Dawson
Right: Byron Shire Council left detour signs in place long after the road reopened. Photo Kevin Hunt



It has been a tough time for Byron Bay businesses with the intersection at Jonson Street and Byron Street having been closed during some of their peak trade times as Byron Shire Council (BSC) installed new drainage. Locals and visitors alike will be happy to hear that Jonson Street has now reopened to northbound and southbound traffic and pedestrians.

However, not everyone was happy with BSC's approach with Kevin Hunt pointing out the detour signs in front of the new Tommy Bahamas on Lawson Street, corner of Jonson Street and Twisted Sister on Lawson Street still hadn't been removed after a week of the road reopening. 'I feel this is nearly "criminal". One week after Jonson Street opened, the detour

signs have not been taken down,' he said. 'I wonder if anyone who works for Council actually cares about the livelihoods of local shop owners? At the very least, this is gross incompetence.' BSC's Manager of Assets and Major Projects Christopher Soulsby, says BSC will be working on Byron Street from July to November.

A hidden gem of culture and fun

With 73 films under their belts the Drill Hall Film Society are inviting you to come and see the next film they are showing – the 1971 classic and hilarious *Harold and Maude*. It will be shown at the Drill Hall, 4 Jubilee Avenue, Mullumbimby on Wednesday, 15 July at 7pm. The Drill Hall Film Society evolved from the Left Bank Film Society that Michael and Rebecca Lines Kelly had hosted from their home, and then a hall in Brunswick Heads, for many years after they moved back to Victoria. Sonia, and the late Michael Borenstein, Peter Gough, Greg Aitken and Sunita Bailey were pivotal in continuing to bring classic, interesting films to the community and

then Alex Benham, David Steward, Geoffrey Moon, and many others have carried the society forward. **Monthly film nights** 'Each film is preceded by a fascinating talk that sometimes includes guests from the industry. We have been fortunate to hear from Nell Schofield (actor), Kim Mordant (director) and the late Tony Barry (actor) who was a regular at most of our films with his dog, as well as many others who provide intriguing insights,' said current organisers of the monthly film night. The films are varied and members are invited to submit suggestions every year when the program

is arranged. Some of the favourites have included *Ladies in Black, Arsenic and Old Lace, Bicycle Thieves, and My Life as a Dog*. Each one has been something of a revelation and often an opportunity to revisit films seen years ago but with today's eyes. There is usually a Q&A following the film and often surprise is expressed by the audience about how different film can appear long after it was made,' say members. You can enjoy a film for \$10 and membership is \$75 for 11 films and includes membership of The Drill Hall Theatre. Find out more by emailing: drillhallfilms@gmail.com or pop in for a bit of *Harold and Maude!*

Bigger community say on hospital land

Paul Bibby

Byron Council has voted to give the community a greater role in shaping the future of the former Mullumbimby Hospital site, despite concerns from some councillors that additional consultation could further delay the delivery of desperately needed housing.

The council voted 5-4 at its June meeting to investigate options for involving community representatives in the assessment of future proposals for the 4.4-hectare site, which is currently the subject of negotiations with Homes NSW.

The amended motion stopped short of immediately creating a Community Assessment Panel, instead requesting a report on a range of engagement options, including a standalone advisory panel or a process allowing community representatives to work alongside councillors and staff in evaluating future proposals.

Greens councillor Elia Hauge, who brought the motion, said the former hospital site occupied a unique place in Mullumbimby's history.

'This is not a normal site,' Cr Hauge said. 'This site was gifted to the community for a hospital

100 or so years ago, and then retained as a hospital with community management, and then of course purchased by Council for \$1.'

She said the proposal was aimed at ensuring the community remained involved in decisions about housing mix, affordability, and the overall vision for the site.

'It's not about over-consulting, it's about meaningfully consulting,' she said.

The Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) also backed the proposal during public access. Spokesperson Dale Emerson said the community had fought to keep the land in public ownership after the hospital closed and argued that conventional planning processes were inadequate.

'What is needed here is front-end community input before the proposal is locked in, not after,' he said.

But several councillors warned against adding another layer of process to a project that has already been years in the making.

Independent councillor Michael Lyon said the site had already been the subject of extensive consultation and questioned the need for additional mechanisms.

'I don't support putting in place another type of mechanism for community

engagement on this,' Cr Lyon said.

Deputy Mayor Jack Dods (Independent) said the focus should remain on getting housing built.

'That site is still just sitting there getting mown, and nothing has happened,' he said.

'We know what needs to happen here. Let's get it done.'

The final resolution also requests that the project charter being developed with Homes NSW be reported back to Council and calls for a site-specific design excellence panel to provide advice on the future built form of the site.

Meanwhile, major questions remain unresolved about both the future housing mix in the project, and how any public or social housing would be funded.

While many community members have advocated for large amounts of social and public housing, councillors have acknowledged the financial challenges of delivering those outcomes.

Options canvassed publicly include selling part of the site to reduce Council's debt, partnering with Homes NSW to secure government funding, or involving community housing providers or private developers in parts of the project.

Arts Northern Rivers First Nations Committee

Arts Northern Rivers (ANR) is calling for members who have a connection to Bundjalung, Githabul, Yaegl and Gumbaynggirr Country to help them form a First Nations committee to guide and shape their First Nations program.

'The Committee will provide cultural and strategic guidance to ensure our work

reflects community priorities, supports self-determination and strengthens First Nations arts and cultural practice across the Northern Rivers,' say ANR.

Members will be appointed for a two-year term and will meet four times per year. Together, members will also determine the terms of reference,

shaping how the committee works and how it can best support First Nations artists, collectives, arts organisations and communities across the region.

Anyone interested in joining the committee can submit an expression of interest (EOI) before 20 July. Find out more at: www.artsnorthernrivers.com.au.

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Byron Bay High are Mock Trial champions



Byron Bay High School won Southern Cross University's Mock Trial competition. Photo supplied

Byron Bay High School's Mock Trial team achieved a rare trifecta as their debut as a formidable legal team in the Southern Cross University (SCU) Mock Trial competition.

Firstly, the team successfully proved their case beyond a reasonable doubt, secondly, they were declared the points victors for their courtroom performances, and finally, they were declared overall winners in the entire Mock Trial competition, with the equal highest points score.

Byron Bay High's Mock Trial team was composed of two barristers – Kai and Coco, two witnesses – Rose and Zara, and Ben as the court officer, who appeared for the prosecution in a case involving the prosecution of a blueberry farm owner for criminal negligence occasioning grievous bodily harm.

The students successfully proved their case, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the negligent actions and omissions of the farm owner had caused a fruit-picking

customer to be bitten and seriously injured by an eastern brown snake.

High praise

The judge in the Mock Trial case had the highest praise for the opening and closing addresses of Byron Bay High's barristers stating that the standard of legal argument they presented was equivalent to the best Gold Coast Mock Trial team. The judge also praised the performance of the team's witnesses, as well as the skill of the barristers in their questioning of the witnesses from the opposite team under cross examination.

Byron Bay High School Legal Studies teacher said that the school was extremely proud of their team's performance. He added that a number of students in the team aim to be future solicitors and barristers. The Mock Trial competition has given these students an unparalleled opportunity to develop and practice their legal skills in a courtroom setting and greatly inspired them in pursuing a future in the law.

Floods and development

► Continued from page 1 for these sites include upgrades to a culvert crossing and channel works at Parkway Drive, property acquisition, drainage channel works, drainage upgrades at Coomburra Crescent, additional stormwater infrastructure at Fingal Street, and new drainage pipes at Hollingsworth Lane.

At Rajah Road, the study identifies a new stormwater pipe network as a possible solution, while at Yelgun Creek it proposes upgraded pipes, additional pits and a pump system.

A bund and a detention basin have been identified as potential measures at Palmer Avenue.

The report notes that these mitigation options are

preliminary only and require further assessment.

It states that 'future planning and design should be aimed at reducing the flood risk in these hotspot locations'.

The identified works carry a price tag of approximately \$13.4 million.

The study also notes that some flooding problems may not be fully resolved even if mitigation works proceed, with some properties likely to remain vulnerable to inundation.

Public exhibition of the draft study is expected later this year, with community feedback to be incorporated into the final report before it is ultimately adopted by Council.

Sign up for Mullum's Chinny Charge race

Ready to race up the mountain? That's right, the Chinny Charge is open for registration for runners and walkers who want to take the once a year chance to race and stroll up the mountain.

This year the big day is Saturday, 19 September with early bird registration closing on Monday, 31 August. The run has been completed in under 31 minutes with Jack Gill taking 30 minutes and ten seconds in the 2024 race.

For those who are not so keen on a sweaty scramble up the mountain you can register and enjoy a lovely stroll and enjoy the views as you meander up the side of Mount Chincogan.

The children's race is for under 12s and starts at 1.30pm followed by the adult race, and professional athletes who start first at 2pm. Once they are off, the walkers head out (all walkers must be 12 or

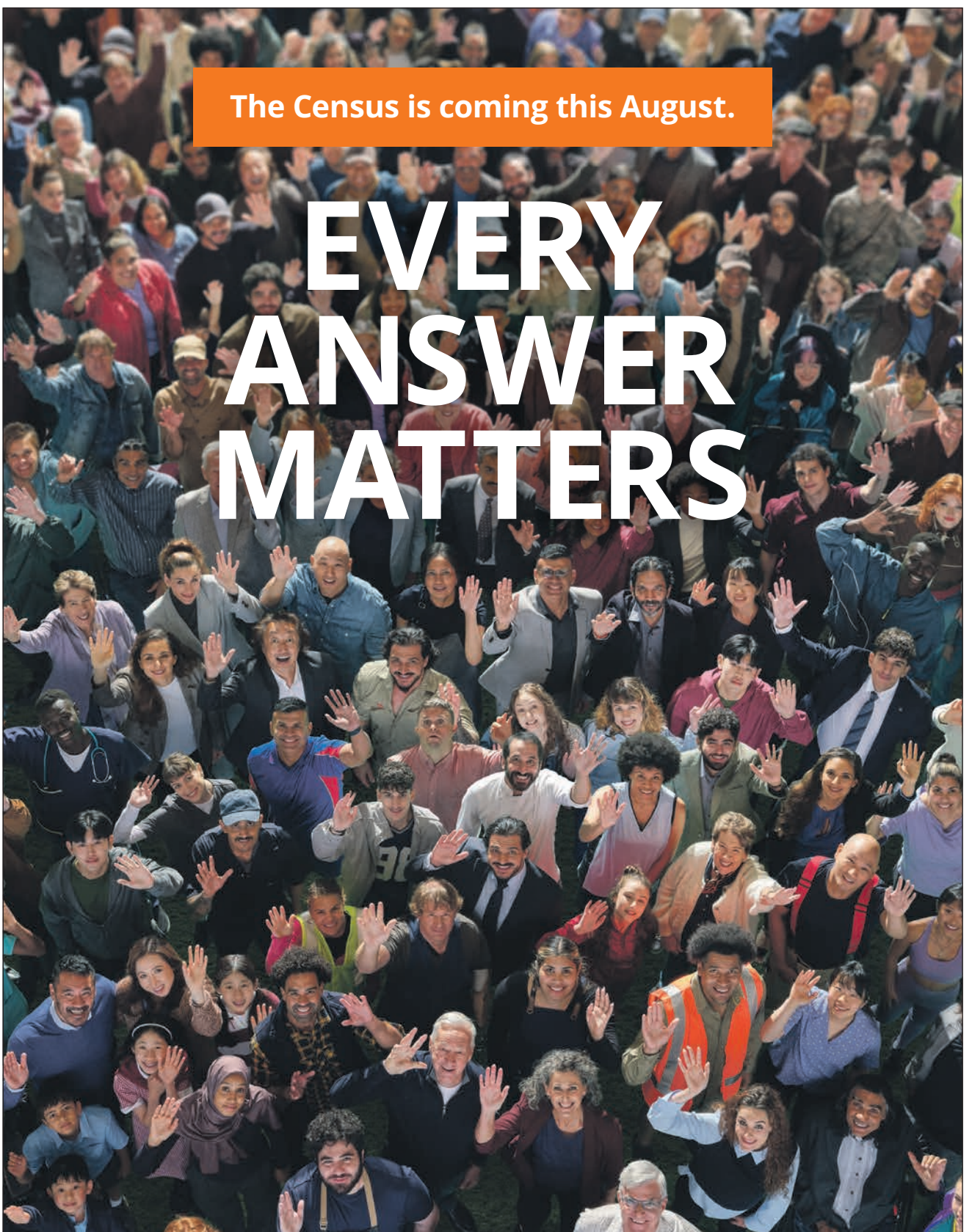
over). Everyone starts from outside the NSW Fire and Rescue Station at 57 Dalley Street and must return through the arch to ensure that everyone is off the mountain by 5pm.

Prizes on offer include the fastest man and woman (\$500), the fastest local man and woman (sponsored by *The Echo*), and the oldest man and woman to participate in the charge. The Kevin Moran memorial

shield is 'awarded for special effort and encouragement of others', and was donated in his memory by his closest friends and adopted family – the Davis family of Main Arm.

The children's race is \$15, runners \$50, and walkers \$25. Go to eventwizards.com.au to enter. It is \$75 on the day if there are spaces available.

Please remember to take your water bottle and there are no dogs allowed on the mountain.



The Census is coming this August.

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Census

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Echo

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

What's on in Tweed for NAIDOC Week?

NAIDOC Week celebrations will be held from Sunday 5 July to Sunday 12 July 2026, under the national theme 50 Years of Deadly. Events will include a Cultural Day, the Sports and Community Expo at Arkinstall Park, and Saltwater Day at Fingal Beach.

Lots happening around Ballina for NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week 2026 is now underway, with lots happening throughout the Northern Rivers. It's a great opportunity for everyone to learn about First Nations history, celebrating the oldest continuous living cultures on the planet. In Ballina Shire, you can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through the a program of free activities and events.

Artists sought to transform factory space into multi-artform event

Expressions of Interest are now open for artists to transform a former factory in Lismore – The Joinery – through performance, installation and site-responsive art. Nationally recognised theatre company, NORPA, said in a media release they are inviting Northern Rivers artists, makers and creative practitioners to submit expressions of interest for Live Edge, 'a new annual multi-artform event at The Joinery in Lismore.'

NSW Women of the Year noms open

Nominations are now open for the 2027 NSW Women of the Year Awards. Nationals Member for Tweed, Geoff Provest says the awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of local women and girls.

Tourism strategy launched across region

Byron Bay will be featured in the first phase of a new tourism marketing strategy designed to 'attract even more visitors, boost local businesses and create jobs across Regional NSW'. 'Delivered by Destination NSW, the 12-month campaign uses data-driven insights and authentic storytelling to connect visitors with the experiences that make regional NSW unique, from stunning coastal escapes and nature-based adventures to world-class food, wine and cultural experiences.'

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Ballina Marine Rescue memorial unveiled



On Sunday, a memorial was unveiled at the RSL Memorial Park, next to the Ballina RSL, to pay tribute to those lost on 4 May. Around 200 people attended, and included representatives from Marine Rescue, Fire & Rescue, police and SES.



The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC (pictured centre), referred to the events on the night of 4 May at the Ballina Bar as the worst tragedy in the history of NSW Marine Rescue. The night took the lives of Marine Rescue volunteers Frank Petsch and Bill Ewen, and yachtsman Matthew Clayton. Photos Jeff Dawson

CSIRO releases Northern Rivers flood mitigation report

David Lowe

After four years of work, the CSIRO has come to the conclusion that multiple water detentions (dams), in the upper reaches of the catchments in the Northern Rivers, along with other flood mitigation engineering, could reduce future catastrophic flooding impacts in Lismore and elsewhere by as much as two metres.

This work, which was commissioned by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), has been criticised for its limited scope, as well as its great public expense, which has come as affected communities continue to struggle to recover from the flood events of 2022.

