

Call for action on Mullum car park DA as key issues not addressed

Aslan Shand

Those privately benefitting from downplaying or hiding the public costs of their development often say the objectors are small in number and it's a media beat-up. Indeed, hardly anyone in a community has the money, stamina, or detailed understanding of planning laws and procedures to effectively challenge a highly-motivated development team, or those on Council who are determined to see the development get up. Good examples are 153 McAuleys Lane, where well-founded objections to the DA and Council's approval process were nevertheless defeated by the Northern Rivers Planning Panel (NRPP).

An exception is the perennially unpopular 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby development application (DA). Possibly because it's right in the centre of town, it has received both savvy scrutiny from residents and, as a result of people actually knowing what's wrong with it, popular disquiet. The project's main backers are former mayor Cr Lyon (Ind), current Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Greens), former councillor Asren Pugh (Labor), and Deputy Mayor Jack Dods (Ind), who aggressively dismissed residents' concerns as being self-interested and baseless prior to the first, flawed, DA at a public meeting. Greens councillors have fallen in behind Cr Ndiaye to support the project. Redefects in the original DA were so bad it's now been reworked, but not enough to address the issues, say critics.

Far from benefitting from 'objector fatigue', the revised DA drew a full hall at the Mullumbimby

Ex-Services Club on Monday night as locals came together to look at the modified car park DA (10.2025.212.1) for 57 Station Street. Once again, there was frustration at the fact that the revised DA had not addressed many of the issues raised by the 743 submissions and 2,411-signature petition against the proposal, let alone been scrapped due to traffic, flood, sewer, heritage issues, and the impact on local businesses.

'It has taken them one year to redesign the DA after all our submissions. It's still basically the same, and we still have the same issues,' pointed out Mullumbimby Residents Association's (MRA) Anando Heffley.

Ballina MP Tamara Smith (Greens) addressed the meeting, citing multiple reasons she has objected to the development and the vital role community voice plays in maintaining an effective, functioning democracy. Ms Smith highlighted the impact of flooding, serious impacts on local businesses, and a lack of transparency in relation to what the community is getting in exchange for giving up its community-owned land.

Sewer line easement

The original DA proposed to illegally build over a sewer line – a problem that the proponents of the DA, within and outside Byron Shire Council (BSC), had not identified. The modified DA has placed a 3.7m easement on the southern boundary (McGoughans Lane to Station Street) above the sewer line, which does not meet the minimum required width of 4.2m. Parts of the proposed new building are closer to the sewer pipe than allowed

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A 'tragedy' of Kates met to celebrate 'The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever' – a global flash mob event where fans gather, dress in red, and recreate Kate Bush's 1978 iconic dance of her hit song 'Wuthering Heights' to celebrate Kate's birthday. The event occurs in over 70 cities worldwide, including a bush setting here in Brunswick Heads on Sunday. Photo Jeff 'Withering Slights' Dawson

The numbers behind Byron's proposed rate rise

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire ratepayers are staring down the barrel of a proposed 33–35 per cent rate increase over three years, with Council arguing the extra revenue is needed to secure its long-term financial future.

Byron Shire Council's (BSC) argument is straightforward: Byron's finances are no longer sustainable. Without a significant increase in rates, it says, the organisation will struggle to maintain and renew infrastructure.

But how compelling is that case? How did Byron Shire Council find

itself in this position, and do the numbers support its argument that such a significant rate increase is now unavoidable?

A good place to start is with Council's own audited financial statements.

Byron Shire Council says it needs a Special Rate Variation (SRV) because it has a relatively small pool of rateable properties supporting one of Australia's busiest tourism destinations.

Yet Council's own audited financial statements reveal what appears to be a contradiction.

Despite having almost 10,000 fewer residents than Ballina Shire,

BSC collected about \$66.7 million in rates and annual charges during the 2024/25 financial year – slightly more than Ballina's \$65.0 million and only marginally less than Lismore's \$67.0 million.

So why is Byron arguing it needs to raise rates?

The answer, according to Council, lies in the difference between ordinary land rates – the component of rates affected by an SRV – and the broader category of rates and annual charges, which also includes annual charges for services such as water and waste.

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Petrina Maxwell and Sarah Anderson from Destination Byron supporting Tanja Greulich from the Brunts Picture House. Jeff ‘Couch Sweet Potato’ Dawson

Aslan Shand

Byron Fest, a multi-week festival in June 2027, will be a festival for the Shire, say Destination Byron as they finalise the \$200,000 grant from the Regional Night-Time Economy Program.

‘We’ve been really lucky that we’re one of ten regions in NSW that have been selected to have this grant,’ Sarah Anderson from Destination Byron told *The Echo*.

‘We see this grant as a fantastic opportunity to boost our night-time vibrancy and a vibrant night-time economy across the Shire during the low season next year. It can look like incredible theatre, it can be a dance performance, it can be wellness activities, or talks. In our region, we have so many incredible organisations, and we are inviting businesses and organisations throughout Byron Shire to get involved.

‘We are looking for people who want to offer something during the festival under the pillars of sustainability, wellness, arts and culture, local food and beverage, and entrepreneurship.’

Sarah says this is a great opportunity for innovative collaborations between artists, small and large businesses, and small organisations or individuals to create vibrant events that will bring visitors here and support the local economy.

Micro grants

Destination Byron is also setting up a \$60,000 micro-grants program that will be available

It is open to groups that want to stage something as part of the festival that will lead to ongoing activities and events.

‘We know that collaborations between business and the arts community are really important,’ said Sarah.

‘It is a great way to attract visitors to support positive, impactful events in the Shire. There are so many people with fantastic ideas who are keen to activate events throughout the festival, so I think it’ll be a lovely showcase of just how vibrant our community is.

‘We also hope that some of the collaborations live on beyond the life of the festival and drive year-round benefit for the community.’

If you are interested in getting involved, creating an event, or have ideas to contribute, contact Destination Byron at: www.destinationbyron.com.au.

Developers seek to relax pet bans

Paul Bibby

Developers behind two environmentally sensitive residential projects in the Byron Shire are seeking to relax restrictions on cats and dogs, arguing that responsible pet ownership offers a more practical and enforceable way of protecting native wildlife than blanket bans.

The applications relate to the Harvest Estate at West Byron and a smaller community title subdivision at McAuleys Lane, Myocum, where developers are seeking to modify conditions imposed as part of their original development approvals.

At Harvest Estate, the developer is seeking to replace a condition prohibiting residents from keeping cats and dogs with one that would allow pets subject to strict management measures, while the McAuleys Lane proposal seeks approval to allow dogs under strict controls while continuing to prohibit cats.

The Harvest application argues the existing restriction is no longer justified. This is despite the fact it is adjacent to, and backs onto, areas of significant environmental sensitivity.

‘The current restriction is also reducing the supply of housing for many local residents who have pets,’ the planning report states, arguing the covenant is ‘limiting the uptake and occupation of approved residential land’. It also says the original ecological assessments ‘did not rely upon the cat and dog prohibition’ in concluding the development was suitable for approval.

Supporting ecological advice prepared for the developer argues a management-based approach is more likely to succeed than a complete ban.

‘The proposed (revised) condition provides a more nuanced control measure in relation to the keeping of cats/dogs and protection of native fauna species,’ Cedar Ecology concluded.

‘It reflects the problematic nature of blanket bans on cats and dogs on development sites which are unlikely to succeed due to issues with enforceability and perceived impingement of landowner rights.’

Animals in sensitive locations

The applications highlight a broader debate about how companion animals should be managed in new developments adjoining environmentally sensitive land.

Under Chapter E8 of Byron Shire Council’s Development Control Plan, developments within the West Byron Urban Release Area were originally expected to prohibit the keeping of cats and dogs through restrictions placed on property titles.

However, the Harvest application argues Council has more recently approved a management-based approach in nearby developments, including the Solus industrial subdivision, with pets allowed subject to fencing, containment, and supervision requirements rather than an outright ban.

The application argues this reflects a more contemporary planning approach that balances biodiversity protection with the practical realities of residential living, while maintaining appropriate safeguards for native fauna.

Whether Byron Shire Council agrees remains to be seen.

Both modification applications are currently before Council, where planners will ultimately have to weigh the benefits of managed pet ownership against long-standing concerns about the impacts of domestic cats and dogs on koalas and other native wildlife living alongside new residential development.

Ocean Shores man charged with advocating terrorism online

Police say a 20-year-old Ocean Shores man is behind bars (refused bail) and will face court in Tweed Heads Local Court on 18 September, charged with advocating terrorism.

A joint media release says the man appeared in the NSW Bail Division Court on 9 July.

They said, ‘The man, 20, was charged following an investigation by the NSW Joint Counter Terrorism Team (JCTT), comprising members from AFP, NSW Police, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and NSW Crime Commission’.

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

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Top: Holly Schleich with her friends Amanda Rijnbeek and Carly Bowyer ready to run. Right: Holly crossing the finish line with best mate Carly. Photos supplied

Aslan Shand

Byron Bay mum, business founder, and stage 4 breast cancer patient Holly Schleich continues to turn one of life's greatest challenges into a mission of hope.

In early July Holly, founder of Eye of Horus Cosmetics (www.eyeofhorusc cosmetics.com/pages/cancer-chicks), and her friends Sami Maloney and Kirsty Cane, and supporters, ran in the Gold Coast Marathon (4 and 5 July) to raise funds and awareness for Cancer Chicks (www.cancerchicks.org.au).

Holly, was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2022. After undergoing a double mastectomy, chemotherapy, radiation, and multiple surgeries, she was devastated to learn last year that her cancer had returned as stage 4 metastatic breast cancer.