While the CSIRO has acknowledged that no amount of hard engineering would 'flood-proof' Lismore, computer models suggest that ten 'detention basins', along with changes to the Tuckean Swamp and a second river outlet at Boundary Creek would reduce 2022-style flooding in Lismore by 2.07m, Casino by 0.95m, Kyogle by 0.8m, Coraki by 0.42 and Ballina by 0.73m.

Ten massive, expensive dams

The dams in this theoretical model would be massive, and massively expensive, with a conservative estimate of \$2 billion.

Rock Valley alone, for example, would require a 93.4 gigalitre holding capability to deal with flooding Tuncester Creek, equating to a 39m wall height and a bank to bank width of 389m.

Numerous other dams are proposed in ecologically delicate natural areas high in the catchment, dwarfing the existing Rocky Creek Dam.

There has already been extensive community opposition to a proposed Channon Gorge dam, lower on that same catchment.

Political response

While the idea of extensive flood mitigation has been welcomed by Page MP Kevin Hogan, and to a lesser extent by Lismore MP and Minister for Disaster Recovery Janelle Saffin, who described the CSIRO's report as a 'milestone', Greens MLC and Lismore local, Sue Higginson, has been far more critical.

'This report confirms what flood experts and the community have been saying all along, billions of dollars in new dams for the Richmond River will not prevent severe flooding and could make floods far more dangerous and long lasting,' said Ms Higginson.

'This project was commissioned and tasked with recommending hard-infrastructure like dams as flood mitigation – that's why this report is only about pouring concrete in the upper catchment.'

Dams only offer false hope of flood mitigation, our community needs solutions and not just disinformation that will cause more harm.

'Now that the science is in this report, it's time for Kevin Hogan and the Nationals to admit that floods will continue to hit the communities of the Richmond River and that their favourite solution of more dams will make the problem worse.'

'There is incredible work happening throughout Australia and around the world that shows planned retreat and nature-based solutions are the best, cheapest, and longest lasting mitigation measures for floods.'

'This is the tough conversation that our Richmond River communities need to be having.'

Revegetating

Sue Higginson said, 'Replanting the forests of the upper catchment, revegetating and repairing the banks of our streams and rivers – these measures will catch more water and slow it down before it joins the major flood happening on the plains. We get a healthier river and more flood resilience – it's a win-win.'

'Our community needs more investment in genuine

climate resilience, and we have the opportunity to be a world leader by re-imagining our CBD as the wetland cultural market hub it can be – while cleaning up the river at the same time. We should be the region who fixed one of the most broken, dirty, damaged rivers in the country and made it a swimmable, drinkable, fishable world heritage rainforest-to-coastal river once again.'

'The Lismore CBD will still flood even if all ten new dams are built. Those dams will flood vast areas of the environment, destroy cultural heritage, and will create instability in new areas – and the floods will last longer and do more damage.'

Adaption

Sue Higginson said, 'It's time to ask how many hundreds of millions of dollars

need to be wasted before Lismore adapts to living on a floodplain?'

'Now that the proposed dam locations are in this report, I expect the communities directly impacted will be pretty concerned. The government will do a business case for these projects and realise the cost-benefit analysis doesn't stack up.'

'The community must be actively and transparently included in consideration of other options,' concluded Ms Higginson.

For those who want to learn more about the CSIRO's findings, or ask questions, there will be a NRRRI drop-in session on Wednesday 22 July, from 9am to 11am, at the Lismore Workers Club.

■ The report is available at <https://tinyurl.com/3wwpv8wk>.



A Tweed Council contractor towed a dead juvenile whale back out to sea, after it washed ashore near Crabbes Creek Beach, south of Wooyung Road on 2 July. Council said, 'This kind of operation has never been undertaken by Tweed Shire Council before and is in line with Council's new draft policy 'Management and Disposal of Deceased Large Marine Animals'. Photo Tweed Council

Don't miss the libraries Annual Book Fair



Catherine White and Veronica Crowther take a quick breather from helping coordinate this coming weekend's Friends Of Libraries 12th Annual Book Fair to be held at the Byron Surf Club. The sale will run over four days from Friday 10, to Monday, 13 July with tens of thousands of books available for purchase. The kids books and the antiquarian corner are always favourites. Photo Jeff 'Booked Out' Dawson

Zion's 'Nature is Art' exhibition at BSA



Expression is pure joy for Zion Levy and art is something he loves to do every day. Zion currently has his work on exhibition at the Byron School of Art (BSA), 112 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. 'I live in a place called Paradise, which is like heaven,' said Zion. 'I am interested in the world outside, full of summer, wallabies, birds, snakes and fish. When I make art, it makes me very happy.' Let Zion's art make you happy and pop in to have a look until 17 July. Photo supplied

Free shop to move on from Billinudgel

The Billinudgel Railway Station building, managed by Byron Shire Council (BSC) on behalf of Transport for NSW (TfNSW), has been used as a free community shop where people can donate unwanted items which are available for others to take since 2022.

However, the state of the building, including the removal of the entry doors, has led to Council moving the free shop out of the building and renovating the space.

'As part of Council's

obligations to TfNSW, BSC must maintain the building to a safe standard,' Malcolm Robertson, Acting Manager Works said.

'We are obliged to maintain the building appropriately and this is not possible given its current use. We have informed the current occupant that Council is going to be doing restoration work on the building and it needs to be vacated.'

Council plans to start the restoration and maintenance

work on 3 August and when this is finished, there will be calls for expressions of interest from people who want to use the building for community purposes.

'We know the community shop has served people in the community well over the last four years,' Mr Robertson said. 'Council's aim is to make sure the Billinudgel Railway Station building continues to be a fixture in the community for many years to come.'

Janelle Saffin MP

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 41 #04 • July 8, 2026

Plastic not so fantastic

There is nothing healthier than drinking some water – or so I’ve always told my kids. It doesn’t contain sugar or colour additives – as one person used to tell us as children, ‘it’s sky juice!’ What could be better?

Then, not long ago, one of my kids decided to inform me that there are 240,000 plastic particles, micro and nano plastics, in a standard one-litre plastic water bottle.

While I happily congratulated myself on not having used plastic water bottles for many years, it got me thinking about how plastic intersects with my life.

Here I sit at my computer (plenty of plastic) typing on my plastic keyboard, sitting in my plastic chair on my plastic-based carpet, with my plastic mobile phone, mouse, window blind, and wearing my plastic-infused clothes. I mean, where would we be without elastane in our knickers? I get why the Victorians had split drawers! It was either that or become a speed knot expert as I rushed to the loo. In fact, I think without elastane I’d be a commando!

Heading home, I got into my plastic-imbued car, on my way to do the shopping where I collect my plastic packaged vegetables, milk, mayonnaise, tomato sauce, tins of beans and tomatoes (plastic-lined tins) – to be honest, it is hard to find something that isn’t surrounded in plastic.

Itty bitty plastics can cross biological barriers and enter the bloodstream, tissues, and major organs, including crossing the blood-brain barrier, and scientists link them to heightened risks of cardiovascular disease, reproductive issues, immune

‘To be honest, it is hard to find something that isn’t surrounded in plastic.’

system dysfunction, and metabolic disorders.

But as Kara Meister, MD, a pediatric otolaryngologist and head and neck surgeon at Stanford Medicine points out, ‘just because you have a little plastic in you doesn’t necessarily mean doomsday.’ (<https://med.stanford.edu>)

Along with Desiree LaBeaud, MD, a pediatric infectious diseases physician at Stanford Medicine, they say ‘that reducing exposure likely lowers health risks.’

While the US federal government has set a goal of eliminating single-use plastics from all operations by 2035, with Trump in the White House that policy was probably a victim of Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

With 450 million metric tonnes of plastic produced every year, an amount expected to triple by 2060, we need systemic change to how we produce, use, recycle, and dispose of plastic.

LaBeaud argues that ‘policymakers should set caps on plastics production, eliminate all unnecessary single-use plastics, phase out all toxic substances used in plastics manufacturing, and pass a global treaty to end plastics pollution.’

In 1894, *The Times* predicted that within 50 years, every street in London would be buried under nine feet of horse manure. I hope plastic is the modern version and we don’t all drown in metaphorical horseshit!

Aslan Shand, editor

Where do I start. Where does it end?

There is so much happening in the always enthralling intersection of law and politics that it is hard to know where to start. I will stop my head spinning and focus on just five.

First, the Federal Court has been shamed by a sitting judge who highlighted the utter disgrace of reserved judgments. Justice Jackman pointed out that some of his colleagues were taking up to three-and-a-half years to give judgments after all the evidence had been heard. Some retired without ever getting to it. The Federal Court responded by removing Jackman’s speech from its website, and then there was a whole national pile-on by other senior judges critiquing his undermining of the rule of law and reputation of the court. Go Jackman I say! These peoples are paid \$500k plus annually, have cars with chauffers and perks galore and the most generous superannuation in the world for their splendiferous retirement. They have an associate to help with research and judgment writing. Shame on them. Do your job or get out of the way.

Second, in Queensland, there is a mystifying case that has everyone scouring the internet. You don’t have to look very far. There are three characters but you may need a flow chart. Violet and Dieter were in a relationship. MM had an affair with Violet. Dieter found out about MM and Violet, and threatened to expose ‘Violet sexes MM’ unless Violet gives Dieter money. Violet goes to the police and they charge Dieter ‘with extortion’. But the court suppresses the identity of MM, who is, apparently, a very, very high-profile person in Queensland. A person who takes a very, very high moral stance on everything. Pot, kettle, black. Mathew 26:52 and all that. Of course, it will come out soon enough. I can’t wait.

Third, back in Ballina, there is the case of Lindy Lucena which I have written about, marched about, and cried about. She was left for dead following a domestic violence incident and our Sue Higginson made complaints to



‘If the semi-judicial oversight body for police misconduct can just be ignored, then the system needs to change...’

– David Heilpern

the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) – the police watchdog. LECC was highly critical of police inadequacies and made systemic recommendations for improvement. As is becoming a pattern, the police, supported by the Police Minister, are rejecting all these proposed changes. Just a big middle-finger ‘no’. If the semi-judicial oversight body for police misconduct can just be ignored, then the system needs to change to give them teeth. We know that police policing police does not work. Nor does an oversight body that the police can simply ignore.

Fourth and fifth come from the USA. In 2017 a contractor leaked Trump’s tax records. In 2026, Trump decided to sue the IRS for \$10 billion. Not a single legal pundit believed for a second that the IRS had any liability. The judge thought that the IRS had immunity, the claim was filed out of time, and there was effectively no cause of action because the President was suing himself. The IRS legal team was headed by Trump appointee Todd Blanche, Trump’s previous criminal lawyer. Who answers to President Trump. Two days after filing the complaint Trump laughingly told a reporter: ‘I’m supposed to work out a settlement with myself.’

Trump withdrew his claim, saying it had been settled. Which it had. The agreement included terms that the US government would not, ever, investigate Trump or his family or business interests. A ‘get out of jail free’ card for tax fraud or avoidance, but also for any other civil or criminal action. Sort of a pardon by the back door.

Then the IRS was to establish a \$1.776 billion fund, to be distributed

by Trump via cronies. The amount reflects the date of declaration of independence. Cute. This figure is a clear signal – the date has been usurped by the extreme right in the US. This is code for letting racism off the leash.

And the beneficiaries are anyone Trump wants, specifically naming people prosecuted for blocking access to abortion clinics, or those prosecuted for domestic terrorism against race theory, anti-trans zealots or mask mandate breakers, and ‘groups based on improper ideological criteria’. Which is code for the 6 January rioters. And these payments can all be determined and made in utter secrecy. And must be spent, coincidentally, just before Trump’s term expires.

And finally, fifthly, Trump has imposed sanctions on, of all people, International Criminal Court judges for the sin of deciding matters on Israel that Trump does not like. Their bank accounts have been frozen, they cannot use their credit cards, they are barred from many countries including the US. Some cannot see their families.

And with the five above I didn’t even get to the abolition of legal aid for almost all family law matters. Or the Israeli ambassadorial denial of sexual abuse. Or the Christian Brothers scamming victims. It is at this point that I drop my pen and announce that I am holding a funeral for the justice system. The Federal Court, police oversight, open justice, and the whole of the US. Let’s just be honest and call it the ‘injustice system’. RIP rule of law.

■ Professor David Heilpern is SCU Dean of Law and Chair of Discipline, Faculty of Business, Law and Arts.



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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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Imminent disaster

Is the Tennyson Street Marvell Street intersection a disaster waiting to happen?
Wally Hueneke
 Byron Bay

Mandy's column I

Now that Mandy is the official candidate for the Greens at next year's state election, I expect Echo Publications to cease with her weekly column.

The Echo is supposed to be a local, impartial news outlet but publishing her weekly article is nothing more than a covert promotion of her and the Greens.

The disclaimer at the end of the column is pointless and a very poor attempt to portray impartiality.

Hopefully we won't see the column again.

John Heaton
 Ballina

■ Last week's column was a critique of Pauline Hanson's 'monoculture', a policy that Paul Keating skewered 30 years ago. This week's column is on sobriety. *The Echo* will continue to publish Mandy's columns and also hold the Greens to account – especially in our local area. – **Letters Ed**

Mandy's column II

Congratulations, Mandy Nolan, on winning Greens preselection for the state seat of Ballina.

As a swinging voter, I can't think of anyone better to represent us in NSW Parliament.

Currently, only one per cent of state Labor's budget goes towards the environment.

NSW Labor is one of only two state governments allowing logging in old growth forests. We desperately need a strong voice for the environment in NSW.

There's a whole host of issues where the Northern Rivers has been let down by state Labor.

From music festivals, decommissioning our train network in 2004, to public transport issues in general, NSW Labor has been unkind to the Northern Rivers.

The LNP and One Nation are no better. Mandy would certainly get the attention for our electorate that we deserve.



Is One Nation reading the room or – the football field – correctly, by calling for Australia to become a monoculture? Cartoon Alain Raymond

Go Mandy, and shake up Sydney-centric state parliament for the rainbow region.
Simon Alderton
 Byron Bay

Response to SRV

Why spend \$120,000 on a community engagement plan to find out if residents will be happy to see their rates go up by 35 per cent over three years?

You can easily set up a much cheaper online survey to get their response.

Many families/people are already struggling to make ends meet in these challenging times.

And higher rates will only make things even more difficult.

When rates go up, unfortunately this usually translates to higher rents for those in the rental market as well.

I'm not sure why Byron Council would allocate \$100,000 towards providing for an Easter events coordinator, given Council's financial position.

This money could definitely be better spent on fixing our degraded roads etc.

Fiscal responsibility must be a key priority of our Council.

I'm definitely saying 'no' to the Special Rate Variation (SRV) increase.

Graeme Chapman
 Suffolk Park

Backup plans

We carry a spare tyre in the car in case the unexpected and unpredictable happens.

Byron Council needs to consider the unexpected, a

backup plan, of a second, historically-reliable water supply, they have only considered the cost per litre and regulatory approvals.

We see what happens when a single oil supply from the Strait of Hormuz is cut, it would be just as bad if a single water supply was cut.

Resilience means multiple sources, so that if one source fails there's a backup: what they call a hybrid system.

Of course, domestic rainwater tanks should be subsidised, they're part of a resilient system.

It's worth paying extra to have a more robust and reliable system.

Even if the cost of water from Lavertys Gap was two or three times the price per litre of Rous water, it would still be worth it, to have a more resilient supply.

Add a bit of local hydro power and it could cover the maintenance costs. Well done the councillors who support this effort.

Peter Olson
 Goonengerry

Shark politics

The Minns government's response to the most recent shark attack in Sydney is to spend an additional \$34 million on shark-spotting drones, largely for Sydney beaches, as part of a \$120 million shark mitigation program.

The Greens too have called for more federal funding on 'shark mitigation'. What could be their motives?

The Australian Shark Incident Database (ASID) recorded ten incidents in NSW in FY 2025, including two fatalities and six injured.