Rather than allowing the diagnosis to define her, Holly has continued to lead her business while dedicating herself to supporting other young women facing cancer.

'We hope to inspire our communities while raising vital funds for Cancer Chicks, a charity that provides practical and emotional support to young women navigating cancer,' Holly told *The Echo*.

Cancer Chicks – you're not alone

'When you're diagnosed with cancer, your world changes overnight. But one thing I've learnt is that

community has the power to carry you through your darkest moments. Cancer Chicks gave me hope, connection and a reminder that I wasn't facing this alone.

'Living with stage 4 breast cancer has completely changed my perspective. Every kilometre felt like a celebration of what my body is still capable of, despite everything it has been through. Crossing the finish line with my best mate Carly and surrounded by friends, family and our Cancer Chicks community was very emotional. There were definitely tears, but they were happy tears filled with gratitude,' she said.

'The biggest challenge was balancing training with ongoing treatment. There were days I questioned whether I'd make it to the start line, but the support of our community carried me through. Seeing so many people wearing our EOH x Cancer Chicks merchandise, running alongside us and donating to the cause reminded me that even the hardest journeys don't have to be walked alone.

Resilience and friendship

'What I enjoyed most was the connection. It wasn't just about one person running a race it was hundreds of people coming together to raise awareness, the vibe was high.'

Cancer Chicks was founded by Rikki Stern in



2019 after she was diagnosed with stage 2 Hodgkin lymphoma at the age of 20. She launched a small online support group for young women with cancer to connect – today it is a growing registered charity that provides support services and a strong community to connect with, helping empower young women with severe illness.

Holly says she was joined by women whose own cancer journeys have inspired thousands throughout the Northern Rivers community.

'Together, they represent resilience, friendship and the extraordinary impact of women supporting one another through adversity,' said Holly.

'This event wasn't about running our fastest race. It was about running for every woman currently sitting in a hospital chair, waiting for results, navigating treatment, or wondering what tomorrow will bring. We run for those who can't.'

'Our hope is that this story reminds people that even in the hardest circumstances, kindness and community can create something incredibly powerful,' Holly said.

'As difficult as my journey has been, it has also shown me the very best in people. Every donation, every message of encouragement, and every person who chooses to support this cause reminds us that none of us has to walk through hardship alone.'

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Affrica-Jade and Jaliriah at last Wednesday's NAIDOC celebrations at Denning Park. Singing, dancing, weaving, storytelling, bush tucker and face-painting, were enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd. Photo Jeff Dawson

Asren Pugh to run for NSW Upper House

Aslan Shand

Former Byron Shire councillor Asren Pugh has confirmed with *The Echo* that he has been preselected for the NSW Labor Upper House (Senate) ticket for the 2027 election. He is number six on the ticket.

‘This will be the first time that Labor has had an upper house candidate from the North Coast since Janelle Saffin first ran in 1995. I look forward to working with

Minister Saffin and our local Federal MP Justine Elliot to bring a strong North Coast voice down to Macquarie Street,’ he said.

There are 21 senators, of 42, whose terms expire on 5 March, 2027. Seven of Labor’s current 15 senators’ terms will end. Four Liberal Party members, two Greens, including local member Sue Higginson, and three members of the National Party’s terms will also expire.

‘We need a strong voice to

advocate for better regional services, like health and education, to continue to work on addressing the housing crisis, to end native forest logging and to continue the excellent work that Minister Sharpe has been doing on the renewables rollout,’ Bangalow based Mr Pugh told *The Echo*.

‘With the rise of false prophets under the One Nation banner, a strong regional voice is even more important.’

A life well lived – Vale Jim Mangleson

From running the local hardware store ‘Manglesons of Mullumbimby’ from 1972 to 1977 to starting Chincogan Real Estate in 1979, all with his wife Jan, Jim (James Harry) Mangleson was a man who liked to get on with life.

Father of eight, grandfather of 22, and great grandfather of 24 he moved his family from Sydney to Mullumbimby in 1972 to seek a healthier and happier life.



James Harry Mangleson (Jim or Mango) 30/12/1938 – 1/7/2026. Photo supplied

‘Mullumbimby is very much where he found his true home,’ said his daughter Nicci Mangleson. ‘Raising his family in this town was the highlight of his life.’

As a young man Jim was a gifted student receiving many university scholarship offers, as well as a skilled sportsman across many disciplines including earning selection into the Footscray VFL club under-18 team, and strong prospects of first grade before having to move from Melbourne to Sydney for work.

While Jim and Jan were running Manglesons of Mullumbimby they bought a family farm on the side of Mt Chincogan in 1974 and added cattle farmers to their list of accomplishments. It

was here that Jim designed and built the family home by hand despite having no formal qualifications.

‘Jim was never one to back down from a challenge though and this was typical of his “can do” attitude and strong self-belief,’ said Nicci.

‘He was a ferocious reader and researcher and was also a self-taught mechanic, photographer, and engineer.’

Jim and Jan became very well known locally and were key in a number of local developments, including the Roundhouse in Ocean Shores, and for the longest, continually run, real estate agency in Byron Shire.

Jim also named Coolamon Scenic Drive and created the first metric sign in Australia.

‘There was a need to rename that road and the Progress Association made the mistake of telling Jim, it’s a great name but you can’t just name a road, Sydney will need to approve it. Jim’s response “Watch Me!” Jim made the signs, calculated the metric measurement, noted it on the sign, and installed them himself, much to the benefit of locals. That name was officially adopted afterwards,’ said Nicci.

Jim was a founding member of the Ocean Shores Golf Club, got the club its liquor license, and was a club champion as an amateur golfer.

Jim was also a strong advocate for reducing the flood impact in North Byron Shire, standing up for many people and asking for much needed accountability on how to reduce the impacts of flooding.

‘Jim leaves behind a remarkable 77 direct descendants,’ said Nicci.

‘He always said that “there are many ways to measure wealth, and it’s not material wealth that makes you rich, it is the love for, and of, family and friends that is the highest wealth on earth.”’

Resilient Homes Program



Do you have a Resilient Measures grant or are you relocating a buyback home?

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Palestine community action day

Have you been wondering how to make a change in Palestine? This Sunday, Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine (NRFP) are inviting people to join in a community action day at Marvell Hall, Marvell Street, Byron Bay from 12 noon to 4pm and find out how they can get involved to make positive change in Gaza and the West Bank.

‘It is always the people who drive the social movements that have made real change to our world,’ says former Byron Shire councillor Cate Coorey.

‘You don’t have to feel powerless, all our actions add up, whether you have an hour, a month, or a few hours a week, there’s a place for you with NRFP and you can make a difference. Join us for an interactive afternoon of community organising, practical action, meeting new people and really good food. Whether you’ve been involved for years or are coming for the first time, everyone is welcome,’ she said.

‘NRFP wants community members to let us know how they’d like to be involved. We will workshop different aspects and ways of getting organised and by the end of the afternoon people will find a place with NRFP that works for them.’

Is a rate rise needed?

► Continued from page 1

Responding to questions from *The Echo*, a Council spokesperson said Byron collected \$30.7 million in ordinary land rates during 2024/25, compared with \$29.6 million in Ballina and \$35.4 million in Lismore.

‘General land rates revenue is not related to a council’s population but is derived as a result of the number of rateable properties a council has within its area,’ the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson also noted that Byron receives significantly less untied Financial Assistance Grant funding from the Commonwealth than its neighbours, receiving \$2.98 million compared with \$4.13 million for Ballina and \$5.51 million for Lismore.

The figures support Council’s contention that it has a comparatively modest source of unrestricted revenue from general rates and grants.

But revenue is only one side of the equation.

The financial statements also raise questions about expenditure.

Despite having almost 10,000 fewer residents than Ballina, Byron spent almost exactly the same on employee costs during 2024/25 – about \$38.4 million compared with Ballina’s \$38.5 million. On a per-resident basis, Byron spent around 25 per cent more on staffing.

So why are Byron’s operating costs so high, comparatively?

Council has consistently argued that the Shire’s relatively small resident and ratepayer base supports infrastructure and services used by millions of visitors each year, placing pressures not faced by many other regional councils.

But is this the only reason why Council’s expenditure is higher? Some have suggested that Council’s decision-making and financial management have been lacking for some time.

These critics point to unsuccessful recent grant applications for projects including the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, the proposed bio-energy facility at the Byron Bay Sewage Treatment Plant, and Suffolk Park traffic safety measures, as evidence of possible financial mismanagement.

Both the bioenergy project and the proposed 5MW solar farm at Dingo Lane, Myocum, have remained in limbo after years of planning, suggesting they may have been pursued without due diligence and proper planning.

The financial statements cannot determine whether those examples reflect broader organisational issues or simply the complexity of delivering major infrastructure projects.

Nor do they identify how much of Byron’s expenditure is directly attributable to servicing visitors, environmental management, or other unique local pressures.

Ultimately, the debate over Byron’s proposed rate rise is no longer simply about whether Council needs more money.

It is about whether it has convincingly demonstrated that every reasonable effort has been made to raise other revenue, improve efficiency, and deliver major projects effectively before asking ratepayers to pay substantially more.

Help establish a First Nations bush-food nursery

A First Nations-led bush food nursery that will create Indigenous employment, training pathways, food sovereignty, and cultural knowledge sharing for future generations is getting underway in Myocum and you can help get it established.

Ma Earth’s global matched crowdfunding campaign doubles your donations to the nursery until 21 July (<https://chuffed.org/project/the-returning-bush-food-nursery>).

‘Our nursery site is ready. We’ve employed Bundjalung Elder, Uncle Mark Cora, as our nursery manager, and are about to hire another nursery assistant manager this week,’ Ella Bancroft, Founder & CEO of The Returning (www.thereturning.com.au/), who are championing the project, told *The Echo*.

While the native food industry has a \$80 million output, First Nations-led enterprises account for less than one to two per cent of the supply chain. This is despite Indigenous communities holding the knowledge that built Australia’s native bush food industry.

Self-determination

The Bundjalung Alliance Native Nursery project was initiated earlier this year and is supported by Bundjalung chef and native foods advocate Mindy Woods.

‘Our native nursery is about self-determination. We’re not looking for handouts. We’re looking for a hand up,’ Mindy explained.

‘Creating industry that is connected to culture is essential for Indigenous well-being and a beautiful way to share the ancient knowledge of Bundjalung to a wider audience.’

Bangalow Koalas are another local organisation who have participated in the Ma Earth crowdfunding campaign you can donate to both via: <https://maearth.com/projects>.



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North Coast online ►
www.echo.net.au**Ballina Court House
windows smashed,
man tasered**

Police say a man was tasered and faced court last Friday, charged after 12 windows were allegedly smashed in Ballina.

**NSW Women of the
Year nominations
closing soon**

Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin is calling on residents of the Lismore electorate to get their nominations in for the 2027 NSW Women of the Year Awards.

**All That's Left of
You coming to
Murwillumbah**

The intimate story of eight decades of Palestinian life is explored in the acclaimed new feature by Cherien Dabis, *All That's Left of You*, screening at the Regent Cinema in Murwillumbah on Thursday, 16 July at 6pm.

**Royal Life Saving
training courses in
Murwillumbah**

Royal Life Saving NSW is the leader in drowning prevention and water safety education in the state and they are introducing a regular training service in Murwillumbah from August, that will be of benefit to all members of the broader community.

**Ballina king tide
alert for 13–16 July**

Ballina Shire Council is encouraging motorists to drive safely over the coming days with king tides leading to minor flooding of some local roads.

**Clarence, Richmond,
Kyogle get essential
worker boost**

A program called The Welcome Experience, which aims to ensure essential workers who move to the Northern Rivers establish meaningful connections and navigate their new communities has been boosted with a new 'Local Connector' position.

**Savour The Tweed
returns 12-25 Oct**

An ambitious lineup of gourmet delights, inspired events, thought provoking discussions and creative collaborations will again entice food lovers to Tweed Shire this October.

www.echo.net.au

Alleged native tree removal in Lennox

Government agency, the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has confirmed with *The Echo* it is investigating the alleged clear felling of large native trees on a private block in Lennox Head, Ballina.

Ballina Greens councillor Kiri Dicker told *The Echo* that the felling occurred over multiple days, and that contractors were, 'trying to get the job done'.

'It all happened very fast', she says. 'They cleared the entire block, pretty much'.

The private property is located at 516 Ross Lane, Lennox Head. 'The property owners are Gold Coast company, Pearl Vue,' Cr Dicker says.

She said that wildlife carers who attended the site found multiple sugar gliders, including two mothers with babies, and believe more

animals remain in trees still standing. 'Gliders have been taken to Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital for care and rehabilitation', she said.

Cr Dicker says officers from the Biodiversity and Heritage Regulator gained entry to the property on Friday 'for the purposes of a site inspection and were accompanied by staff from Ballina Shire Council'.

'Tree felling continued for the duration of that site visit and during that time, a tree was felled with a three additional sugar gliders (one adult with two babies) in situ, which were taken to Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital.

'The department has halted works pending an investigation into the matter (however, most of the planned clearing has already been completed)', she said.

■ Full story on echo.net.au.

Vale Ev King-Prime

Tricia Shantz

Ev opened Cape Gallery on Lawson Street in Byron Bay in the early 1980s.

It was the first art gallery in town. Through the gallery, she helped develop the nascent visual arts scene, exhibiting many of the up-and-coming North Coast artists emerging at that time including Rose McKinley, David Lane, Bonny Bombach, Noel Hart, Karena Wynn-Moylan, James Guppy, Christine Willcocks, and many others.

She held memorable exhibition openings, when these sorts of events weren't common.

Ev was raised in Argentina, with English and American parents. She met Mike King-Prime, also raised in Argentina with British parents, when both were living in London. They moved to Sydney, Australia



Mike and Ev King-Prime.
Photo supplied

in 1971, where Mike started to paint seriously, while also working in advertising and animation.

They bought a Kombi van and came to the Northern Rivers at the same time as the Aquarius Festival was on in Nimbin in 1973. They eventually bought 64 acres in the village of Federal and built their own house.

'They were beautiful days. We grew food, planted trees

and reforested,' Ev said.

Ev suggested Mike put his artwork in the gallery and it took off like wildfire from there, prompting their move to the US.

Sometime in the late 80s, early 90s, Ev and Mike sold their house in Byron Bay and moved, with their son, to the US to live for 11 years.

When they came back to Australia they lived in Bangalow for a while and opened a gallery and sold Mike's work at the Bangalow markets before moving to Lismore. Mike died in November 2020. Ev died in April 2026.

Ev and Mike's legacy

Ev and Mike's legacy lives on in Mike's work of Byron Bay landscapes, in a poster he did of Byron Bay, a painting of the main street of Bangalow that is a post card and his logo for the Music Farm recording studio that is still used today, 50 years later.

From refugee to community contributor – a personal story

Walaa Allaham

When I first arrived in Australia from Syria, I carried many emotions with me.

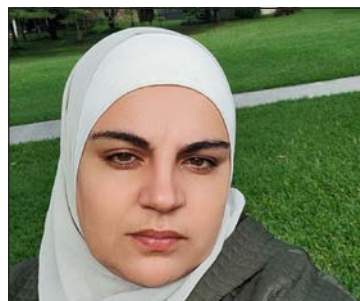
Like many refugees and newcomers, I was grateful to be safe, but I was also overwhelmed by the challenges of starting over in a completely new country.

Leaving behind family, friends, familiar places, and a life I had built was not easy. Beginning again meant learning new systems, adapting

to a different culture, improving my English, and helping my children settle into a new environment – all while trying to stay emotionally strong.

Today, as I reflect on my journey, I realise that what helped me most was not only the services and programs available, but the kindness of people.

Simple acts of support made a profound difference: a neighbour checking in, a teacher helping my children feel included, or



Walaa Allaham. Photo supplied

someone patiently explaining paperwork.

Those moments helped transform an unfamiliar place into a community.

Living in Brunswick Heads in the Northern Rivers has shown me the power of community connection. In regional towns, people often know your name, ask how you are doing, and genuinely care.

Small interactions

These small interactions create a sense of belonging that can be life-changing for someone rebuilding their life.

Over time, I regained confidence, improved my English, continued my studies, and became more involved in community life.

One of the most rewarding parts of my journey has been supporting newly arrived families through translation, guidance, and emotional support.

I am also proud to volunteer with the Food Pantry program. Being part of this team has been an incredibly positive experience.

The people I work alongside are kind, caring, welcoming, and always willing to help others.

They are a truly dedicated team that works together with compassion and generosity to support the community.

Volunteering with them has given me an even stronger sense of purpose and connection, and I am grateful to be part of such a

wonderful group.

Recently, I was honoured to be invited by Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia to share my lived experience. I am deeply grateful for the invitation and for the opportunity to contribute as an active member of conversations that help improve settlement experiences for refugees and newcomers.

The experience was far more than I expected – it was meaningful, inspiring, and empowering.

Events like these remind us that refugees do not arrive empty-handed.

Welcoming spaces

When communities create welcoming spaces where people feel seen, heard, and respected, they help transform fear into hope and isolation into belonging.

Looking back, there was a time when I felt uncertain about my future and unsure of where I belonged.

Today, I have the privilege of sharing my story, supporting others, volunteering in my community, and contributing to meaningful conversations about inclusion and belonging.

I am thankful to everyone who has been part of my journey, and I look forward to continuing to give back to the community that welcomed me and my family.

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Mullumbimby community calls for car park DA issues to be addressed, not ignored

► Continued from page 1
by planning rules, and it also has a walkway, and deep-rooted trees proposed to be planted directly on top of it. The new proposed cantilever design of the upper floors over the sewer line also breaches planning policy, with BSC Floodplain Committee member, Karl Allen, pointing out that ‘if the sewer pipe ever needs repair, the building structure above could block access to it.’ He also said that BSC General Manager, Mark Arnold, had confirmed that ‘Council’s own engineers have not signed-off on the design.’

It appears the easement was supposed to provide access to the rear of the Burringbar Street businesses, such as Pink Lotus and The Other Joint, for grease trap cleaning and gas supplies; but with locked gates at either end and a fenceline between the rear of the shops and the easement with no access gates for the shops, it has failed to achieve this simple outcome.

Flooding

The DA claims that the easement provides an ‘overland flow path’ for floodwater from Mcgoughans Lane to

Station Street, but as Mr Allen pointed out, ‘the gates will stop the overland flow path’ and they haven’t modelled the flow of water with the gates closed. The gates at either end of the easement are required to be locked because the site contains a boarding house.

‘The worst-case flood was never modelled, and neither was the last real one [in 2022], and there’s no probable maximum flood assessment,’ Mr Allen told the meeting.

Mr Allen also pointed out that the DA hasn’t modelled the impact of the development on neighbouring properties, a requirement of BSC regulations.

‘There is nothing in the flood emergency response plan that addresses evacuating boarding house residents, some of whom may have mobility limitations, through a hazard zone.