On the other hand, Royal Life Saving Australia recorded 129 drownings in NSW in FY 2025, of which 19 per cent (24 or 25) occurred on beaches.

If governments wanted to save lives, then they could focus on drownings more so than sharks.

Yes, but people fear sharks and politicians often exploit fear to further their political goals. In my view, the Minns government

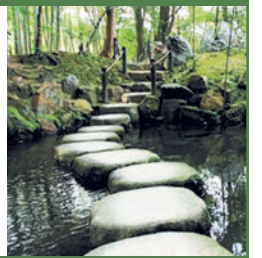
► **Continued on page 10**

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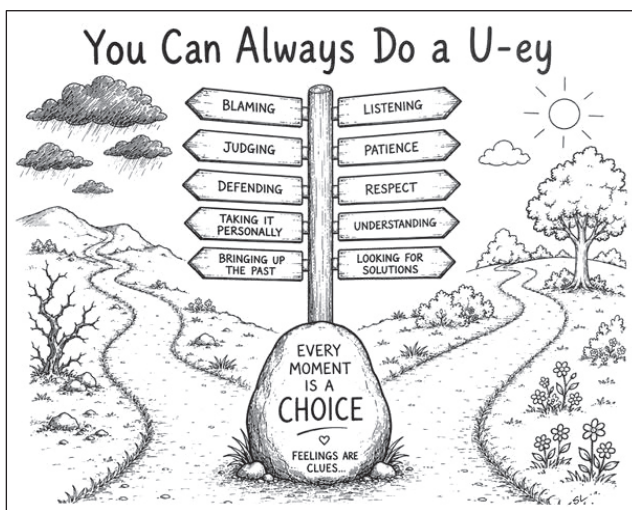
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Cartoon by Sandy Loyall

► Continued from page 9 is shamelessly spending \$34 million of taxpayers' money (our money) to curry favour with Sydney electorates.

Stephen Totterman
Empire Vale

Shooting the wrong threat

Why should anyone who cares about the environment care that the government is shooting Kosciuszko's wild brumbies?

Fair question. We love this park, and we accept its horse numbers need managing. But here's what should give you pause.

First, the numbers don't add up. The official count supposedly leapt from around 3,000 to over 16,000 in a year – but horses can't biologically breed faster than 15–20 per cent a year, and the government's own reviewers called a key survey result 'almost certainly wrong.'

The science being used to justify the shooting is far from sure.

Second, the same government culling horses 'to protect the environment' is the one that approved, exempted from the rules, and now holds the offset money for the largest source of permanent damage to this park.

Snowy 2.0 has bulldozed an eight-kilometre transmission scar – 70-metre towers, the first in a NSW National Park in 50 years. It's been exempted from the ban on spreading invasive fish between waterways. Its pollution fines total around

\$105,000 against a project costing billions.

The horses are an easy target: blameable at no cost. The bulldozers are the permanent damage – and no offset can undo it.

We're not against renewables. We want the horses trapped and re-homed alive, in whatever numbers the park genuinely needs.

They can be removed without being shot. The bulldozer's damage can't be undone.

Jenni Cole
Umbango South
(wild brumby preserve)
Tarcutta, NSW

Forcing a reminder

Forces are constantly at play and work determinedly to give people the life we have.

The minds of women and men interpret these forces because that's the way we can set about doing what we do.

The individual has to exist first before the interpretations we make can happen. The force, the energy that gives us the ability to feel.

If our leaders fully appreciated the fact of being alive, there would be systems implemented to ensure that everyone has access to understanding the mechanics of life that create the fact.

We exist as an individual first, then we can set about enjoying our life.

The leaders don't want that to happen, because they will have to stop the suppression of society by force. By implementing systems where the individual is honoured,

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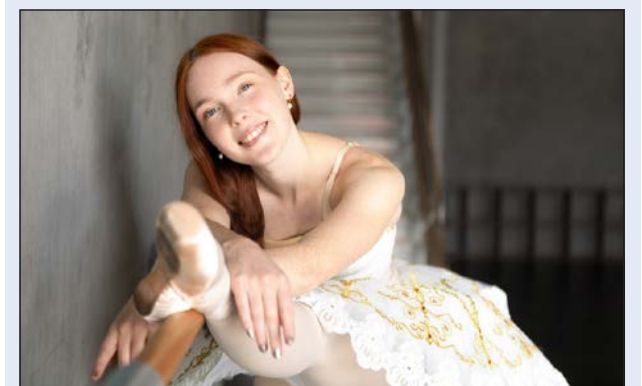


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Amani's bite of the Big Apple



Amani Wiriyajara. Photo Tree Faerie

Although I was grateful that *The Echo* wrote an article about my daughter Amani Wiriyajara being accepted into the prestigious New York Joffrey Ballet School Traineeship (page 7, 20/5/26), it included an incorrect GoFundMe link.

We are so very grateful that Amani has had phenomenal opportunities here in the Byron Shire. It has been a wonderful place for her to soak up the high quality of education, training, and mentorship.

We would especially like to thank Shearwater, Byron Ballet, and Spaghetti Circus, for their incredible directors, teachers, coaches, life-long mentorship, and audiences.

Thank you so much for all your good wishes and support that we have received.

The correct GoFundMe link is: <https://gofund.me/23792fcbd>.

Sapphire Rochelle
Myocum

and our equality recognised.

Each individual exists in their own right. Why does the first law remain unrecognised in our society, it can't be changed.

The fact is, individually we become aware of life, and then experience everything on earth, we learn to think.

We exist before suppression can be applied to an individual. Knowing you are truly an individual is an undeniable fact. The leaders need reminding.

Robert Podhajsky
Ocean Shores

Energy savings

Two exciting developments will lower household electricity bills, strengthen the local grid, and help power-up our renewable energy.

First, from 1 July 2026, households can access free electricity from 11am to 2pm through the Solar Sharer Offer. You don't need rooftop solar and you don't have to own your home. Renters are eligible too.

There's one important thing: You need to contact your electricity retailer to opt in and you need a smart

meter which your retailer can install. Because electricity costs a little more outside the free period, the offer delivers the greatest savings when you shift energy-hungry tasks to the middle of the day; like clothes washing, clothes drying, dishwashing, air conditioning, water heating, EV charging or running the pool pump.

Second, from 17 June 2026, you can save energy in your home.

The NSW government's Home Energy Saver program offers interest-free loans to eligible households of up to \$15,000, repayable over as long as 10 years.

The loans can help fund rooftop solar, home batteries, insulation, air conditioning, switchboard upgrades, ceiling fans and draught-proofing. Later this year, eligible concession card holders will be able to access rebates of up to \$4,000.

Together, these initiatives are a powerful combination.

Anne Stuart
Zero Emissions Byron

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

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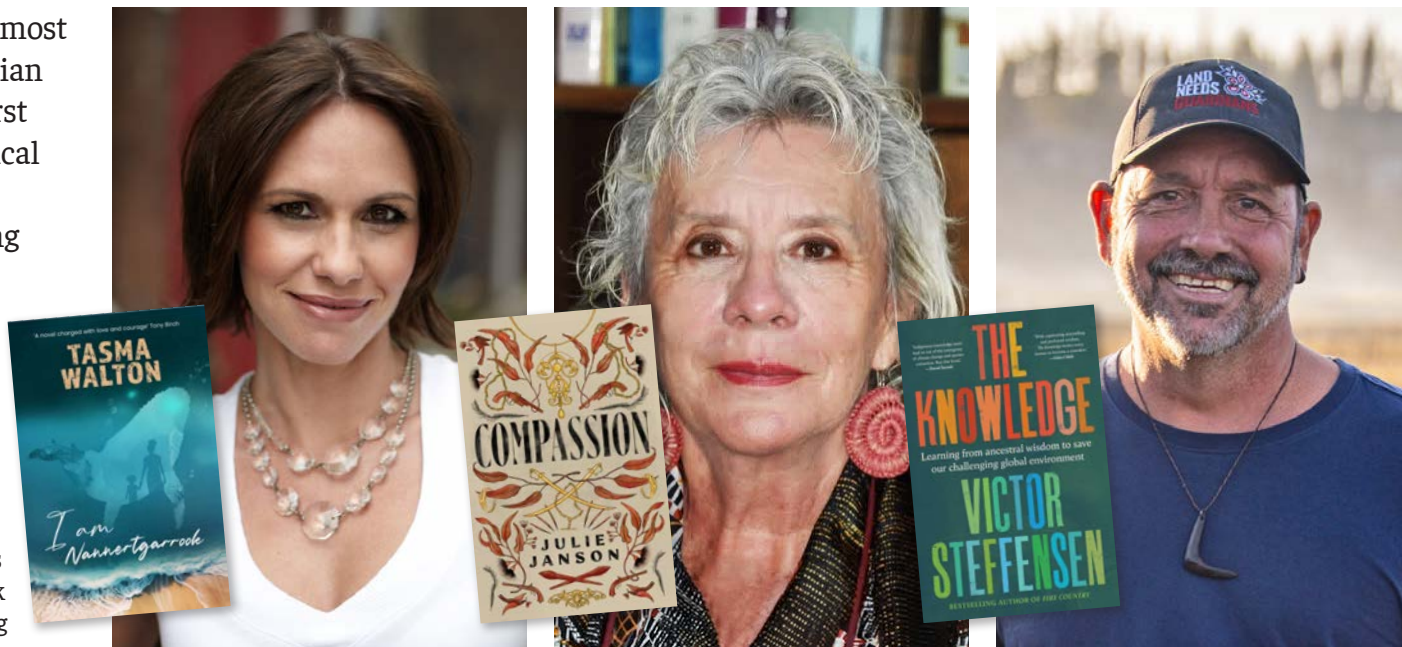
Deadly stories: powerful First Nations voices coming to Byron Writers Festival 2026

This year's festival celebrates some of the most vital and impactful storytelling in Australian literature, with a dedicated program of First Nations writers whose work spans historical fiction, picture books and Indigenous knowledge and whose voices are reshaping how this country understands itself.

Tasma Walton, award-winning actor and proud Boonwurrung woman, arrives at the festival with her landmark novel *I Am Nannertgarrook*, winner of the 2025 ARA Historical Novel Prize and shortlisted for the 2025 Nib Literary Award. Based on the true story of Walton's own ancestor, the novel follows a woman kidnapped by sealers and enslaved far from her homeland, whose spirit refuses to bow. The novel memorialises not only the stories of Walton's ancestors but immerses readers in continuing Boonwurrung language and culture, reminding us that this

history floods our present day.

Julie Janson, a Burruberongal woman of the Darug Aboriginal nation, is a novelist, playwright, and poet. She appears at the festival to speak on her award-winning novels *Compassion*, on the lives of Aboriginal women in 1800s New South Wales, and *Benevolence* as a counter-narrative to colonial history in Australian literature. Julie will also debut her latest poetry collection *My Kaathi Sister* telling the story of the suffering and resilience of a people.



Victor Steffensen, Tagalaka man, author, filmmaker and traditional knowledge practitioner who co-founded Firesticks Alliance, comes to Byron with his new book *The Knowledge*, offering a positive pathway for healing the planet based on traditional

Indigenous knowledge systems. Endorsed by environmentalist David Suzuki, the book carries a simple yet profound central belief that humans are part of the natural world, not its masters, and that the solutions to catastrophic wildfires, floods and the climate crisis

already exist within the cultures of First Peoples.

Among the 150 writers appearing at the festival, explore new books from diverse First Nations writers and poets including local Bunjalung woman Ella Noah Bancroft, Melissa Lucashenko, poet Dakota

Feirer, viral sensation Tom Forrest (Outback Tom), cultural leadership expert Paul Callaghan, Arrernte Warlpiri woman Marie Elena Ellis, NRL star Sam Thaiday, and many more.

• Program and tickets at byronwritersfestival.com.

Evelyn Araluen on coming home to Country

Interview with prize-winning poet Evelyn Araluen who will present her new poetry collection, *The Rot*, at the 2026 Byron Writers Festival.

Described as a “recalcitrant study of the decaying romances, expired hopes and abject injustices of the world,” it’s heady stuff that exposes the writer’s refusal to avert her gaze from the death of Country, death on Country, and the bloody violence of settler colonies across the globe.

Araluen won the 2022 Stella Prize and the Australian Book Industry Award’s 2022 Small Publisher’s Adult Book of the Year, among numerous other accolades, with her debut poetry collection, *Dropbear*.

Growing up in Western Sydney Dharug Country, Araluen has a strong

connection to Bundjalung country on her father’s side.

“I didn’t start connecting closer to the land, lore, and language until I started learning with Drew Roberts in Redfern, who was running a Bundjalung language class through the Eora College.

“It’s a foundational aspect of my identity, and being around Bundjalung mob and to think of my work in that space and in that context is very special.”

Learning the language lured the young writer into poetry.

“Drew emphasised that



learning language wasn’t about fluency, but about what knowledge is growing in yourself in the process. I submitted my very first poem as the TAFE assignment about learning language off Country,” Araluen said.

“It allowed me to detach from the laws of the English language and narrowed the way that I could think about communicating, and to explore more experimental and expressive ways of speaking.”

Recent losses of knowledge and wisdom have deeply affected Araluen in an increasingly complex and conflicted world.

“A matriarch Elder of my own family and my community passed away, and that set off a very specific kind of grief,” she said.

“Over the next 18 months, we lost multiple other Elders and knowledge holders including Drew Roberts and it was debilitating.

“I felt this whole generation of people that had taught me had suddenly disappeared, and I didn’t know how to navigate, and the people I wanted to talk with about the grief of watching a genocide unfold in Gaza suddenly weren’t there.”

“I was writing poetry because... I believe that in times of crisis or poly crisis,

all art should bear witness,” she said.

“I never want to be in a situation where people claim that we didn’t know, and it’s important that all work produced at this moment makes it clear that we did.”

For Araluen, carrying First Peoples’ practices into the future is essential to establishing a sense of belonging in the present, not only as a connection to the past.

“Our practices need to be very clear and affirmed, and our refusal to accept those seemingly unavoidable realities of late-stage capitalism. We can imagine a different future for ourselves,” she said.

Evelyn Araluen will appear at the Byron Writers Festival Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit byronwritersfestival.com.

First Nations voices at the opening and heart of the festival

The 2026 Byron Writers Festival opens on Bundjalung Country on August 14 with a Calling to Country led by local Arakwal Bundjalung custodian, Delta Kay, who will share her knowledge and connection to land and

waters that have sustained her community for generations. It will be a moment of welcome that sets the tone for the coming three days.

This year also marks the inaugural Rhoda Roberts Oration, honouring the late,

beloved Rhoda Roberts AO, a proud Widjabul Wiyebal woman of the Bundjalung nation and a visionary cultural leader whose wisdom, wit and generosity in sharing culture remain a gift to all who knew her.

The Oration will be delivered by renowned playwright, theatre director and Chair of Creative Australia, proud Quandamooka man Wesley Enoch, and hosted by Naomi Moran, a Dungutti and Nyangbal/Arakwal

woman of the Bundjalung nation and NSW Treaty Commissioner. Together they will celebrate Rhoda Roberts’ legacy of telling First Nations stories on the global stage, her commitment to truth in media, and

her tireless work as a mentor who brought community together.

The inaugural Rhoda Roberts Oration stands as a tribute to one of Australia’s most significant cultural voices.

Mammalian meat allergy and my heart valve replacement

Ronald Priestley

Increasingly, people living in bush areas of the Shire are becoming aware of Mammalian Meat Allergy (MMA).

Also known as alpha-gal syndrome (AGS), the disease is caused when a tick bites you and transfers a sugar called alpha-gal into your bloodstream.

The tick got the alpha-gal after feeding on a mammal.

People with the problem have allergic reactions

– typically two to eight hours after consuming mammal: beef, pork, lamb, kangaroo, etc.

Also, sometimes dairy.

Non-mammals are poultry, seafood and reptiles.