Mr Allen then highlighted that the DA doesn’t meet the required waste disposal measures for domestic and commercial use on the site. Further, that even the smaller of the rubbish trucks suggested in the DA, which are not the larger ones used by Richmond Waste for this area,

would not be able to service the building because the proposed loading bay is too small, the building over the loading bay is 3.5m in height, the same height as the small rubbish trucks, and there are potential risks of blocking the car park access during collection.

Traffic, parking, toilets

Ms Heffley highlighted a range of issues around increased traffic for the town, and the fact that there are only 15 car parking spaces available for 32 dwellings. An oft-repeated question since the original DA, apparently still unanswered, is where will the extra cars park? The development will demolish the ‘only public toilet in the town centre’. While Council have floated paying for a new one in Apex Park, further away from the town centre across the railway line, this is not a requirement placed on the developer.

The modified DA does not consider the impact of construction traffic and future increased traffic on the proposed access route to the site, which is the very narrow Mcgoughans Lane. Due to its width, at points only wide enough for one vehicle, the

lane can be blocked by a single delivery truck, and has a very narrow turn and poor visibility turning onto Tincogan Street, the busy town centre northern ‘bypass’.

A call for new submissions highlighting these issues has been requested by MRA. In particular, submissions request that replacement car parking and toilets in the town centre be completed prior to any work commencing at 57 Station St.

However, BSC has not committed to this. BSC have told *The Echo* that, ‘It has always been Council’s intention to have additional public car parking available on the edge of town to compensate for the loss of parking at 57 Station Street.’

Heritage ignored

As Landcom has stated in their covering letter for the modified DA, ‘There is no material difference to the description of the development.’

Members of MRA agreed, highlighting that there is little difference in the height, bulk, and scale of the modified design. As Peter Brennan said, ‘Council’s own independent assessor, who reviewed the original DA,

wrote about the importance of this site.’ He pointed out that the site is at the entrance to Mullumbimby, plays an important role in setting the visual amenity of the town and future development.

A letter received by MRA just before the meeting from leading heritage advisor Lisa Trueman stated that, ‘The proposed building has design and architectural character that does not respect the established heritage character and significance of the Mullumbimby Conservation Area and is entirely contrary to the objectives and policies of the Development Control Plan (DCP) in relation to the conservation area as provided. The proposed development would result in a high level of adverse impacts on the significant historic character of the conservation area.’

Height precedent

The proposal exceeds height limits for the town by 2.7m with Mr Brennan pointing out that this new height limit will be used by future developers to exceed the 9m height limit of the town.

‘We are all seeing what’s happening in Byron Bay,

where nearly every development is exceeding the prescribed height limits, and we don’t want that to start in Mullumbimby,’ he told the meeting.

Another submission

While previous submissions will still be valid, it is vital that people put in another submission, even if it is short, to point out that the issues raised in their first submission have not been adequately addressed. Former councillor Duncan Dey also encouraged new submissions to seek a ‘deferred commencement’ that commits BSC to completing and having functioning both alternative car parking and toilets if the development is approved.

The meeting only touched on the primary issues with the DA. This story even less. Currently, Mr Allen is compiling a submission exceeding 250 pages on the new DA. So if you want more information, contact MRA at: mullumra@gmail.com. Submissions close for the revised DA (www.byron.nsw.gov.au) on 16 August.

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



Jordyn Jones
Senior Associate
Jordyn@byronfamilylaw.com.au

Yasmin Dulley
Principal Solicitor
yasmin@byronfamilylaw.com.au

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 41 #05 • July 15, 2026

What was once comes again

The Byron Shire has been renowned for its music, its festivals, and its innovation that has had a huge impact on the Australian music scene.

Local author Tricia Shantz's latest book *Musicland. When the Music Came to Byron 1970-1995*, will be launched at this year's Byron Writers Festival. She says that the region has been a hotbed of music, festivals, and culture, with notable standouts being the 1973 Fowlers Lane concerts, Danny Doeppel attracting bands such as Midnight Oil to The Piggery, Bluesfest, Splendour in the Grass and the very popular Mullum Music Festival. Over the last few years, we have seen all of those festivals disappear, with Bluesfest dying for the second time last Easter.

While this has been hard on local contractors as well as music lovers, it has also opened up the field to new ideas, innovations, and expressions of art and culture. Smaller festivals give local musicians a platform that isn't available at the larger festivals, with more intimate venues, and often new opportunities to explore more diverse experiences.

For example, last weekend's Mullum Roots Festival (rising phoenix-like from Nimbin Roots Festival) created a great opportunity around the town to enjoy music, and the 'songwriters in the round' session provided a close-up and intimate music experience that was unique to the festival.

The recent Stone & Wood Festival of the Stone is a relatively new festival that has become increasingly popular – the most recent event was a sell-out success and combined great music and experiences with raising money to combat homelessness.

The inaugural DINGO Music & Arts Festival is set to transform Bangalow in October for four days, creating a fusion of local foods, international and local musicians, performance artists, and thinkers. Many people enjoy an intimate, multifaceted experience.

Another local festival that is curating a diverse local and visitor experience is Byron Fest, which will be running throughout the Shire in June 2027. Destination Byron is seeking to bring businesses, artists, performers, musicians, and other creatives together to develop an innovative and engaging showcase of what this region represents (see page 2).

It is sad to see the large festivals in decline, but it also represents an opportunity for locals to create new opportunities, new experiences, and explore the diversity of talent and creativity that the Northern Rivers is known for.

Smaller festivals give everyone a chance to create affordable, innovative, and diverse experiences that speak to the incredible range of talent that is here.

This is not a comprehensive list of our music festivals, and arguably non-music festivals such as the Byron Writers Festival, or the Mud Trail sculpture event, art and film festivals could possibly make an even greater contribution to our cultural enrichment, as a community, than singing along to Daryl Braithwaite's 'Horses'. But the main thing is to value and support what we have left, quick, before someone in Sydney decides that Byron's the kind of place that needs a massive sports stadium.

Aslan Shand, editor
News tips are welcome:
editor@echo.net.au

Anarchy in the UK

After going through six prime ministers in the last ten years, the not-so United Kingdom is likely to soon notch up its seventh.

The all but anointed Andy Burnham, until very recently the mayor of Manchester, was before that an MP who served under various Labour leaders, in and out of government, and is now heading for 10 Downing Street after emphatically winning the Makerfield by-election.

With overwhelming support from his colleagues, he's set to replace the unpopular Sir Keir Starmer as Labour leader and prime minister. So will anything change? Burnham is more personable, younger, sportier, and better connected to ordinary working people, particularly in the north of England, but in terms of policy the differences are fairly marginal.

Along with education, he talks a lot about 'devolution', which seems to mean decentralising state power to the regions and local government. While he can't undo the Brexit mess, or fix the British media's antipathy to all things Labour, Burnham does appear to have a genuine interest in collaboration, even with traditional enemies, to improve the living standards of ordinary people.

As he put it in a recent speech, 'the country spends too much time arguing and not enough time doing.' He's a fan of reindustrialisation, science, and public housing.

Although he describes himself as a socialist, Burnham is no Mamdani, and appears to have little interest in challenging the fundamental inequities associated with late stage capitalism.

This is 'business-friendly socialism', if there is such a thing.

What about the rest of the world?

Without mentioning Donald Trump by name, Andy Burnham recently said, 'The path we're on, if we are not careful, is a path towards the politics of the United States of America – a polarised, poisonous politics where people in communities don't work together any more.'

Previously one of his party's Friends of Israel, Burnham has since apologised for Labour's initial pro-Israel stance on the war in Gaza, and called for Palestinian statehood. He's been highly critical of the US war on Iran, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



'A comedy writer who dresses up as an alien with a bin on his head, Count Binface, is standing against Farage, and may have a real chance of unseating him.'

– David Lowe

His views on AUKUS, or allies such as Australia, remain a mystery, but Anthony Albanese would no doubt see the mild-mannered Burnham as a much better option than Reform's Nigel Farage, who has been polling until recently as the most likely next UK prime minister, following the collapse of the Conservative Party.

One of the architects of the misinformation campaign that led to Brexit, Farage has proven himself a master of the standard populist right strategy of destabilising and damaging his own country, with racism as the centrepiece, then profiting from the chaos that follows. With the help of massive private donations, his party has gone from being a fringe curiosity just three years ago to being on the doorstep of government, on the back of a series of council wins.

All was going swimmingly until Farage came under investigation for failing to declare a £5 million gift from a cryptocurrency investor, along with receiving financial support from another man convicted of wire fraud in the US. Rather than facing the music, Farage has resigned, triggering a by-election in his seat of Clacton, a coastal town in Essex.

Vote 1 Count Binface

In the absence of any organised local campaign against Nigel Farage from the major parties, progressive political activists have stepped into the breach. A comedy writer who dresses up as an alien with a bin on his head, Count Binface, is standing against Farage, and may have a real chance of unseating him.

The activist group Led by Donkeys are also driving a video billboard around Clacton, in which a local woman talks about the 12 other highly-paid jobs which Nigel Farage does while neglecting his own constituents, including advising multimillionaires how to avoid paying tax, speaking to American extreme faith groups, and being a regular

commentator on Sky News Australia.

The Australian connection doesn't stop there – the line between Mar-a-Lago regulars Pauline Hanson and Nigel Farage is as clear as that between Farage and Trump.

Australia's parliament is currently on one of its interminable breaks, which has freed up Barnaby Joyce and Pauline Hanson to wing their way to a sweltering UK, together with One Nation braintrust James Ashby, where they will join Farage in attending the British Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), organised by the woman best known for lasting less time than a lettuce in the job of British prime minister, Liz Truss.

Tickets are priced from £100 to £10,000, depending on who you want to rub jackboots with. Headliners include the American influencer Jack Posobiec, known for his support of the fabricated Pizzagate conspiracy theory and for saying things like, 'Welcome to the end of democracy – we are here to overthrow it completely.'

Not to be outdone, Pauline Hanson has set up her appearance at CPAC by recording a podcast with far-right British activist Tommy Robinson, one of the influencers of Australia's own Brenton Tarrant, now in prison in New Zealand for mass murder.

In a fractured and wounded Britain, has Andy Burnham got what it takes to stop a divisive, billionaire-backed onslaught?

Although Farage and others have called for elections to be brought forward when Burnham is installed as PM, the next UK general election is not due to be held until 2029. Australia's own democracy test will be at least a year earlier.

■ David Lowe is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and photographer with particular interests in the environment and politics. He has a regular Monday column on *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.



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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au

Office: 64 McGoughans Lane,
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager: **Simon Haslam**

Editor: **Aslan Shand**

Deputy Editor: **Hans Lovejoy**

Photographer: **Jeff Dawson**

Advertising Manager: **Anna Coelho**

Production Manager: **Ziggi Browning**



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1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Emergency 000

When I worked for Telecom, I often manned the 000 position when it was still a cord and plug system; however, their were never any outages.

In fact, there were advantages in a manual system, of which I have had personal experience.

One day a young boy rang in an hysterical state. 'Quick, police,' he said, 'Dad's beating up mum and I think he's going to kill her'.

I connected him to the nearest police station, but they didn't answer.

I connected him to the next nearest station, and they couldn't hear the caller, so I went across the line and gave the police the address.

You couldn't train a computer to act in this way. In some ways, we are better off without them.

David Gilet
Mullumbimby

Mandy's column

John Heaton (Letters 8 July) is correct in stating that allowing Mandy Nolan a weekly column is no longer appropriate now that she is once again a candidate for the Greens.

No matter what your political persuasion may be, she is given an unfair advantage over other candidates with a whole page at her disposal to promote herself and her ideologies.

Every column she writes is

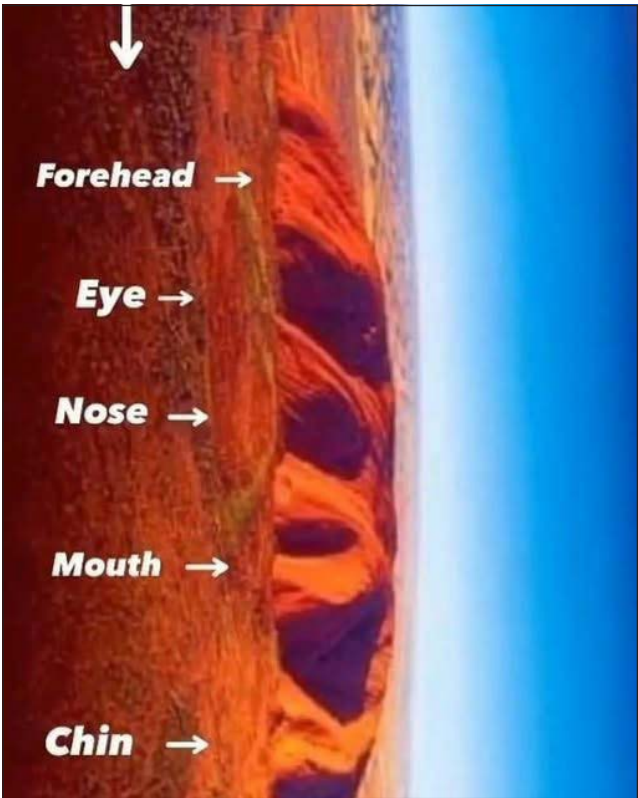


Image Sovereign Union

a presentation to the public of her opinions and values.

The fact that the column has run for 25 years is now irrelevant. Things have changed and if *The Echo* believes in impartiality, it should do so also.

Louise Andrews
Lennox Head

■ As stated last week, *The Echo* will continue to publish Mandy's column and also hold the Greens to account – especially in our local area. – **Letters Ed**

Blow up the pokies

It's pleasing to see further action on predatory poker machine reform being attempted by some intelligent politicians.

It may – by some miracle – encourage a certain local bowling club to consider putting on more live music rather than dismissing any ideas or suggestion when approached, with the line 'We don't want to upset the players, they don't like the noise'.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

Gulgan Village meeting

I attended the Brunswick Progress Associations (BPA) meeting on 6/07/2026 at the CWA for a discussion on the impact the proposed Gulgan Village development will have on the current infrastructure.

Thank you to the members of the BPA for making this information session available.

The developer, Mr Brandon Saul, was present to answer questions, plus the relieving director of sustainable development and a town planner.

There were some very interesting questions asked as to the impact of the Gulgan Village development.

One was: has anyone from Byron Council spoken about concerns as to the impact of the development

on the current infrastructure, the answer, from Mr Saul, was 'no'.

Also, the impact on the current sewerage infrastructure was raised.

One member of the BPA, Patricia Warren, presented some very well-researched and factual information as to the impact of the combined sewage loads from the Gulgan Village and also the sewage load from the proposed closure of Ocean Shores STP (OSSTP) would have on Brunswick Valley STP (BVSTP). No real answers from Council staff present were forthcoming.

I would hope an interested elected councillor would ask Patricia Warren if they could discuss the information.

Also there was confusion as to where the sewage from the Gulgan Village would be delivered and how.

Initially, it was stated it would go to OSSTP via a new rising main which seemed strange. It was finally established that the Gulgan Village sewage would go to the sewer pump station at the Brunswick Heads sporting fields, and then be pumped to BVSTP.

There was discussion around this, and Mr Saul said he had been informed by Council's sewer engineer that the pump station had the capacity to handle the extra load.

The problem with that, is the pump station is the only conveyor. The concern should be the effect of the hydraulic load on BVSTP. This is significant in a biological reduction plant such as BVSTP and that should be the consideration.

► Continued on next page

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► Continued from page 9

The question was asked as to where the information came from that the sewage from the village was going to OSSTP – the answer was from the Byron Shire Council director of infrastructure at a previous meeting.

Also raised was the extremely low utilisation of solar. Mr Saul gave reasons for that, I believe it was explained as a costing issue.

Mr Saul was quite upfront about infrastructure and correctly stated he is responsible for the infrastructure on his development, not outside it – that is Council's responsibility.

There was one other issue raised, it was that Council has now changed how developer contributions are managed. It seems they no longer are applied, for example, to water or sewer.

If a development increases the impact on those parts of the Council's infrastructure the contributions are now lumped together and Council decides where they go. This was confirmed by the relieving Council director present.

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

Organic produce sharing

I would like to thank all the kind people putting their excess citrus out the front of their houses.

This is community sharing at its best.

Resources are given generously to anyone who wants it, with no need for personal recognition or payment.

I can ride around on my bike and get lemons, oranges, limes and mandarins pretty well all winter – for free!

And this food is organic

and as fresh as you can possibly get it and provides a vitamin C boost just when you need it.

I like to think that what goes around comes around, and I enjoy sharing my excess veggies as well.

So many fruit, nut and even coffee trees grow easily in our subtropical climate.

Imagine if we all grew produce and shared it magnanimously with others we would see the profits of Woolworths and Coles go down, down, down.

Magenta Appel-Pye
Mullumbimby

Ballina potholes

The huge potholes at the Fox Street entrance to Ballina Fair should make management deeply ashamed of themselves.

One would think that sufficient money could be found in petty cash to cover the cost of repairs, so that patrons can arrive and leave in relative safety.

Muriel Lewin
Tevan

Cudgen Plateau

The recommended approval to rezone the Cudgen Plateau State Significant Farmland (SSF) for mixed-use high-rise development guarantees the continued development of the Cudgen Plateau SSF.

In response to a 2018 audit into corruption risks in the planning system, the then planning minister stated an anti-corruption measure would be securing updated local environmental plans to determine the shape of development in local areas and 'the best way to prevent corrupt rezoning is to have strong local strategic plans'.

However, the proposed development is contrary to



'A big thank you for the skilful team from Byron Council who transformed the notorious seventh creek crossing from a mound of shifting rubble to a rock solid concrete causeway! All of us who use the crossing are forever grateful!'

Michael Balson, Upper Wilsons Creek

all local and state planning instruments and strategic plans, and has not justified such a gross development that is outside the Tweed's urban growth area.

Enormous resources, time, work and dollars has been expended in developing our planning tools and strategic planning with extensive public consultation as statutorily required – all to be worthless.

There is a long history of three decades of development proposals on the Cudgen Plateau SSF that failed with proper governance prevailing. And the community has fiercely fought for the protection of the unique character and amenity.

The subject proposed high-rise development on the Cudgen Plateau SSF will see the reduction of the very values long fought for.

They are supporting our agricultural, tourism and associated industries, and Tweed's own unique identity separate to the Gold Coast.

This will open the gate to pave paradise in a sea of high-rise wall-to-wall tar and

cement. All the [political] assurances that there would be no further development on the Cudgen Plateau SSF were worthless.

Lindy Smith
Tweed Shire

Your existence on Earth

Most people do not walk around with a clear, conscious philosophy about their existence.

Human beings evolved to survive, not to contemplate meaning, and so the majority live inside a kind of inherited mental framework rather than a self-constructed worldview.

For many, existence is simply 'life happening': work, family, obligations, routines, and the occasional moment of wonder or fear.