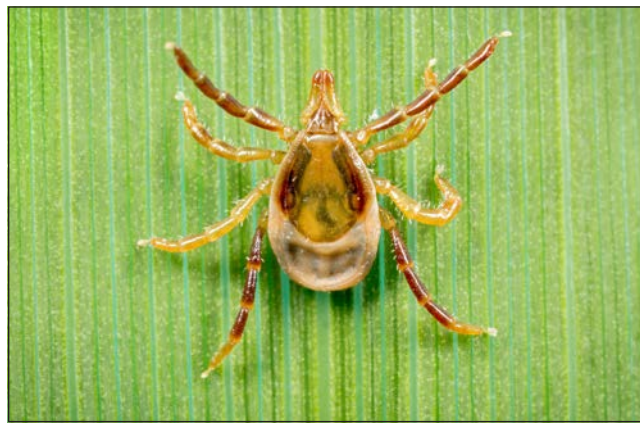
Examples of mammalian meat products include gelatin (gelling/setting agents made from mammals), and fats such as tallow, suet, and lard.

First confirmed tick-induced red meat allergy death

The ABC reported the NSW Coroner's findings after 18-year-old Jeremy Webb died in February after eating beef sausages while camping.

The ABC says he was the first Australian confirmed to have died from a tick-induced red meat allergy.

When having heart valve replacement, it is usual to



Ixodes holocyclus, also known as the Australian paralysis tick, which are active from September to December. Photo www.pathology.health.nsw.gov.au

'The downside of a metal valve, as opposed to animal, is the necessary lifetime monitoring of the blood thinner warfarin.'

use a pig (porcine) valve.

Sufferers of AGS are unlikely to be able to tolerate the animal valve, but there is a metal alternative.

Worse, even if insertion of the valve is successful in perhaps someone with low allergy levels, the body's immune system is likely to attack the AGS in the valve, which will then require replacement in less than, as little as two years.

Also – a porcine derived blood thinner, called Heparin, is used extensively in heart surgery, but this can be substituted by bivalirudin, a non-animal thinner.

Heart problems

Five weeks ago, I discovered by chance that I had serious heart problems, requiring a triple by-pass, and aortic valve replacement with a metal valve.

The downside of a metal valve, as opposed to animal, is the necessary lifetime monitoring of the blood thinner warfarin.

Extensive and detailed studies of my AGS were made, and the result was my allergy was serious enough that animal products couldn't be risked.

Last week, I had the operation at the excellent Gold Coast University Hospital, and all the signs are of success.

It is difficult not being bitten by ticks in the bush, and perhaps being infected by AGS. But by simply not eating red (mammal) meat, there should be no real problems, unlike what happened to me. There is also the problem of so-called 'Lyme's-like' disease.

Vale Eve Sinton 20/11/52–30/06/26

Ros Elliot

In February this year, Eve Sinton was admitted to Tamworth Hospital.

All tests and biopsies were taken.

Before announcing the diagnosis to Eve, the doctor asked 'First, please tell me, what was your occupation?'

Eve replied, 'I am a journalist'. The doctor said 'I'm sorry to say that you have mesothelioma caused by asbestos exposure.'

After a brief pause Eve replied, 'Oh, I've renovated five homes on the North Coast of NSW.'

Eve passed away in the palliative care unit of Tamworth Hospital on 30 June, just on midnight.

Evelyn Monica Brenda Salt was born in Hastings, New Zealand, in 1952.

She married Grant Allan in 1976, in Hawks Bay, New Zealand and had two sons, David and Mathew.

Eve moved to Northern NSW in 1990, after her



Eve Sinton. Photo supplied

marriage ended.

Eve became the editor for *Permaculture* magazine in Auckland in the late 1980s, which sparked her life-long interest in sustainability and care for the environment.

Echo journalist

She worked as a journalist for *The Echo* from 1992 till 2002. She was the partner of *Echo* co-founder, David Lovejoy, for many years.

Eve worked for *The Northern Star* in Lismore for some time after *The Echo* too.

As an investigative journalist, she contributed to *Crikey* and compiled and

edited *The Fossil Fool Bulletin*, focusing on the impact of coal and gas projects, such as Narrabri Gas Project and Santos operations.

She became the press writer for *The Knitting Nannas* on the North Coast of NSW. She wrote and published *The Australian Cannabis Cookbook* in 1998.

Eve loved dogs and cats, and rescued many, many animals over the years she lived in the Northern Rivers.

She moved to Bendemeer, following the devastating floods in Main Arm of 2022, and the passing of her then-partner, Winston La Galle.

Eve's gentle nature, easy-going personality, enquiring mind and passion for justice and the environment will be missed by all who knew her.

There will be a life celebration for Eve and scattering of her ashes, as she wished, sometime in the very near future. Eve is very sorry she never saw the end of Rupert Murdoch. 'The bastard is going to out live me', she said.

Locals protecting the Daintree

Richard Christian, Gondwana Rainforest Trust

From a small office in Mulumbimby, a local conservation organisation is helping protect one of the most extraordinary places on Earth.

The Daintree Rainforest is the oldest continually surviving tropical rainforest on the planet. It has endured for around 120 million years, surviving asteroid impacts, ice ages, and dramatic shifts in climate. Yet in the late 20th

century, parts of its lowland heart were subdivided into freehold blocks and left outside the boundaries of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, leaving them vulnerable to clearing and development.

In 2018, Kelvin Davies founded what is now Gondwana Rainforest Trust with a simple idea: if you own the land, you can protect it.

Last week, that work reached a significant milestone. On 18 June, ten properties acquired through

the buyback program, covering more than 25 hectares of lowland rainforest, were formally dedicated as Daintree National Park (CYPAL).

The land is now owned by the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and jointly managed with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. To learn more, visit www.savethe-daintree.org.

For the full story, visit www.echo.net.au.

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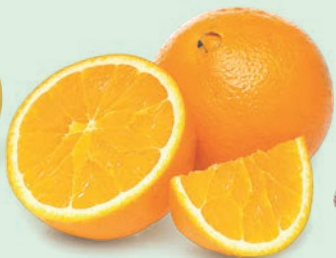
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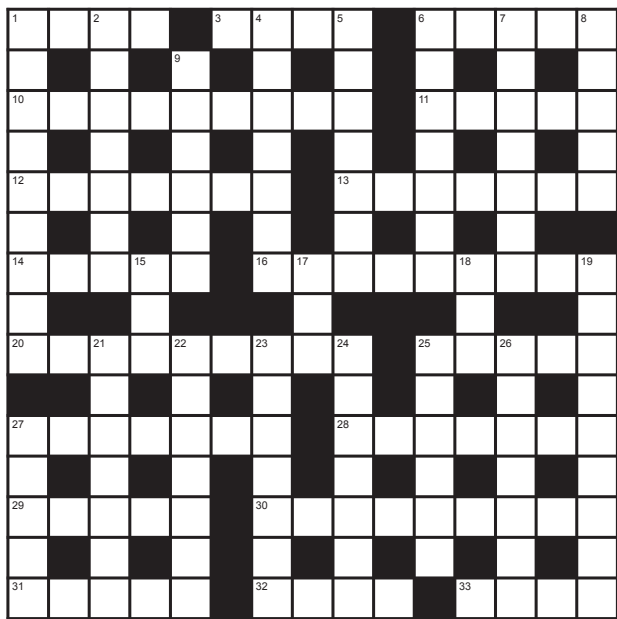
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*Conditions apply. Specials available Wednesday 8/7/26 - Sunday 11/7/26. Limits may apply. We reserve the right to correct printing errors.



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Stingray dropped squeal carrying receptacle (4)
3. Lament state in limbo initially (4)
6. Power from small insect audible (5)
10. Path to dwelling leads to service station (9)
11. Pound ring around delta (5)
12. Do in the last word containing first brain and belly (7)
13. Worker full, but without trainee, is one difficult to control (7)
14. Had to be indebted over origin of nothing (5)
16. Bore the weight of American in spot with press employee (9)
20. Ceremony following endless spin becomes sacred (9)
25. Decline with final precious children (5)
27. Bird with kilo around law reversal for traffic violation (7)
28. Bible book hereditary unit meets family member, briefly (7)
29. Tumult inside hides many a combining form (5)
30. It clicks regularly from underground twisted omen (9)
31. Unknown once was unruly former crim (5)
32. Change sounds like white bird that flies over the ocean (4)
33. Money machines begin at the merchant sale (1,1,1,1)

DOWN

1. Squalls ripped a deer south (9)
2. Leave a party with no return (7)
4. Manuals engineered around University graduate (7)
5. Beginner forms cheese parasites (7)
6. Colour of name-tag altered (7)
7. Monster drink around very loud one (7)
8. As certain waves found in fetid alcohol (5)
9. Small sea like pirate party (6)
15. One of two organs are rearranged (3)
17. Nation found in circus act (1,1,1)
18. It's rarely known to start to annoy (3)
19. They could be natural or a distress in disarray (9)
21. Perfect psyche to follow central integrated circuit (7)
22. Kind of dressing for Tuscan, perhaps (7)
23. Neglected international org kept Mike inside (7)
24. Not as dense, nor as dim (7)
25. Sense without energy or device that perceives (6)
26. North is wrong, to sum up (2,5)
27. Preserve that is Oliver (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Part of a photocopier (4)
3. Howl (4)
6. May (5)
10. American highway tavern (9)
11. Scrape together, as teeth (5)
12. Section between the thorax and pelvis (7)
13. Small amount (7)
14. Admitted (5)
16. Continued (9)
20. Not material (9)
25. Slips (5)
27. Fail to obey certain street signs (7)
28. Origin (7)
29. Prefix for tool (5)
30. Musicians' device (9)
31. Slang for one out of jail (5)
32. Sea bird (4)
33. Cash dispensers (1,1,1,1)

DOWN

1. Destructive weather systems (9)
2. Give up (7)
4. Former student (7)
5. Rainforest annoyances (7)
6. Fuchsin (7)
7. Mythical creature (7)
8. Related to water currents (5)
9. About a unified topic (6)
15. Attention (3)
17. Country without an official national language (1,1,1)
18. Bother (3)
19. Calamities (9)
21. Peaceful (7)
22. Southern European (7)
23. Not combed, maybe (7)
24. Smoker's accessory (7)
25. Measuring instrument (6)
26. Briefly (2,5)
27. Lee Curtis (5)

Last week's solution #8

L	O	C	U	S	O	R	G	A	N	I	S	M	S										
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Why I Love Being Dry

On 13 July I am four years sober. I am one of a growing number of people who decided to quit alcohol. It's one of the best decisions of my life. My only regret is I didn't do it sooner. I am more alert. I am more present in my relationships. I am less self-focused. I am healthier. I am more efficient. I am a better listener. I am more reliable. I am a better mother. A better partner. A better friend. I am in short, a better person. I may be boring, but I don't mind. It's a small price to pay for so much wellbeing.

I've been sober in the company of people who've drunk too much, and they are pretty dull too. Especially when they hug you and tell you they love you and repeat the same story for the fifth time in slow, slurred speech. I've been that person. It's so good to know now, that when I repeat myself it's not booze, it's just age-related cognitive decline!

My drinking was social. It was heavy but not out of control. I didn't secret drink. I didn't drink in the morning. I drank at 5pm. But only if I wasn't working – because I usually had to drive. So not every night. But never one glass. Never two. If I opened a bottle I would be compelled to finish it. My husband would have two glasses and I would have four, never after dinner, just before. Just to sit on the couch. I'd fall asleep, then wake up and wander to bed, only to wake at 3am in a sweat, anxious and wired, unable to go back to sleep. I blamed menopause. It never occurred to me that the poison I imbibed – because alcohol is a poison – was torturing my exhausted liver.

My liver had no time to deal with any of the other vital 500 functions it performs like filtering blood or processing nutrients, regulating metabolism, producing bile for digestion, storing vitamins and synthesising essential proteins so my blood can clot. It was busy getting rid of the alcohol I poured in most nights. So when I gave up drinking, a few months down the track I noticed what I thought was menopause symptoms, just vanish.

Turns out being foggy was in fact a hangover. I just refused to admit it. If you are a menopausal woman suffering with intense symptoms, I suggest trying a few months sans alcohol. It may not cure all your symptoms, but they will definitely be less intense.

But be warned. When you stop drinking, all the things inside you that you have tried to avoid – your feelings of shame or self-loathing, all your unaddressed



I've been sober in the company of people who've drunk too much, and they are pretty dull too. Especially when they hug you and tell you they love you and repeat the same story for the fifth time in slow slurred speech.

trauma, all that you have buried will surface. I hadn't realised how self-avoidant I was. It required so much more energy to run, then it did to stop and feel. I stopped running. I faced my shadow. There is a calm that comes after a few years sober. I hadn't realised how truly different I felt.

I have learnt things about myself sober. Like there's a reason all my children have been diagnosed as ADHD and/or OCD. It is not their fathers. I am the common denominator, the genetic source of the neuro-spicy. Funny. When I was drinking I would have told you I was neurotypical. Because I was medicating my brain. Sober, I get to see who I am. I don't always love it, but I'm learning. I don't medicate. I no longer think about my 5pm glass of wine at 2pm. In fact, I don't think

about alcohol at all. It's left my bloodstream and my brain. My unmedicated hyperfocused, relentlessly busy brain is now my superpower.

Although, I don't 'chill' naturally. It's what I used booze for. I am busy. It's my happy space.

People still ask me if I miss it. And to be honest, I don't miss drinking. At all.

I never wake up wishing I'd drunk the night before.

I never wake up in dread. With a headache. With shame. Or regret. With holes in my memory about the night before.

I wake up feeling good.

Giving up drinking is not for everyone. Lots of people manage their alcohol intake with moderate self-control. But that was never me.

If you are reading this and your skin is prickling. If you feel discomfort tinged with curiosity, then a stab of panic. Then maybe you should try being alcohol free for a period.

It just so happens it's Dry July.

I may have quit drinking. But I took up really living.

If you want to listen to a little more of my sober story – and a fabulous podcast – jump on Danni Carr's: 'How I Quit Alcohol'. My recent chat is episode 379 – but there are a plethora of stories there that will inspire sobriety.

■ 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

Venus in Virgo can be a bit critical and nitpicky. Mercury retrograde in Cancer is touchy. Engaging with this week's sensitive energies calls for a tricky dance, so tread softly...



CANCER THE CRAB

ARIES: Been biting your tongue to keep the peace? As Neptune retrogrades in Aries, unexpressed emotions may bubble up for release, in which case try speaking to your inner child like a patient parent. Acknowledge what's bothering you without guilt or judgment, and address issues calmly with kind internal dialogue.

TAURUS: Your planet guide Venus in the zodiac's wellness sign is your cosmic cue to upgrade health routines. No need to give up comfort foods you love, just don't overlook the benefits of sushi and mocktails, and since you're an earth sign, why not think food security and grow your own?

GEMINI: With your ruler Mercury taking the second of its three annual backspins, personal projects already in progress may downshift to a slower gear. Use this deceleration to assess and if necessary correct any counterproductive habits that may be zapping your time and energy, especially in regard to finances.

CANCER: Wise words from his Cancerian Holiness the Dalai Lama, lifelong promoter of peace, celebrating his 91st birthday this week: *'Peace begins at home. My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness. I try to treat whoever I meet as an old friend. This gives me a genuine feeling of happiness.'*

LEO: Jupiter illuminates each zodiac sign once every 13 years for 13 months, so how to make the most of it gracing your sign? The highest potential of Jupiter in Leo is heart-centered leadership, something you might think about from this week's sweet spot, at home on the couch, your throne.

VRIGO: As this week's domestically oriented sun aligns with Mercury retrograde, a timely quick fix on the home front could prevent expensive repairs later on. With Venus in your sign and Virgo's love language being thoughtful acts of service, in what area and how best might you offer your support?