The deeper questions — Why am I here? What is my role? What should I preserve? — are often pushed aside by the immediacy of daily life.

However, there is a growing minority who see existence differently. They view themselves not as isolated individuals dropped onto a

planet, but as part of a vast, interconnected system.

This perspective is scientific rather than religious: humans are one species among millions, shaped by evolution, dependent on ecosystems, and capable of altering the planet on a geological scale.

For these people, preserving the Earth is not a moral commandment but a logical necessity. If the environment collapses, human civilisation collapses with it. Their sense of meaning comes from stewardship, curiosity, and understanding rather than divine purpose.

Between these extremes lies the majority: people who care about the Earth in principle but feel powerless or overwhelmed. They may recycle, worry about climate change, or admire nature, yet still live in ways that contribute to environmental decline. This isn't hypocrisy — it's the tension between human psychology and planetary reality. People evolved for small tribes, not global responsibility.

Humanity's future depends on shifting from passive existence to conscious participation. The Earth is not a backdrop — it's the foundation of everything we are.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Renewable energy opposition

The media narrative suggesting regional people oppose renewable energy projects, when the data unarguably shows the opposite, is now the subject of a published academic paper – *Growing discontent on data centres as farmers fear renewable rollout repeat* (*The Land*, 7/6).

Poll after poll after poll, from Porter Novelli, 89 Degrees East, CSIRO and more, all find huge support for local, clean, energy projects with opposition much less (but amplified by media coverage and social media algorithms that promote conflict).

Recent polling in April showed overall local support for clean energy projects at 63 per cent and opposition at 17 per cent. In coal regions, Hunter showed support of 60 per cent and opposition at 17 per cent. In Illawarra the support was 68 per cent and the opposition 12 per cent. Even in New England, support held strong at 55 per cent with opposition less than half that figure at 24 per cent.

Professor Rebecca Colvin's peer-reviewed paper, published in *Science Direct*, finds that in addition to social media and media promoting conflict, people are more likely to speak up against things, than for them.

Farmers for Climate Action represents 8,000 farmers across Australia.

Our *Billions in the Bush* report found Australian farmers are on track to make a billion dollars in total from clean energy rent by 2030.

Modern solar contracts pay up to \$1,500 per hectare per year while the farmer continues to graze sheep underneath. Modern wind farms typically pay \$40,000 per wind turbine per year in rent to the farmer, while cattle and sheep continue to graze around it. Hosting solar and wind projects is entirely voluntary and how a farmer chooses to farm on their land is their choice.

Verity Morgan-Schmidt
CEO, Farmers for Climate Action



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A spanner in the works for the republic

Chris Dewhirst

I was changing the oil on *Clancy*, our barge moored on the Seine not far from the Place de la Concorde (think Marie Antoinette), when I made a big mistake.

The oil level was impossible to read on the polished stainless steel dipstick, so I swapped it over for a wooden chopstick hoping for better visibility.

Of course my hand slipped, the stick broke in two and half fell into the gearbox. If I ran the engine the chopstick would be pulverised into micro particles and blow up the oil pump, housed inside the casing. The stick had to be removed – no question – but the gearbox weighed a ton and lifting it would require a small crane, not to mention the fact that pulling it apart was a two-day job.

I dived into the workshop manual, where I discovered that another, larger drain hole existed on the back of the gearbox. The 40mm opening was big enough to get a finger inside, and maybe, just maybe, I could tickle out the stick.

Heather went in search of a big enough spanner and woke up our next door neighbour, John, who lives on a beautiful 120 year-old Dutch barge called *Vertrouwen*, which is a deeply philosophical name for a barge.

'I don't have one that big,' he said. 'Wait...' and he disappeared into the bowels of the boat. Soon enough he returned with a museum piece – a one metre long shifting spanner – that weighed almost as much as the gearbox, but it did remove the cover bolt, providing hope. Unfortunately my fickle finger of fate, being exactly that, failed to connect to anything in the half-metre wide sump.

Praying out loud to all 12,000 gods ever conjured by humankind worked!

The chopstick miraculously floated into view, but in another 30 seconds, it would drift away to become irretrievable.

Heather flew the length of *Clancy* and returned in the nick-of-time with her favourite tweezers. With the breath from a magic frog, I retrieved the stick.



Longtime Mullumbimby resident and adventurer, Chris Dewhirst, is currently in France living on his barge, *Clancy*.

Marie Antoinette

However, there was no magic frog for Marie Antoinette. Apparently, 30 thousand people watched the princess's head fall into the waiting basket, all while her still beating heart pumped royal blood, like an uncontrolled firehose across the Place de Concorde.

From *Clancy's* deck, you can see the spot where she was guillotined, just 200 metres away. We have been led to believe that her uncaring words: 'Let them eat cake,' explained her execution.

The actual phrase: 'Qu'ils mangent de la brioche' ['Let them eat brioche' – a rich, egg-based bread], first appeared in an autobiographical book by Jacques Rousseau some 20 years earlier, and was then attributed to the princess. Dehumanising works a treat. I don't need to mention Donald Trump.

In fact, her final words were something quite moving: 'Pardonnez-moi, monsieur, je ne l'ai pas fait exprès' ['Pardon me, sir, I did not do it on purpose'].

The angry crowd, believing that she (and the King) were to blame for all their troubles, wanted her dead.

Vive la révolution

The crazies got their way as they often do. 'Vive la révolution' was an expression first coined by Maximilian Robespierre in his 1789 speech to the National Assembly, fermenting rebellion.

Robespierre was a lawyer, who lived and breathed democracy. He was inspired by the American Declaration of the Rights of Man: 'that all men are born free and equal'.

His incorruptible way of living, and his published beliefs, eventually became the French constitution that we know today.

One person in the right place, at the right time can make all the difference.

However, a few years later the crazies thought Robespierre too democratic and he was beheaded. Along came Napoleon, turning the circle, but that didn't finish well for him or France.

French Revolution

Over a period of 235 years, the story of the French Revolution has been whittled down to no more than fireworks and concerts. These days, people mostly remember La Guillotine and the Reign of Terror and not much else.

Nevertheless, inspired by America throwing off the English crown, and with the peace treaty actually signed in Paris, France chopped the monarchy a few years after America became a democratic republic.

It's time for Australia to do the same. We are a country made from over 190 nationalities of all colours and creeds. We are all immigrants, or children of immigrants that includes our First Nations people, who just happened to arrive a long time before anyone else. Australia is a melting pot.

The idea that we are in anyway a one nation monoculture, or could become one, is patently false and totally destructive to national harmony. I believe the English monarchy represents a monoculture that we have to leave behind. It's a hollow, sick institution reduced to tabloid entertainment.

They can't even make room for Harry and Megan, whereas Andrew still has a royal house. Pauline Hanson's monocultural concept, is based on an English royal family and attempts to disenfranchise most of our population. For that reason alone, it's time Australia became a republic.

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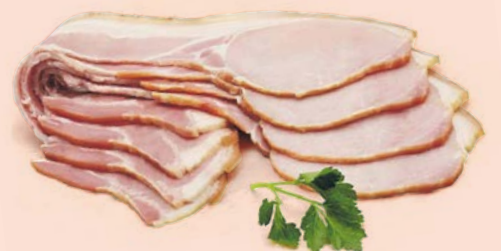
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The Bonobo by Raes opens in Byron Bay

When the team behind Raes was approached to operate a new hotel on Jonson Street, it marked a natural evolution for a brand that has spent more than three decades as a hands-on hospitality operator in Byron Bay – first through its boutique property on Wategos Beach, and now at The Bonobo.

The opportunity was shaped, in part, by a community problem Raes felt well-placed to help address. Byron Shire Council approved the development with a clear rationale – shifting visitor demand away from existing housing stock leased short-term on Airbnb, and toward purpose-built, professionally serviced

accommodation. For a town where housing pressure has pushed long-term rentals further out of reach for locals, it's a step in the right direction – one hotel's worth of visitor demand taken off the housing market.

It was this premise, paired with the property itself, that drew Raes in. The Bonobo's mix of 74 rooms and residences – including two- and three-bedroom apartments with fully equipped kitchens and laundries – meant Raes could extend its level of service to the groups and families who'd otherwise have booked an entire house on Airbnb, without competing for the same housing locals need.

'We were attracted to this

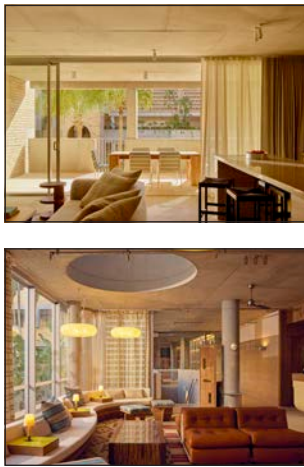


The Bonobo is a hotel gathering point for locals and visitors in Byron Bay. Photo supplied

project because of what it could offer the community as much as our guests,' says Marty McCaig, group general manager, Raes. 'Thirty years in, we're still growing with the Byron community, and The

Bonobo is very much part of that – it's a place where guests, locals and anyone passing through are equally welcome. We're really proud of what we've built here.'

That sense of belonging



extends to The Lobby Lounge, an all-day space spilling across a terrace and open courtyard, conceived as a neighbourhood gathering place rather than a hotel amenity – somewhere for

a long lunch, a weeknight drink, or simply to be.

The precinct wears its regional roots proudly. The Lobby Lounge menu draws on local producers including Brookie's gin, olives from Grumpy Grandma in the Northern Rivers, and seafood from Daniel Fleming in Byron Bay. The bar pours The Bonobo Lager, brewed exclusively for the property. Throughout the hotel, a curated collection of art and design celebrates Australian makers.