LIBRA: Finally tiring of drama, your planet director Venus moves forward into the sensible sign of practical magic for the next few weeks, making caring and thoughtful gestures more meaningful than words. With health also highlighted, you might want to reboot or initiate some wellness rituals to maintain your winter glow.

SCORPIO: Astral indications predict this could be an emotionally reactive week, for which it's advisable to stay calm and offer support. Being a water sign, liquid recharging is always a recommended therapy, so don't neglect the natural destressing potential available from a swim, sauna, long soak or shoreline walk.

SAGITTARIUS: Your ruling planet's in the sign of speaking out loud and proud, but Mercury retrograde in one of the zodiac's most emotional placements advises talking less and listening more. Read the room and watch body language, which could tell you a lot more this week than what's not being said.

CAPRICORN: With this week's people inclined to be readily offended and overreactive, it's easy to tread on toes without meaning to. The good news? In its present confident, trailblazing placement, your planet leader Saturn dismisses hesitancy in favour of courageous behaviour – carried out with kindness and courtesy of course.

AQUARIUS: This week's astral emphasis in your organisational sector encourages doing all that stuff you've been putting off. Aquarians are easily bored, so make things interesting with the gratitude practise of thanking each provider as you pay bills; clean water, wi-fi and power on tap are privileges not available to everyone.

PISCES: Solar emphasis in your sector of creativity is an excellent time to access your inner artist, so choose creative company this week: people more interested in your ideas than your earning capacity. Your partner planet Neptune heading into hibernation suggests exploring a passion project that's been on hold.

Protecting the marathon globetrotters, the terns

Byron Bird Buddies

Sunlight sparkles on the sea, where lazy swells gather momentum to form perfect waves before playing out onto the deserted shore.

Two vehicles pull up at the top of the dunes, their occupants and three dogs leaping out in excitement.

In their rush to reach the water, the sign at the beach entrance goes unread: 'Birds nesting on this beach are very vulnerable and easily disturbed. Please keep away from the nesting birds. Please keep dogs under close control.'

The dogs follow their humans for a splash in the sea before their noses lead them to a breeding colony of Little Terns.

Some birds sit on eggs or newly hatched chicks in small scrapes in the soft sand above the high tide line.

Others hasten after older chicks, who have recently learned to walk and run.

As the dogs approach, the terns' piercing alarm calls go unheeded. In minutes, this year's potential breeding success has bombed. Refreshed

and oblivious to the carnage, the bathers emerge from the sea, whistle for their dogs and stroll back to their cars.

22 tern species

Of Australia's 22 tern species, three are seen regularly on our coastline.

The Greater Crested Tern (*Thalassius bergii*) is our most common and only resident species, nesting on offshore islands including Nguthungulli (Julian Rocks) and the Three Sisters.

The migratory Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and migratory Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) visit between October and April.

Little Terns once bred in the Belongil estuary and while they still breed in many places along the coast, large, stable colonies have become rare. Other species occasionally seen on the Byron coast include Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – the world's largest tern – Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*), perhaps arriving from inland wetlands, and Australian Gullbilled Terns (*Gelochelidon macrotarsa*) who may show up after breeding on inland swamps and floodplains.



Little Terns in breeding colours. Photo Reid Waters / supplied

Sometimes marine species such as Sooty Terns (*Onychoprion fuscatus*) and Black Noddies (*Anous minutus*) are blown in from the Coral Sea, enriching the diversity of seabirds on our beaches.

There's also the rare Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), which can be seen en route from its Arctic breeding grounds to Antarctica – an astonishing round trip of 70,000–80,000 kilometres.

Endangered

For Byron Bird Buddies, the endangered Little Tern holds a special place.

It features in our logo and is part of our origin story. Efforts to protect the

Belongil Estuary as a shore-bird and tern feeding and breeding area began in the 1970s, including monitoring and tagging birds. In 2003, with support from Byron Council and the Department of Environment and Conservation, Belongil Bird Buddies was created to formalise these protection efforts.

By the time a secure fence had been erected around a suitable nesting site, the Little Terns had already moved on. In 2007, the group became Byron Bird Buddies, the focus expanding to monitoring, conservation and community education for all Byron Shire bird species.

Little Terns migrate from

China, Japan and Southeast Asia to forage and roost along our coastline, linking our beaches with faraway places.

In Australia, two regional groups occur: the Tasman Little Tern, which breeds along the east coast, and the IndoPacific Little Tern, which breeds in northern Australia and WA. Because Little Terns also breed in Japan, our summer flocks can include birds from multiple regions, displaying a mix of breeding and nonbreeding plumages.

Breeding season

When wooing a prospective partner, males offer a fish in a courtship feeding display as proof of their ability to provide for a family.

Eggs are laid in small depressions in the sand, called scrapes, sometimes decorated with beach wrack such as seaweed, shells or pebbles. As eggs and chicks blend into the sand, they become virtually invisible. Adults forage in shallow waters, generally no more than 50 metres from their breeding or roosting site.

While Little Terns roost on our beaches and feed offshore, their numbers

continue to shrink. As with many shorenesting birds, their survival depends on human behaviour.

Offleash dogs are one of the biggest threats, along with predation by cats, rats and foxes. Litter, climate change and development pressures further erode habitat.

Thankfully, all is not lost. Elisabeth Island, Lake Macquarie, has become one of Australia's largest Little Tern nesting sites.

Its success – driven by strong council and volunteer participation, restricted access during breeding season, targeted predator management and community education – shows what's possible.

With similar commitment, the fate of Little Terns and other shorenesters in our shire could be reversed.

Terns cross oceans to reach our beaches.

The least we can do is give them the space they need to survive. Keeping dogs leashed, respecting signs and keeping a distance from nesting birds are simple actions that make a profound difference.

Deadly weaving at Lismore gallery

Aslan Shand

Eighteen months ago, a group of First Nations artists from the Northern Rivers came together at the Lismore Regional Gallery as part of the Gathering Space project.

From 9 to 12 July, they are showcasing their work at the Lismore Regional Gallery with a pop-up exhibition and weaving workshops.

Project facilitator Kylie Caldwell says over time the group evolved into the Deadly Weavers, with some artists just at the beginning of their journey, while others have been weaving for a long time.

'The group initially was open for all art forms, but weaving has become the main aspiration of the group,' said Kylie.

'We spend most of our time just weaving, creating, and experimenting. We've done a bit of fabric printing and natural dye fabric dyeing. We're playing a bit with hessian natural fibres, raffia, we use traditional fibres like lomandra and native reeds as well as contemporary and reclaimed fibres.'

Kylie says there is a long



Drop-in weaving workshops this weekend. Photo supplied

history of weaving across Bundjalung Country, with the rectangular, coil stitch billy bag from local rushes being distinct to the region.

'There's been a resurgence of weaving and a reclamation journey across Bundjalung, and there's certainly been a reclamation and revitalisation of weaving among those participants who are interested.

'Deadly Weavers celebrates the strength of culture, sharing and caring for each other, and having the opportunity to create together within the Gathering Space. Every piece tells a story of the makers, as each weaver expresses, applies, and shares an ongoing

appreciation of women and men's weaving practices.'

Drop-in weaving workshops will be taking place from 1pm to 3pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

'We're excited to welcome people into this exhibition during NAIDOC Week, a rare opportunity to experience the interconnected innovations of our Goori cultural creative journey,' said Kylie.

'We meet fortnightly and invite people to come and see the pop-up exhibition. We'd love more First Nations artists to come along and join us at Gathering Spaces.'

For more information, go to: <https://lismoregallery.org/programs/deadly-weavers>.

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FOREST BYRON BAY

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

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

Address: 77-97 Broken Head Road, Byron Bay
crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest

BOMBAY TO BYRON AUTHENTIC INDIAN FOOD

Serving Indian food to Byron Bay for last 12 years.

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

Address: 3/93 Jonson Street Byron Bay
Contact: 02 6680 7437
bombaytobyron@gmail.com

MANNA HAVEN

100% whole food, plant-based, house-made meals that are delicious and full of love.

Celebrating 20 years in Byron!

Open: Mon to Fri 11am – 3pm

Address: 97 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
mannahaven.com.au



Nudgel Nuts returns to Mullum Farmers Market

Allie Godfrey

A familiar favourite has returned to the Mullumbimby Farmers Market, with Nudgel Nuts back for the new macadamia season.

Owner Ian McRae has been part of the Mullumbimby Farmers Market since it first opened in 2010. After some time away due to a few health issues, he's delighted to be back with a fresh harvest and enough new-season macadamias to keep market shoppers well supplied over the coming months.

This season also sees the launch of an exciting new product called Mandarin Addiction. The indulgent treat features dark chocolate-coated macadamias rolled in a fragrant mandarin peel powder made from locally-grown, organic mandarins supplied by fellow stallholder Kate from Organic Avocados. The peel, affectionately known as 'gold dust', transforms what would otherwise be food waste into a vibrant citrus coating that perfectly



Nudgel Nuts (left to right) Andrew – farm assistant, Emma – daughter, and Ian McRae. Photo supplied

complements the rich chocolate and creamy macadamias.

Freshness has always been at the heart of Nudgel Nuts. Ian processes his macadamias every week, ensuring customers enjoy the freshest possible product. His popular macadamia butter is made from whole nuts with no unnecessary additives and

is often produced just days before the market.

Alongside the butter, customers will find natural and roasted macadamias, cooking halves, chocolate-coated treats, macadamia oil and the versatile sprinkle blend, which adds a delicious crunch to salads, desserts and even ice cream. Families can also pick up macadamias in the shell,

with a nutcracker on hand so children can experience the fun of cracking them open themselves.

Macadamias are well known for their heart-friendly monounsaturated fats and antioxidants. Their cold-pressed macadamia oil has a light flavour and a high smoke point, making it an excellent choice for everyday cooking, while the nuts themselves are a delicious snack or addition to baking, salads and stir-fries.

For Ian, being back at Mullumbimby Farmers Market feels like coming home. As a proudly local business, Nudgel Nuts manages every step of the process – from harvesting and processing to packing and selling – ensuring quality and freshness from farm to customer.

■ You'll find Nudgel Nuts every Friday at Mullum Farmers Market from 7am to 11am

Three Blue Ducks



Christmas comes but twice a year - if you sneak in a second celebration, that you don't have to cook for, on Sunday 26 July at the Three Blue Ducks. Photo Ethan Smart

On Sunday 26 July, from 11:30am for both lunch and dinner, Three Blue Ducks will celebrate Christmas in July with a menu filled with festive favourites. The menu is priced at \$79pp for adults and \$25pp for children. This includes Christmas Gilda with grilled chorizo, pineapple, cheddar and onion to start; followed by a ham and

turkey roast, Yorkshire pudding, pigs in blankets, proper gravy and all the trimmings. Dessert is a traditional, Christmas pudding with eggnog custard. Alongside the full drinks lists there will be beverage specials on the day including mulled wine.

■ Book online: threeblueducks.com

The bakery at the heart of Bangalow

A good bakery is at the heart of a country town, but Bangalow Bread don't only make delicious organic sourdough bread in Bangalow, they also have a huge range of other wonderful freshly-baked items. The taste of any of these items will let you know how good it is to eat something unique, baked fresh every day, locally, using the best ingredients they can get their hands on.

Tyson and Jess Phillips took over the small-town bakery in 2019, and brought the traditional methods of the age-old trade of baking into the modern, still charming, main street of Bangalow. To use a modern word, this is 'artisanal' bread, and it really means something in this context – each loaf is hand-crafted by the bakers, free of additives or preservatives.

Their gut-loving sourdough breads – which look fantastic by the way – are made daily by a traditional process and slowly fermented for a minimum of 24 hours so they have just the right amount of taste and chew. They use local suppliers to source everything in season, and fresh local ingredients.



To further reduce 'food miles', all the freshly-baked items in the shop are made in-house, and it's not hard to find an advocate online for any one of their bakery items, including: some of the best pies you'll ever taste (filled with slow-cooked, locally-sourced beef cooked onsite); must-have lemon tarts; exotic savoury focaccias (such as jalapeno and cherry tomato); chocolate mud cakes topped with maple bacon and peanut brittle; vanilla slices made with butter puff pastry and passionfruit icing ... and the rest. They all go perfectly with their coffee.

It's even worth travelling to Bangalow to try their sandwiches, or if you have a special event you can order one of their made-to-order cakes to give your party that 'wow' factor. If you go in the morning, grab a loaf of their satisfying sourdough to take home and enjoy fresh – so much more satisfying than buying bread from the distant, faceless corporations who sell bread in the supermarket.

■ Bangalow Bread Co
12 Byron St, Bangalow
Monday to Friday 6am to 3pm, Saturday and Sunday 7am to 2pm
bangalowbread.co

Manna Haven Cafe – loving Byron for 20 years

One of Byron Bay's favourite lunch spots is wowing guests after a recent community-gifted makeover. More than 50 volunteers and local tradies refreshed Manna Haven Cafe with lush tropical gardens, a sun-drenched deck and calming interiors.

'It was an outpouring of love far beyond anything we could have imagined,' said cafe chef and manager, Melinda Archer. 'For the past 20 years, Manna Haven has been serving whole-food, plant-based meals in the heart of Byron Bay. Along the way, it has earned a loyal following and an impressive reputation, with TripAdvisor diners ranking it Byron Bay's #1 lunch cafe and restaurant for the past 12 years!' she said.

Local Byron Shire registered nurse, Terri Lowe, is a weekly patron and loves to remind the cafe team, 'I'm telling everyone that Manna Haven has the best food in Byron!'

Melinda says that what makes this not-for-profit cafe special is the devoted farming community behind it. Many ingredients are donated by generous growers, including macadamias and limes from Tintenbar, mangoes from Chillingham, bananas from



Welcome to Manna Haven! Photo supplied

Murwillumbah, salad greens from Myocum and herbs from gardens in Byron Bay and Bangalow.

As the sun rises over Cape Byron the fresh produce arrives, and by 11am it's transformed into nourishing curries, the cafe's famous 'love-sagna', vibrant salads, smoothies and desserts.

As a community service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Manna Haven also provides free and discounted

meals to individuals and families experiencing hardship. Melinda shared, 'We're grateful for the incredible support we've received over the past 20 years and look forward to welcoming many more locals and travellers who are seeking great value and delicious meals.'

■ Manna Haven Cafe
97 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
11am to 3pm Monday to Friday



CELEBRATIONS Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com 0414 895 441
Gluten-free and special dietary needs catered for.

THE SCOOP

PERSONAL LEGAL SUPPORT NOW IN BYRON BAY, LISMORE AND THE NORTHERN RIVERS REGION

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



Don Cameron & Associates
1/19-21 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
02 5643 9240 • www.dcalaw.com.au

VIRIDIAN ADVISORY

WITH RATES ON THE MOVE, A SIMPLE FINANCIAL CHECK-IN CAN HELP

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

A financial review can often uncover simple ways to ease the pressure. Meeting with Alana Pincombe for

a financial review can help you take practical steps to gain peace of mind, confidence, and plan how to stay ahead if rates move again. This is where having a local adviser in your corner really matters. One good conversation can make all the difference. Get in touch with Alana today:

0491 204 142 • viridianadvisory.com.au
apincombe@viridianadvisory.com.au



BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Looking for something new this term? Byron Community College's Term 3 program is now live, with courses to inspire creativity, support wellbeing, build practical skills and open new career opportunities. Explore a diverse range of arts and creative courses, health and wellbeing workshops, hands-on lifestyle classes, business and work skills training, youth programs and nationally recognised accredited courses. Learn sewing, floristry, guitar, creative writing, backyard food production, digital marketing or gain a Mental Health First Aid qualification. You can also try one of our popular \$99 Taster Courses. Whether you're learning for fun, personal growth or career development, there's something for everyone. Browse the full Term 3 program and enrol online today before places fill.