The Bonobo by Raes is now open. Hotel rooms from \$355 per night.

■ Provided by The Bonobo. www.thebonobo.com.au

Money matters: the dos and don'ts of investing

Financial markets remain one of the most effective ways to build wealth over time, regardless of external conditions. This is driven by the enduring human ability to innovate, adapt and create value.

Having navigated many market cycles, an important part of the role of experienced financial advisors like Jake and Sam at Ord Minnett is helping clients avoid decisions that may be detrimental to their long-term financial wellbeing.

Here are some of the key investment principles they believe are essential to making the most of your portfolio.

Always stay invested

During market downturns, the temptation to sell can be strong. However, these

periods often present some of the best opportunities to increase exposure to quality assets – where circumstances and cash flow allow.

Likewise, sitting on the sidelines waiting for the 'perfect' time to invest can also be costly.

Markets are notoriously difficult to predict, which is why remaining invested and focusing on quality opportunities is often the more effective strategy.

Do the work before you invest

Investing should never be rushed. You wouldn't purchase a home without doing proper research, and shares should be approached with the same level of diligence.

That's where experience matters.



Jake and Sam bring a wealth of experience to their clients right here in the Byron Shire. Photo supplied

The financial advisers at Ord Minnett, are backed by more than 150 years of corporate origins, creating strong foundations of market experience, research and insight, helping Australians navigate

changing market conditions through generations of economic cycles. That depth of knowledge provides confidence, perspective and discipline when making investment decisions.

Use asset allocation to manage risk

Managing risk isn't about avoiding markets altogether – it's about structuring your portfolio correctly.

Holding defensive assets alongside growth assets such as shares can provide flexibility while still allowing you to benefit from long-term market growth and compounding.

Harness the power of compounding

Compounding remains one of the most powerful forces in wealth creation.

By reinvesting returns, investments can grow exponentially over time. Likewise, quality companies that reinvest retained earnings

effectively can generate substantial long-term value for shareholders.

If you'd like to explore the right investment strategy for your next chapter, reach out to Jake or Sam at Ord Minnett to start a conversation.

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

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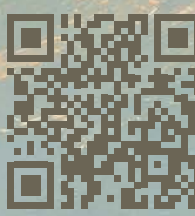
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SPAGHETTI CIRCUS

Term 3 at Spaghetti Circus kicks off on Monday, 20 July – and this term, everyone performs! Watch your kids (or you) perform in our annual show, with five shows across three unforgettable days: Friday 28, Saturday 29, and Sunday 30 August at Mullumbimby Showgrounds.

Circus isn't just for kids - our preschool classes (ages 2-5) build confidence, coordination and courage through play, while our adult classes let grown-ups swing, balance and tumble too – no experience needed.

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or call 02 6684 3038

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Feeling Groovy Music School is a fresh and exciting new music school in Mullumbimby, built around creativity, community and a genuine love of music. What began as a small teaching practice has grown into its own vibrant space, now home to a passionate team of teachers and students of all ages. They offer lessons in singing, DJ'ing, guitar, piano, bass and drums, with each lesson shaped around the individual. Feeling Groovy is about confidence, connection, making music and feeling good! Book online.

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

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Oz Grom Open wraps up weekend in Lennox

After five days of competition, the 2026 Soundboks Oz Grom Open saw a fairytale finish to competition yesterday at Lennox Head's Seven Mile Beach, with huge performances, bluebird skies and local wins in dreamy two-foot conditions.

Lachlan Arghyros (Kingscliff, NSW) claimed a breakthrough victory at the 2026 Traeger Grills Pro Junior at Lennox Head, delivering a composed and high-performance display throughout the final.

In the Under 16 Boys division, Loci Cullen continued his remarkable run of form, backing up his recent victory at the Billabong Occy's Grom Comp just a week earlier by claiming the another title at Lennox Head.



Oz Grom 2026. Photo O'Neill Australia

Arghyros combined powerful rail surfing with progressive manoeuvres to

post the highest two-wave total of the final, holding off a talented field to claim the

prestigious Pro Junior title. ■ Read full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.

Community On The Horizon

Mullumbimby CWA

Plans are underway to celebrate the centenary of Mullumbimby CWA branch, which was formed in 1926. The celebration will be a special lunch at the CWA Rooms, at noon on Saturday, 22 August. The rooms will be open at 11am for viewing of the historical displays. There are many local family names on the honour boards, and it is hoped at least one member of each of the local families will attend the celebration. Contact branch secretary Jenny Barlow on 66 847 282 to add your name to the list. All branch members are saddened by the loss of patron and life member, Elna Bostock. They will attend her funeral service and form a guard of honour to show their respect, on 16 July.

Harold and Maude

Cult classic *Harold and Maude* will be screened on 15 July by the Mullumbimby Drill Hall Film Society. The introduction will be by Charles Hambling, a professional actor who has written for TV and radio and taught video production. Charles is a member of the committee and he says: 'The film divided audiences and critics. It bombed when it was first released but today Rotten Tomatoes rates it 99.5 and it is now widely praised for its anti-war and anti-repression themes'. All enquiries to drillhallfilms@gmail.com

Christmas in July

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

REDinc

REDinc is a local grass-roots disability support provider that specialises in creating meaningful social experiences for people living with disability in the Northern Rivers region. Join the REDinc Saturday Adventure Club for Whale Watching on Saturday, 1 August. Participants will be able to get up-close and personal with some of the world's largest mammals, while enjoying a thrilling cruise adventure on a wheelchair accessible boat. This is a fully supported event. For more information, please contact miranda.burne@redinc.org.au or call 0491 067 452.

Tennis comp returns to Northern Rivers at Mullum and Bangalow

Jesse Taylor

One of the Northern Rivers' biggest tennis events is set to return later this month, with the 2026 Mullumbimby Community Open taking place on Saturday, 25 and Sunday, 26 July across Mullumbimby and Bangalow tennis clubs.

Tournament organisers are encouraging players of all ages and abilities to get involved, with entries closing on Saturday, 18 July.

Fun tennis weekend for everyone

The event will feature

Open, B Division, and Junior competitions, with \$1,000 prize money on offer for both the men's and women's open singles champions. Players may enter up to three events, making it a fantastic opportunity to enjoy a full weekend of tennis.

A new addition for 2026 is the Orange Ball (9 and under) event, designed to introduce younger players to tournament tennis in a fun, supportive environment with coach supervision throughout the day. The weekend promises

more than just tennis, with live music, BBQ, and a welcoming community atmosphere creating an enjoyable experience for players, families, and spectators alike. Whether you're chasing dreams, gaining valuable match experience or simply

looking to enjoy a weekend of community sport, organisers hope to see a strong turnout from across the region. Players interested in taking part are encouraged to enter at: <https://www.mullumbimbytennisclub.com/whats-on>.

Byron Shire Rebels men's XV vs Lismore on Ladies Day

David Hywel

The Rebels men's XV made the trip to Lismore Rugby Park on Ladies Day and delivered a commanding 38-17 victory. A notable piece of club history was made as David Eastwell and his son Jude took to the field together in the first XV – believed to be the first father and son pairing for the newly merged Byron Shire club, with David having previously represented Bangalow. The Rebels came out with

intent from the off, a series of strong carries building momentum before Sam Valpy pushed through to the tryline himself and added the conversion for a 0-7 lead. The Rebels kept their foot down, more powerful running leading to Oisín Canney crossing for a second try, though the conversion was missed to leave it 0-12. Lismore clawed back into the contest, cutting through the Rebels' defensive line with an inside ball to make it 7-12. The Rebels responded



Oisín Canney scoring a try. Photo supplied

through their forwards, driving deep into Lismore's 22

before Jude Eastwell scored off a pick-and-go to restore

a two-score cushion at 7-19. Lismore hit back again, working their backline off a scrum to score out wide and make it 12-19. The Rebels had the final say of the half however, winning a lineout a few metres out and Zach Klassen picking from the maul to run through and score. The half time score was 12-24. Klassen picked up where he left off after the break, powering through three defenders to touch down and push the lead out to 12-31. A lengthy period of contested

possession followed, with the Rebels threatening on multiple occasions without adding to their tally. Lismore took advantage, scoring out wide with fast play to make it 17-31. The Rebels responded immediately, Valpy grounding it again and converting to close out the scoring at 17-38. Zach Klassen was named Man of the Match after a powerful display that yielded two tries. The Rebels travel to Albert Park next Saturday to face Casino, with kick off at 3.15pm.

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Good Taste

Dining Guide

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

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No Bones: new seasonal menu captures the relaxed spirit of Byron dining

As the cooler months settle over Byron Bay, No Bones is embracing the season with a fresh menu designed for long lunches that roll into dinner, shared plates and evenings spent lingering over good food and cocktails. Tucked just moments from Main Beach, the local favourite has built a reputation for bold flavours, creative cooking and a welcoming atmosphere that keeps both locals and visitors returning time and time again.

The new seasonal menu continues that philosophy, showcasing produce-driven dishes that are both comforting and inventive. Standout plates include hibachi grilled beans with creamy ajo blanco, smoked almonds and herb oil, housemade ravioli filled with potato and celeriac and finished with fermented cashew and orange butter, and sticky tofu served with whipped

peanut and sesame cream, crispy lotus root and fragrant herbs. Whether you're ordering a few dishes to share or settling in with one of their chef-curated banquet menus, there's plenty to discover. And no visit is complete without the restaurant's famous tiramisu, a dessert that has become a favourite among regulars.