@byroncollege
www.byroncollege.org.au
02 6684 3374



ORD MINNETT - TALK TO US ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

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

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

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

Jake Blumberg on 0412 285 029, jblumberg@ords.com.au
Sam La Cava on 0413 717 528, slacava@ords.com.au



GLOBAL RIPPLE OP SHOP

What is Global Ripple Op Shop? A local, heart-based, community-driven, not-for-profit op shop here to help support the community. Authentic op shop prices, good vibes and a commitment to community.

What will I find? A wonderland of recycled treasures waiting to be re-homed and loved.

They have all of your needs met!

Clothing & accessories, household, linen, sport, camping, electrical, art, craft & stationary and of course weird whacky and wonderful!

Can I donate? Moving house, style revamp, deceased estate, cleanse? We accept just about everything in good condition.

We offer a pick up service! Reach out via **0457 192 225**.

They say teamwork makes the dream work and together we ripple out change!



One donation or thrift find at a time.

Monday-Saturday 9am-4.30pm
268 Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay
www.theglobalripple.org • @globalripplecharity

JIN WU KOON KARATE BYRON BAY

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

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

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

Ewingsdale Hall • 0490 849 295

jinwukoonkarate@gmail.com • jinwukoonkarate.com.au



SALT & STONE LAWYERS

TRUSTED LEGAL ADVICE, FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE PATCH

Lennox Head locals now have a friendly, experienced legal team right in the heart of town with Salt & Stone Lawyers, offering conveyancing, commercial law, business, leasing, estate planning and probate services across the Northern Rivers, including Byron Bay and Ballina.

This modern boutique firm is built around personalised service, efficient advice and expert legal guidance. Principal Solicitor Lauren Donnellon brings over two decades of experience and takes pride in guiding clients through life's big milestones with clarity and genuine care. Whether you're buying or selling a home, sorting out a business matter, or getting your wills in order, the team at Salt & Stone love getting to know their clients and making the legal side of life feel a little less daunting.



02 5602 5000
Park Lane Suites, 6 / 62 Ballina Street, Lennox Head
(access to Park Lane Suites is off Park Lane, behind Ballina Street)
lawyers@saltstonelaw.com.au

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT JUST METRES FROM THE HEART OF BYRON BAY

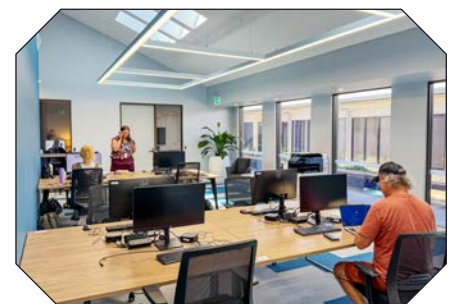
Be part of Byron CoLab on Arakwal Country, metres from the heart of town. Social Futures is seeking professional services, employment services, allied health providers and mission-driven organisations for tenancies.

Byron CoLab on Arakwal Country offers both long-term and short-term leasing opportunities for a range of tenancy options, suitable for solo practitioners and consultants through to larger teams. The precinct amenities include:

- On-site management and shared reception services
- Bookable meeting spaces with video conferencing equipment
- End of trip facilities • Visitor parking
- A 5-star rated café • A gallery featuring rotating exhibition of local artists

0407 787 595

Pop in and see us at
2 Wordsworth Street, Byron Bay,
or visit socialfutures.org.au/byroncolab to learn more.



Filter Off



Stewart's Menswear

As cooler mornings settle over the Byron Shire, Stewart's Menswear in Mullumbimby has winter sorted. The family-owned store has stocked up on warm accessories for the season ahead.

There are 100% wool beanies and gloves, possum/merino gloves, and 70% alpaca beanies for the chilliest days. Cosy feet are covered too, with 100% wool socks, and a warm 60% alpaca and wool blend. Merino wool thermals add an easy extra layer under everything, and the original Ugg Australia boots are perfect for relaxed, toasty days at home.

Whether locals are staying put or travelling somewhere colder, there is something to keep everyone comfortable. Friendly advice is always on hand, in-store or online, to help find the right warmth for the season.

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

beauty

style

fashion

grooming



Temple of the Sun

Temple of the Sun's Byron Bay store offers a quiet retreat, where jewellery, story, and craft come together. Founded in Byron by Darren and Yonna, the brand draws inspiration from ancient symbolism, art and the natural world; a philosophy they describe as 'ModernAncient.'

Inside the store, pieces are displayed in what is a museum-like setting, inviting visitors to slow down and explore the meaning behind each design. Collections range from sterling silver and gold vermeil to fine gold heirlooms, including ceremonial and engagement jewellery designed to mark life's meaningful moments. Each piece is created to be worn daily and treasured for years to come.

Whether discovering Temple for the first time or returning for another piece, the Byron store offers a place to pause and connect with jewellery that carries meaning beyond adornment.

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



Electric Mermaid Barbershop celebrates six years!

And after six years, online bookings are now available! That's right no more chalkboard. Electric Mermaid has been cutting, shaving and grooming hair for men, women, kids, and even the odd doggo in Brunswick Heads.


Six years. And what a rollercoaster it's been. There's been Covid lockdowns, no staff, floods, Drew's major back surgery, and last year Drew also beat cancer. And somehow they're still here. Still cutting hair, spinning yarns, and showing up for their brilliant community. So, by popular request, they've made the jump from walk-ins only to online bookings. And of course, walk-ins are still welcome.

'Huge love to everyone who has supported us over the years. Thanks for keeping the Mermaid alive and kicking. Can't wait to see what the next chapter brings for this magnificent community.' Big love, Drew, Annelies, Mermaid team and Avalanche.

electricmermaidbarber.com.au
3/28 Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads
[@electric.mermaid.barberhop](https://www.instagram.com/electric.mermaid.barberhop)

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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



RAIL TRAIL E-BIKE ADVENTURE!

- Family & pet friendly: E-bikes, kids bikes & attachments
- Two convenient start points: Murwillumbah or Mooball
- Pick-up service: from any Byron or Tweed Coast accom!

BOOK NOW
betterbybike.com.au
0408 444 858



HAVEN GALLERY

School holidays look a little different in Byron Bay this year, with Haven Gallery offering families a hands-on alternative to the usual break. Housed in the reimagined former-Woolworths building on Jonson Street, Haven's exhibition PLAY features 19 international artists across light, sound and tactile installations, including a 360-degree cinema dome. Children can explore at their own pace, while parents relax on the terrace with coffee from Jimmy's Coffee.

Running 6–17 July, PLAY offers an indoor, weather-proof activity for the holidays.

Info: havengallerybyron.com

ENJOY A FULL DAY OF FARM FUN

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 our 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.

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

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

Come Fly with us

DAILY SUNRISE BALLOON FLIGHTS

Includes breakfast at Three Blue Ducks restaurant - The Farm
www.balloonaloft.com | 1300 723 279 | @balloonaloftbyronbay

HAVEN GALLERY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

KIDS PLAY. PARENTS RELAX.

PLAY - HAVEN GALLERY'S IMMERSIVE ART EXHIBITION - GIVES THE WHOLE FAMILY SOMETHING TO DO THESE HOLIDAYS. LIGHT, SOUND AND TACTILE INSTALLATIONS FOR THE KIDS; COFFEE ON THE TERRACE FOR YOU.

102 JONSON ST, BYRON BAY
HAVENGALLERYBYRON.COM

ENJOY A FULL DAY OF FARM FUN AT HOSANNA FARMSTAY, STOKERS SIDING

Animal feedings, treasure hunts, playgrounds, a 25-metre waterslide, kayaking, bushwalks and creek adventures.

Saturday afternoons bring live music and freshly baked pizza.

DAY VISITOR PASS PRICING:
Pre-book online: \$10 per person (2yrs & under free)
Walk-ins: \$13 per person at Reception
Rail Trail Option: Please see Reception

Meet the Bunnies and Walking Farm Tours both run twice a day at \$20 per person per activity. Bookings essential, please see our website for more details.

Hosanna Farmstay

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

Join us for creative school holiday fun in Ocean Shores! Kids aged 6–10 are invited to explore acrylic painting on canvas in this exciting, hands-on workshop. Using bright colours, layered textures, splashes and even finger-painting, children will create their own unique, ocean-themed masterpiece. This beginner-friendly session encourages creativity, confidence and self-expression in a relaxed, supportive environment. Children can be dropped off and will be guided by our experienced child care educator and designer every step of the way.

All art materials are supplied, so just bring a drink bottle and wear clothes that can get a little messy. Limited places available!

When: Mondays 13 and 20 July, 9–11am
Price: \$50 per child
Contact: Daniela 0432 436 843
book early to secure a spot!

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.

Book now at:
spaghetticircus.com

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

MINI ARTIST IN ACTION



ACRYLIC ON CANVAS KIDS’ PAINTING WORKSHOP

When: Mondays 13 and 20 July
Time: 9am to 11am
Cost: \$50 per child
Ages: from 6yo
Bookings: Daniela 0432 436 843

Beginner-friendly. All art materials are supplied, so just bring a water bottle and wear clothes that can get messy.

Create an **ocean-themed** masterpiece, suitable for both girls and boys.

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE | Home Studio - Ocean Shores

SPAGHETTI CIRCUS HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

TUE 14 ★ WED 15 ★ THU 16 JULY

MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND



HALF-DAY
 4-6 years
 FULL-DAY
 7-14 years

BOOK NOW - PLACES ARE LIMITED
www.spaghetticircus.com

MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND

E BIKE HIRE OPPOSITE THE RAIL TRAIL

- ✓ Located in Mooball, closest to highway/Byron Bay
- ✓ Puncture-proof tyres, gel seats and mudguards
- ✓ More than 650 ★★★★★ reviews
- ✓ We have kids E-bikes, family cargo E-bikes, tag-a-longs, baby seats and kids & dog trailers.



BEYOND BYRON E BIKES
beyondbyronebikes.com.au



BOOK ONLINE NOW



Volume 41 #04
 8-14 July, 2026
 Editor: Eve Jeffery
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 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment



Eclectic Selection

What's on this week



Guy and Nicci are an enchanting acoustic duo known for their soulful sound and distinctive style, bringing a special touch to every performance. With Guy's expert guitar skills and Nicci's powerful, classically-trained vocals, they blend seamlessly to create an unforgettable musical experience.

Friday from 5pm at Elements of Byron. Free show.



Danny Faifai's shows are a veritable chronicle of showstoppers, a playlist of past and current hit songs – he's guaranteed to live up to his reputation as undoubtedly one of Australia's finest vocalists and entertainers!

Friday from 7.30pm at Club Tweed. Free show.



Wear the Fox Hat is one of the most exciting cover bands to emerge from Northern NSW in recent years. The band offers a wealth of experience and a vast knowledge of popular music genres, with some great vocal harmonies, accompanied by strong instrumental backing.

Saturday from 4.30pm at the Hotel Brunswick. Free show.



A 2x ARIA, 10x CMAA and 3x AIRA award-winning artist, **Fanny Lumsden** built her career the grassroots way: playing hundreds of country halls across rural Australia and independently releasing critically acclaimed, award-winning albums that have helped redefine modern Australian country.

Saturday 6.30pm at Clunes Coronation Hall. Tickets \$49/\$24 +bf via humantix.com.



Amber and Jack will bring a beautifully curated set of original songs, alongside a hand-picked selection of their personal favourites, blending heartfelt storytelling with nostalgic tones and rich, emotive delivery – equal parts soulful, raw, and uplifting.

Saturday from 6pm at the Billinudgel Hotel. Free show.



Renowned for his authenticity in both songwriting and performance, **Matty Rogers** is a passionate singer-songwriter who approaches his craft from a place of pure vulnerability, a quality that garners him fans of the diehard variety. Matty explores in his lyrics themes of love, unity, acceptance, and the raw, real pain of human existence.

Sunday from 5pm at The Northern, Byron Bay. Free show.

Baby it's warm inside

We know times are tough right now: the world's gone tits up, it's cold, and the forecast has more rain on the way. Well, to get us out of the doldrums, **Brunswick Picture House** has the perfect tonic to help warm your bits, and cast away the winter doldrums – the return of **Brun's Does Winter Burlesque!**

It's now become an annual winter tradition, where their stage comes alive with some old school, razzle-dazzle entertainment and some of the absolute best in the burlesque biz, guaranteed. And on MC duties, the Picture House is welcoming back the Prince of Polyester himself, **Bob Downe**. A comedy icon for decades and still funny as f*ck.

So dust off that fancy shirt, slip into your shiniest heels, leave the kids at home and come nestle into their burlesque bosom. Showgirls and sequins, mulled wine and hot soup, and plenty of winter warmers for a spectacular night out you'll be banging on about for weeks.

Now where else can you do that in the Shire? On now until **Sunday, 19 July**.

Tonight, Wednesday, 8 July, sees the return of Australia's champion of cheerful comedy, **Kirsty Webeck**, after a huge 2025 Australian tour and a big run on ABC's **Guy Montgomery's Guy Mont-Spelling Bee**. If you're looking for comedy that's smart, warm and genuinely funny without being mean-spirited or cynical, Kirsty is a must-see.

Finally, treat your kids to some all-ages fun and distraction these school holidays. This weekend, the Picture House has a world premiere with the brand-new magic and juggling show from the Shire's own **Yoav and Tal Shemesh**, **Two Truths and a Lie** on **Saturday**, and next weekend, the funtastic family-friendly circus extravaganza **Lil' Cheeky** lights up the stage on **Sunday, 18 July**.

Tickets for all shows at brunswickpicturehouse.com.

**35-43 JONSON ST
 BYRON BAY
 6685 6454
 THENORTHERN.COM.AU**

@thenorthernbyronbay

THUR 9 JULY	Cinnamon Sun Duo 6pm, DJ Renee Simone 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
FRI 10 JULY	Kane Muir Trio 7pm, Pacha Mama 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
SAT 11 JULY	Quest Trio 7pm, DJ Suprise 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
SUN 12 JULY	Matty Rodgers 5pm, Vinyl Sundays ft Sunny Side Up 8.15pm
MON 13 JULY	Jerome Williams 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
TUES 14 JULY	Marshall Okell 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
WED 15 JULY	Dan Hannaford 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT

**VINYL SUNDAYS
 GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL**

INTERVIEW



TRENT DALTON

HOLDING ON TO THE LIGHT

Aslan Shand

The Byron Writers Festival will once again be treated to the delights of author and journalist Trent Dalton, who will be featured at the Jonson Street Stage on Saturday evening, 15 August, as well as throughout the event. Celebrating its 30th year, the Byron Writers Festival will, for the first time, be taking place around the town of Byron Bay from 14 to 16 August, with a mix of free and paid events.

Speaking to *The Echo*, Dalton recognised the danger of picking his favourite writers' festival, though he admitted that the Byron Writers Festival is 'up there'.

For Dalton, his books often have an autobiographical element, as he has previously explained about *Boy Swallows Universe*, which talks to his childhood, and his latest book *Gravity Let Me Go* is no exception.

Gravity Let me Go 'is a cautionary tale for myself', he told *The Echo*.

'It's about a journalist who becomes a writer, and his need to keep telling stories comes at the risk of destroying everything he cares about, namely, his beautiful wife and family. It's me reminding myself, don't ever become this much of a dick,' he says with a laugh.

'I'm always reminding myself why I am doing it, where I'm coming from, who's behind me. My wife, my kids, my mum – I'm constantly thinking of her because she went through hell, and I wrote a book about that (*Boy Swallows Universe*). I only ever got anywhere because I drew on these really dark and beautiful things that are kind of sacred. I'm always thinking, you just got kind of lucky that you found a way to use the things that were the toughest parts of your life, so don't think you're too clever.'

While Dalton uses many of his life experiences in telling his stories, he also recognises that there are times when there are parts of stories and experiences that, if shared, can be harmful. He will be discussing this with **Richard Glover** on **Saturday, 15 August**, both from his own perspective and that of a journalist who has been given many personal stories to share for his Saturday feature pieces in *The Weekend Australian*.

'It is the thing that makes journalism so tricky, people can hurt themselves and sometimes it's the job of the writer to protect that person.'

Dalton says he has 'always drifted towards socialism, social equity, social equity journalism. I weirdly wrote so many stories about domestic violence because I was trying to work out why the men did the things they did to my mum, why she had to endure that shit. Then I went and did stories on homelessness. The bigger picture is, honestly, this might be the cheesiest thing you'll hear, but please hold on to the light in your inevitable periods of darkness, hold on to the light, because it's real, and it often comes from the people who love you.'

For inspiration, honesty, and plenty of imagination, make sure you get to this year's Byron Writers Festival and listen to Dalton, as well as the amazing line-up for local and international writers who will be gracing the stage.

Tickets on sale now at byronwritersfestival.com.

For your wellbeing

The **White Light Expos** are the longest running events in South East Queensland. Over the last 18 years they have held expos in Coffs Harbour, Pottsville, Kingscliff, Lismore, Ballina, Mullumbimby and Murwillumbah.

On **Saturday**, in Byron, they are holding a **Psychic Health and Wellbeing Expo**, at the **Cavanbah Centre, Ewingsdale Road** – this is a community-based event and all are welcome.

What will be there – you will find ancient Aboriginal healing, grief healing card decks, Baby Dream books, handmade crystal jewellery, Reiki sessions, Kangen water filtration, Young Living Essential Oils, Wanda Shipton doing Spirit Guide Drawings, psychic clearings as a service (surrogate energy-clearing), books, pendulums, necklaces, crystal pieces, pendants, candles, high-vibrational sprays, body oils, flower essences, herbal teas, chocolate, and much much more.

If you have never had a Spirit Guide Drawing done then here's your chance, the renowned Wanda Shipton will be in attendance and available to give you a



beautiful artwork that you will treasure for years to come.

So, if you want an enjoyable fun-filled day with informative exhibitors and wonderful healers and readers, then this is the event for you. Tell your friends and family, better still bring them with you.

There will be some awesome readers in attendance as well. You can pre-book a reading by simply going to **www.whitelightexpos.com**, choosing your reader, then ring **0419 709 661** to book it in. This way you won't miss out.

There will be a coffee van and food truck on site as well. Open to the public from 10am to 3pm. Only a gold coin for entry.

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Seven

THE BUZZ ABOUT BUSBY MAROU

INTERVIEW

Eve Jeffery

Busby Marou have cemented themselves as one of Australia's premier musical acts, captivating audiences with their distinctly Australian storytelling, masterful musicianship, and undeniable onstage chemistry. For two decades, Tom Busby and Jeremy Marou have forged a musical partnership that blends rich harmonies, heartfelt lyrics, and the kind of effortless synergy that only comes from years of playing together.

As the excitement builds for this weekend's Mullum Roots Festival, Tom Busby has been travelling the country on a family adventure – *Seven* caught up with Tom from Boulia in Central West Queensland.

Tom, once-upon-a-time you had a very different career – what's it like to be a criminal lawyer and a musician?

Yeah, well, I don't practice anymore, but when I did, it was a challenge. I had to pretend that I was committed to my work, and that I enjoyed being a lawyer, but all I was thinking about, all day long, was like 'what's the next gig?', and 'how do I let Jeremy know what the logistics are?' I was absolutely obsessed when this career took off. That's another world away. It's another life. Yeah, I can't even quite remember.

How did you meet Jeremy? Have you been to the Torres Strait?

I met Jeremy in Rockhampton. That's where we're both from, born and raised. We met through mutual friends who used to play in a band. I was away at uni, and I'd come home on the holidays, and they were playing, and I would technically be their support band, and I would support them in between their sets, and I'd play my originals – we just started trying to hang out.

I have been to the Torres Strait twice. It's just incredible. and learning the history and learning Jeremy's history.



Is there anything new on the horizon for you?

Yes, there is. We've pretty much got our next album ready to go. We haven't recorded it yet, we've just recorded all the demos. We're going to do this one independently with the help of our team – all these amazing people that have been in our corner for a long time – so it's coming along, but in the meantime, we have all these milestone events. We're celebrating 20 years, and then next year we are also celebrating the 10-year anniversary for our third album, which was our first number one. We never thought we would have gotten this far in our career, so yeah, we're starting feel a little bit proud of what's changed.

Did you have a vision of where your career would take you? Has the reality matched the vision?

When we first started, neither Jeremy or I had had any ambitions to become musicians, and not because we didn't want to, we just didn't think that's what happens

to two young fellas from Rocky – we just played for free beers and all that. It was so much fun. And so we didn't know all those hurdles that we had to jump over. We didn't have expectations of ourselves. When it first started snowballing, every phone call we got was incredible. We're either getting played on radio, or getting added to a festival, or finding out that we had ticketed shows in towns we'd never heard of – there's actually people buying tickets! Then, as it kind of snowballs, and you work so hard, it becomes your life and your business.

Will we be hearing any new music at the festival?

Yeah, but you definitely will be hearing lots of old stuff too actually, because we're about to start this 20-year anniversary tour. Yes, and I've got our original band – it's just four of us, definitely acoustic, but it's all about, like really digging into those old tracks and who we were, and some of those deeper cuts for the loyal fans. Yeah, we're having a bit of fun on this on this tour.

What is your current ear worm?

Good question. In the car, we've got a bit of a playlist. There is a song we're absolutely loving, and we're singing it around the campfire, and it's stung by a band called Flatland Cavalry, and it's called 'The Mountain Song'.

How long have you been on this trip, and how long has it got to go?

Three months. We'll try to make the full year.

What are looking forward to at the festival?

I'm bringing the caravan, so this is part of the journey. I'll probably have the kids and my wife, and we'll park down the road. So instead of us just flying in and out and playing the two shows, we'll get to experience the energy of the festival. Because it's, like a boutique festival, this is kind of one of those that we started off playing, and I remember you could connect with the audience so much more.

Tom are you having enough fun?

Yes, and I need to realise that a little bit more, though we are having so much fun, sometimes you don't realise how much of good time it was until you look back.

Busby Marou will play two show this weekend at the Mullum Roots Festival. Saturday at 9.30pm at the Mullum Ex-Services Club. Sunday at 9.30pm at the Mullum Civic Hall.

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CINEMA



The ocean is calling...

The Academy Award-nominated animated film sails into its live action debut in *Moana*, directed by Tony- and Emmy-winner **Thomas Kail** (*Hamilton*).

Moana (Australian newcomer **Catherine Laga'aia**), the adventurous daughter of the island chief ventures beyond the reef to save her people. Joined by the legendary demigod Maui (**Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson***), Moana sets out to right the curse befallen on her people and become a way-finder of the sea. Encountering enormous monsters and impossible odds, their action-packed voyage leads Moana to fulfil the ancient quest of her ancestors and discover the one thing she has always sought: her own identity.

Featuring an all-star New Zealand ensemble cast, including **Frankie Adams**, **John Tui** and **Rena Owen**, *Moana* weaves together powerful ballads, mystical creatures and ageless fun into an adventure that explores the importance of self-discovery and following one's destiny to go far.

* If you are a fan of the animated versions, which I am, it might be hard to reconcile The Rock's live action chiselled countenance against the very round babyface of the series semi-demi-hero Maui – but we'll get there I guess.

It's also nice to see (hear) the original voice actor of Moana, **Auli'i Cravalho**, on the soundtrack.

Moana screens at Palace Cinemas from today – palacecinemas.com.au

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 e: gigs@echo.net.au
 w: echo.net.au/gig-guide.
DEADLINE 5PM ON FRIDAYS

GIG GUIDE

WEDNESDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JEROME WILLIAMS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **J.R.HIGGINS + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **KIRSTY WEBECK: LOST FOR WORDS**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **SUSY HULL AND THE SHY GUYS + MARY MAX AND THE JAZZ TRADES COLLECTIVE**

THURSDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **THE 4 POCKETS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **CINNAMON SUN DUO + DJ RENEE SIMONE + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **TEMPLE OF FIRE**
- FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL 5.30PM **TRIANGLE PEOPLE ON WAX**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **JOSH HAMILTON**
- 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**
- WHITEBROOK THEATRE, SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY, LISMORE, 6.30PM **NRYO 2026 FINALE CONCERT**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**

FRIDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **MILO GREEN + DJ SINQ**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM SCREENING: **COMMON WEALTH + Q&A WITH DIRECTOR KANE GUGLIELMI**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ NAT WHITE**

- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **GUY AND NICCI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR TRIO + PACHA MAMA + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 6PM **GREG PETERSON**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7PM **PUSH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ TAZ**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5.30PM **BALCONY BEATS FT. RUSS TEE + KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ SEIJIN**

- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BEN PURNELL**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **FROTHA + WOODROW WEBSTER + DJ LONGTIME**
- BALLINA RSL 9.30AM **MORNING MELODIES WITH TOMMY MEMPHIS**
- HOTEL LISMORE 5.30PM **JAMIE SULLIVAN + DJ MUDCRAB**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **WOLFIE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **DANNY FAIFAI TRIO**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM **RUN RAY RUN**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7PM **BLONDIE IN THE FLESH – TRIBUTE**

SATURDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **INO PIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **SARAH GRANT + JEROME WILLIAMS DUO + DAVE QUENDO**
- ARTS FACTORY BAR, BYRON BAY, 4PM **RADIUM DOLLS, MAC THE KNIFE, MARSHALL & THE FRO,**
- CAVANBAH CENTRE, BYRON BAY, 10AM **PSYCHIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING EXPO**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ SCOTT WOLFE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **QUEST TRIO + DJ SUPRISE + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 6PM **JOSH HAMILTON**
- CLUNES HALL 6.30PM **FANNY**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ RUSTY TUNES**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **PIANO BAR W/ JOHN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **AMBER ROSE & JACK REEVES**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **GUY & NICCI**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **GOODRICH**
- BALLINA RSL 6PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**

- HOTEL ILLAWONG, EVANS HEAD, 8PM **SONIC FX**
- BLAH BAR, LISMORE, 12PM **FLANGIPANIS**
- HOTEL LISMORE 9.30PM **TUBED RADIO**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 1PM **JORGE & LARA**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM **BEN WALSH**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 2PM **MATTIE BARKER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, 11AM **THE AUSTRALIAN HOLLIES SHOW**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **SMOOTH ODYSSEY**
- RIPPLES CAFE, HASTINGS POINT, **BURNING HANDS**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 12PM **ONE – THE U2 EXPERIENCE**

SUNDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEMON CHICKEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **SOFT TREADLY + DJ LONGTIME**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 12.30PM **BURNING HANDS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **MATTY RODGERS + VINYL SUNDAY'S FT SUNNY SIDE UP**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 5.30PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **FAT ALBERT**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE

- HOUSE 2PM **TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE, 6PM BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **O AND SHEA**
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM **VIPER ROOM**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BALLINA RSL 10.30AM **THE BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB, 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT SOREN CARLBERGG QUARTET + LOUIS MULLER**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 4PM **MATT ARMATIGE**
- PEARCES CREEK HALL 5PM **LAKE KELLY, LILY INNIS, KATY L BEDFORD AND JUDE PASCAL, 5PM LILY INNIS, KATY L BEDFORD, LAKE KELLY**
- THE BURROW, CABARITA, **GYPSY GIN**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB 3PM **X-PORT**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 2PM **FRANK SWABY**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **LAURA DOOLAN + LANN LEVINGE**

MONDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FLUKES OF SENDINGTON**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JEROME WILLIAMS + DUELING PIANO BAR**

TUESDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MILO GREEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LUKE PAULEY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHAL OKELL + DUELING PIANO BAR**

WEDNESDAY 15

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **YAZMINDI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **MONDO JAZZ CATS**

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MARIE COOK

(nee McDonald)
Late of Brunswick Heads

Passed away peacefully on 3/7/2026 aged 92 years

Beloved wife of Leslie Cook
Loving mother to Christine (dec), Garry, Michael, Louise and Bronwyn.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend Marie's funeral service, to be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Brunswick Heads, on 13th July 2026 commencing at 12.30pm.

James "Jim" Mangleson

30th December 1938 – 1st July 2026

Jim passed away peacefully with family at Coolamon Villa.

Much loved husband of Janice.
Loving father of Gabrielle, Jason, Nicola, Natalie, Luke, Tanya, Chad and Adam.
Loving father-in-law to their partners.

22 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren.

Family and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Jim's life at St John's Catholic Church Mullumbimby at 10.30am 9th July 2026. Followed by a service at Mullumbimby Cemetery.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
6684 6232

Scott Bernard Mills

30 March 1985 – 6 July 2026



Scott passed away peacefully following a courageous 2.5 year battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Loved and cherished son of John and Gloria Mills.
Much loved brother of Chris and Jackie and brother-in-law to Teaghan.

Proud and devoted uncle of Isabelle and Billy.

Scott lived a happy and content life at his farm and remained there until his final days.

Family and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Scott's life on 11am Wednesday 15 July at St John's Catholic Church, Mullumbimby, followed by a service at Mullumbimby Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Cancer Council would be appreciated.

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Call Gina 0423475113

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VOLUNTEER WANTED

I need someone to coordinate filming a weekend workshop - 15 Aug. There is a senior (83) teacher living in the Shire who is very advanced as a seer. He intentionally stays out of the limelight - you will not have heard of him. A few people learn from him on an individual basis. For the first time in several decades he will run a group. We seek a volunteer to film the weekend - plan to use our iPhone. If interested: WhatsApp: +1323 381 9810 / email order@depth.net.au

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Rehoming Number R251000060



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

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

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

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



Vixen is a 6 month old, Bull Arab/Cattle X. If you are looking for a smart, active pup to join your family, Vixen could be the one for you.
M/C # 991003002920310
Location: Murwillumbah

For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128
Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/

Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
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FUNERAL NOTICES

Elna Pansy Bostock nee Holmkvist

16/01/1934 – 30/06/2026

Elna passed away peacefully at Byron Hospital.

Much loved wife of Douglas (dec.)
Much loved mum of John, Helen and Neil, and partners Martyne and Mark.
Grandma of Aidan and Sister Mavis Kerrigan.

Family and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Elna's life at St Martins Anglican Church at 10.30am 16th July 2026. Followed by a service at Mullumbimby Cemetery.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
6684 6232

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**

Line ads: \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid

Display ads: \$70 per week for colour display ad. Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid. Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high. New ads will be placed at end of section.

Contact: 6684 1777 or adcop@echo.net.au

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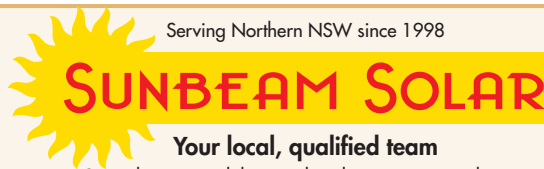
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Australia's Last Great Coastal Discovery 1770 Region – Agnes Water

By Gordon Christian

Some of my fondest childhood memories are of family trips north in Dad's old HR Holden station wagon.

Along with a bunch of neighbourhood kids, we'd head to Byron Bay. Back then Byron wasn't famous. It was simply a beautiful coastal village with great surf, friendly locals and an easy-going lifestyle. Looking back now, I realise we experienced Byron before the rest of Australia discovered it.

Years later, after spending much of my early adult life surfing and snowboarding around the world, I returned home looking for something similar—not another Byron Bay, because there will only ever be one—but a place where nature still came first, where the community mattered, and where there was room for thoughtful, sustainable growth.

Twenty-seven years ago, I found it in Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy.

I bought property here long before I became a real estate agent. In fact, I only entered the profession in 2003 because I believed so strongly in the future of this remarkable region.

Over the past 27 years, I've watched it evolve carefully rather than rapidly.

Unlike many of Australia's coastal hotspots, the character of the region has been shaped as much by what can't be developed as by what can. More than two-thirds of the district is protected as national park or conservation reserve, preserving kilometres of unspoilt beaches, spectacular headlands and one of the country's most remarkable natural settings. Add easy access to the Southern Great Barrier Reef, a drier climate, outstanding surfing and boating, and it is easy to understand why so many families quietly return year after year.

The region is made up of three distinct coastal communities. Historic Seventeen Seventy

sits proudly on its headland overlooking Bustard Bay and the reef. Agnes Water is the vibrant beach village built around Queensland's northernmost surf beach. To the south, Sunrise at Seventeen Seventy is one of Australia's most exclusive gated beachfront communities, stretching across six beaches and more than four kilometres of coastline.

What has impressed me most isn't how quickly the area has grown, but how carefully.

For decades, successful Australians have quietly chosen this coastline for its privacy, authenticity and natural beauty. Many trophy properties remain tightly held for generations, with only a handful becoming available each year.

The greatest surprise for many first-time visitors, however, isn't the lifestyle. It's the value. While iconic beachfront homes in Byron Bay now regularly command \$20 million and beyond, genuine

trophy properties in the Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy region can still be secured from around one-fifth of those values.

History shows that extraordinary places are rarely discovered all at once. They reveal themselves quietly to those prepared to look a little further. Twenty-seven years ago, I recognised something special in Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy. Today, I still believe it is one of Australia's last great coastal discoveries.

About the Author

Having first invested in Agnes Water 27 years ago, Gordon Christian has spent more than two decades introducing discerning buyers to the unique lifestyle and exceptional prestige property offerings of the Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy region.

**Contact Gordon Christian, McGrath Estate Agents
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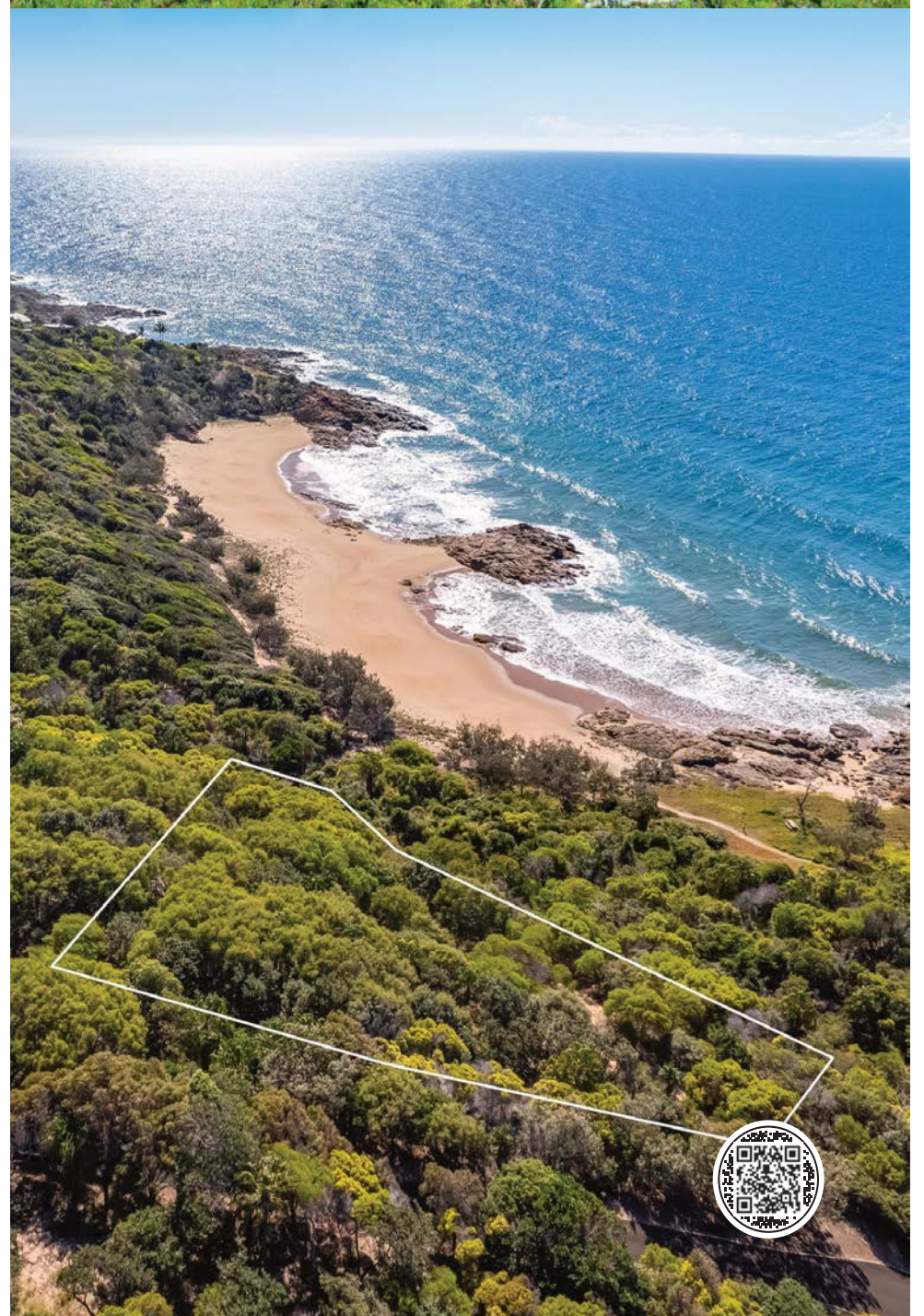
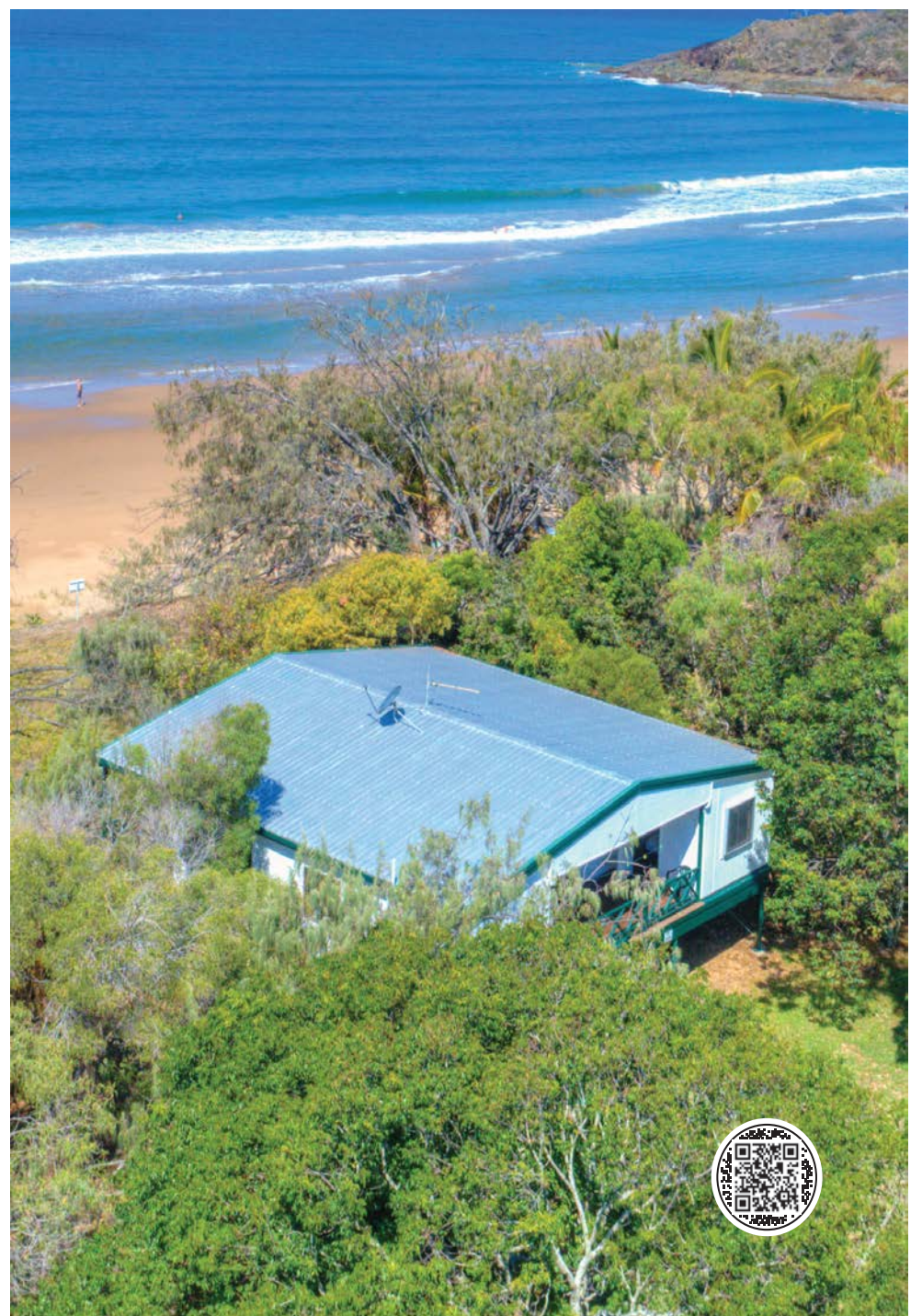
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- 2101/18-20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 9.30-10am
- 39/329 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga. Sat 10-10.30am
- 54 The Quarterdeck, Tweed Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 28/6-8 Thomson St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 33/5 Island Dr, Tweed Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 29 Townsend Cres, Terranora. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5/18 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 11-11.45am
- 1 & 2/8 Triton St, Tweed Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 7/20 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 36 Peninsula Dr, Bilambil Heights. Sat 1-1.30pm

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- 20 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Thur 12-12.30pm
- 10 Lorikeet Lane, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am
- 103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11.30am
- 23 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 39 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 1-1.30pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 1 / 2 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3 Cudgerie Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 25 / 88 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30-10am
- 10 Lorikeet Lane, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1 / 7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 195 North Teven Road, Teven. Sat 10-10.30am
- 73 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1 / 1-2 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 8 Pastures Street, Cumbalum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 20 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2 / 16 Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am

- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 44 / 11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 23 Ann Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 15 Gardenia Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 58 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2 / 11 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 92 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 61 Bentwing Place, Tintenbar. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 6 / 1-5 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 39 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 10 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 26 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 3 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 4 / 182 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 10 Mayfield Street, Eltham. Sat 2.30-3pm
- 31 Arkinstall Road, Tunttable Creek. Sat 2.30-3pm
- 18 Heritage Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 2.30-3pm

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- 146 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4 Bagoo Avenue, Murwillumbah. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 16 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm

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- 20 Panorama View, Kunghur. Sat 9-12pm
- 46 Brisbane Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 629 Tumbulgum Road, Tyalgah. Sat 10.30-11am
- 1243 Kyogle Road, Uki. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 837 Nobbys Creek Road, Nobbys Creek. Sat 12.30-1.30pm

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- 6 Angus Kennedy Close, Lennox Head. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 11 Bian Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 3/23 Poinciana Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 6439 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 2.30-3pm
- 81 Harwood Road, Burringbar. Sat 3.15-3.45pm

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- 21 Booyong Road, Clunes. Sat 9-9.30am
- 31 Charlotte Street, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 670 Wilsons Creek Road, Wilsons Creek. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 272 Sneaths Road, Wollongbar. Sat 1-1.30pm
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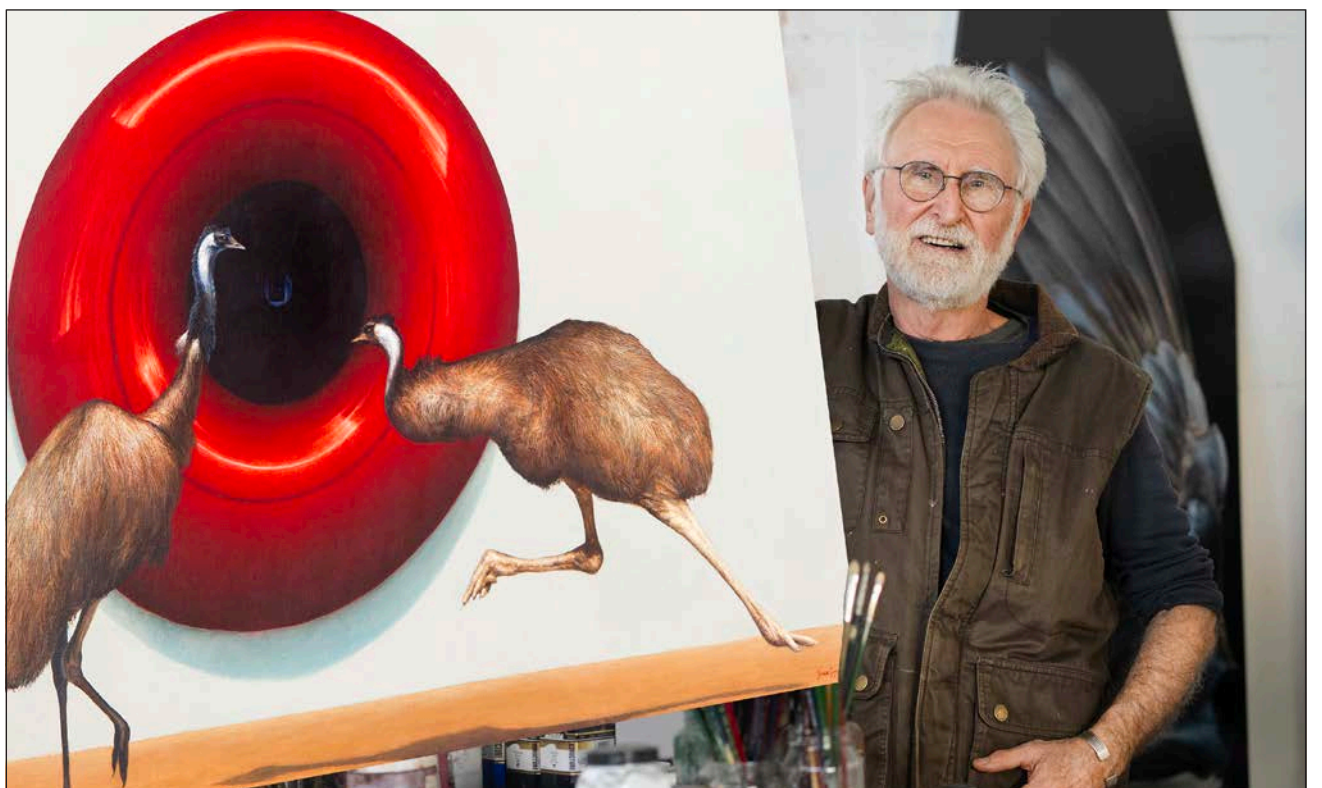
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Byron-based artist, James Guppy's *Sculptures and Birds* exhibition at Brisbane's Jan Murphy Gallery will run from 8 July to 1 August. As usual James's work features meticulous detail with a surrealistic twist. A master of understanding light and exploring shadows to reveal drama. Photo Jeff 'Flight Risk' Dawson

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Byron's Rainbow Shop and local peace force are closing down leaving the town bereft of rainbows and Aussie Ugg Boots. Make sure you pop in and get yourself a colourful souvenir – unlike Trumps reflecting pool you won't be arrested for taking a little colourful floating paint or fluorescent green algae.

Last Sunday, 26 June a big bloke had two Qld-plated cars head-to-head in Mcgoughans Lane at the rear of IGA, with a full set of professional car tools spread around him. He left behind a big white box full of sump oil. If you've paid a cheap price for an oil change recently, or you're the 'mobile mechanic', how about doing it at your place?

The Mullumbimby Residents Association has called a public meeting for Monday,

13 July at 6pm at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club to discuss the modified development application for the carpark at 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby.

The Socceros might not have made the 2026 FIFA World Cup quarter finals but the Aussie crowds will be forever remembered for marching through the streets chanting, 'Aussie boys are on a bender, Donald Trump is a sex offender'!

A year after the Trump administration laid off National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) staff the scientists have fought back by launching www.climate.us/about#whoweare. They have resurrected 15 years of public climate data on the new, non-profit website.

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