The experience extends well beyond the menu. Mondays are made for No Bones popular \$20 Carbonara, available from 5pm, while Happy Hour runs every evening from 5pm to 6pm – \$14 cocktails, \$10 mocktails, \$9 natural wines and \$8 local tap beers. On the first Friday of every month, the restaurant welcomes local jazz crew Mondo Hum from 7pm.

Increasingly, No Bones is also becoming a destination for celebrations. The intimate restaurant

provides a unique backdrop for birthdays, engagement parties, wedding celebrations, corporate dinners and private events, with tailored food and beverage packages designed around each occasion. Combining seasonal menus, handcrafted drinks and genuine hospitality, it's a space that feels effortlessly special without ever being overly formal.

Whether you're discovering the new menu, settling in for live jazz with friends, or planning your next celebration, No Bones continues to offer the kind of dining experience that captures the relaxed spirit of Byron Bay – thoughtful food, great drinks and memorable moments shared around the table.

■ Book online at nobones.co



A place that has stayed

Byron Bay has always been a place that draws people in. Some come for a weekend, others for a season, and many end up staying for a lifetime. It is a town shaped by movement, creativity and reinvention, where every generation leaves its own mark.

Against that backdrop, there is something quietly remarkable about the places that endure.

Fishheads first opened its doors overlooking Main Beach in 2000. More than two decades later, it remains one of Byron Bay's constants. In a town that continues to evolve, that kind of longevity is less about standing still and more about growing alongside the community.

Its location is one of the most recognisable in Australia, perched above Main Beach with uninterrupted views of the ocean. It is a place that could easily have become something very different over the years. Instead, owner Ralph Mamone has continued to invest in a business built not only on its setting, but on its connection to the people who call Byron home.

That connection has always extended beyond the restaurant itself. Every Christmas Day, Fishheads opens



Fishheads, which opened in 2000, has a wonderful position overlooking Main Beach.

its doors to provide lunch for people who may otherwise go without. Over the years it has become a meeting place for celebrations, post-surf breakfasts, family traditions and everyday moments, welcoming visitors while never losing sight of the local community that has supported it since the beginning.

This year marks another turning point. After 26 years managing the Byron Bay Memorial Pool, Fishheads is beginning a new chapter, with thoughtful changes planned for September that build on the values that have shaped the business from the start.

Those values are reflected in initiatives like Tuesday Locals Night. At a time when dining out has become increasingly difficult for many households, Fishheads has worked hard to keep its \$25 meal offering intact. Fish and chips, mussels or the chef's weekly special are available at a price designed to make a night out feel possible, not exclusive. It isn't simply about offering a discount; it's about making sure there's still room for locals around the table.

Sometimes that gathering is over breakfast and a Toby's Estate coffee. Sometimes it's oysters at sunset, a glass of wine after work, or dinner with family and friends.

For 26 years, Fishheads has looked out over Main Beach. More importantly, it has looked after the community that has made it feel like home.

■ Fishheads Byron Bay, 1 Jonson St. fishheadsbyron.com.au

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The Gyuto Monks of Tibet at Crystal Castle

The Gyuto Monks of Tibet are in residence at Crystal Castle until 30 August, offering a rare opportunity to experience a 600-year-old meditation tradition.

Set amongst giant crystals and peaceful botanic gardens, you can witness sacred chanting, observe the creation of sand mandalas and explore practices that encourage stillness, mindfulness and reflection.

Combined with daily meditation and crystal singing bowl experiences, Crystal Castle offers a tranquil space where you can slow down and reconnect with a sense of calm and wellbeing. The monks daily program is included in your entry pass. No additional charge.

Crystal Castle & Shambhala Gardens
81 Monet Drive, Montecollum
Open every day 10am – 5pm, last entry 4pm
02 6684 3111 crystalcastle.com.au/gyuto-monks/



The Byron Bay Vedic Meditation Retreat with Kate Cliff

Join Kate Cliff for a four-day Vedic Meditation Retreat from 3 to 6 August at Byron Bay's Wybalena Organic Farm. Set on 170 acres of pristine countryside, this intimate retreat includes Vedic meditation, rounding, breathwork, personalised Ayurvedic massage, time in nature, and organic meals by Burbury Wholefoods.

Learn Vedic meditation or deepen your existing practice in a supportive environment. Designed to calm the nervous system and restore clarity, energy and vitality, the retreat blends ancient Vedic wisdom with modern science. With more than 13 years of experience, former corporate lawyer and Vedic meditation teacher Kate Cliff offers a practical approach to lasting wellbeing. Leave feeling grounded, refreshed and equipped with practical tools for everyday life.

Bookings: info@katecliffmeditation.com.au or 0403 679 848



The Buttery

Since 1973, The Buttery has specialised in caring for, and supporting, people with mental health issues, and alcohol and other drug conditions.

The not-for-profit, charitable organisation delivers residential rehabilitation and outreach services across Northern NSW. While their head office is in Binna Burra in the Byron Hinterland, the footprint of The Buttery covers Tweed Heads in the north, to Port Macquarie in the south, and Kyogle to the west. In 2025, 10,009 participants were welcomed across their programs; 149 participants to residential services, and 9,860 participants across community and outreach offerings.

All Buttery programs are evidence-based and represent best practice, they are run by a team of staff with plenty of experience (50% have lived experience of alcohol and other drug misuse themselves).

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



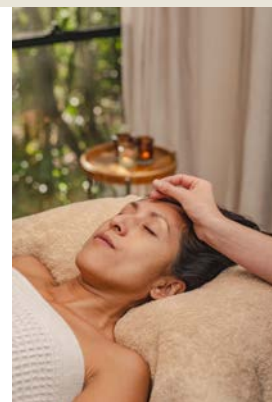
Gaia Retreat & Spa Rebalance Retreat

Hormonal changes can affect every aspect of wellbeing, from energy and sleep to mood, confidence and physical health. Gaia Retreat & Spa's four-night Rebalance Retreat has been thoughtfully designed to support women navigating perimenopause, menopause, and healthy ageing through a personalised, evidence-based approach.

Combining holistic therapies with expert guidance, the program includes a traditional Chinese medicine session, restorative massage, age-defying facial with LED light therapy, and a private mindfulness, meditation or restorative yoga session. Tailored to each guest's individual needs, the Rebalance Retreat provides practical tools to help manage symptoms while nurturing long-term health and vitality.

Set within the tranquil Byron Bay hinterland, this immersive retreat offers the space to slow down, reconnect with yourself, and embrace this stage of life with greater balance and confidence.

02 6687 1216
gaiaretreat.com.au



Releaf Integrative Clinic & Dispensary

Releaf Integrative Clinic & Dispensary brings a fresh, modern approach to traditional healthcare in Byron Bay. Located at 91 Jonson Street, Releaf specialises in alternative medicine, offering natural, evidence-informed therapies for those seeking a more holistic path to wellbeing. Our clinicians blend integrative care with a personalised approach, supporting patients who want options beyond conventional treatments. With Medicare-rebated consultations and an onsite dispensary, Releaf makes accessing alternative care simple, streamlined, and supportive. Whether you're exploring natural therapies for chronic health concerns or looking for a new way to approach your wellness, Releaf provides compassionate guidance and modern solutions.

Want to learn more? Book in for a free discovery call today. Visit releaf.com.au and discover a more natural way forward.

91 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
releaf.com.au



Nurture, build and strengthen

At Byron Community College, learning is about more than gaining new skills – it's about nurturing wellbeing, building confidence and strengthening community. This term's course lineup reflects the many ways education can support a healthier, more connected life.

Build the confidence to support others through Mental Health First Aid, explore a career in aged care or disability through Foundations of Support Work, or refresh essential lifesaving skills with First Aid & CPR. Learn to grow your fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs in Backyard Food Production, explore your creativity in Introduction to Floristry, or discover the therapeutic benefits of music in Guitar Level 1, where learning to play can be a rewarding way to relax, unwind and express yourself.

With something for every interest, stage of life, and goal, there's a course for everyone.

www.byroncollege.org.au



Kate Messenger Kinesiology

Pain is not 'normal'. Some wear and tear is natural as we age, however that plantar fasciitis, sore shoulder, or gut ache is actually your body trying to bring to your attention that something is out of balance.

Kinesiology is a gentle, holistic modality that helps reveal and release all kinds of stress held in the body. At its heart is the understanding that your body's innate intelligence is always communicating, trying to guide you toward balance.

During a session, Kate uses gentle muscle monitoring to reveal what's out of alignment – whether the root is emotional, structural, biochemical, energetic or subconscious. She then works with gentle, targeted techniques to shift the imbalance and help the body recalibrate itself so healing and repair become more accessible.

0413 003 301
katemessengerkinesiology.com.au
[@katemessenger_kinesiology](https://www.instagram.com/katemessenger_kinesiology)



byron healing

byronhealing.com.au

Byron Healing is a go-to website featuring informative and entertaining articles on health and wellbeing. It features a host of practitioners and businesses in the industry, offering a range of modalities and services across the Northern Rivers.



Upcoming Byron Healing client events

The ReSurfacing Workshop

Held by: Monique Jowsey
Date: August 1,2
Time: 9.30am-6.30pm over two days
Address: Zoom link will be provided
Contact: 0411 643 935
avataroceania.com
moniquej@avataroceania.com

Mental Health First Aid *

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Mullumbimby: Wed 29 Jul – Thur 30 Jul
Byron: Tues 25 Aug – Wed 26 Aug
Time: 9am-5pm
Price: *This training is subsidised by The NSW Government and may be fee free for eligible applicants
Address: Mullum campus: 6/8 Burringbar St
Byron Campus: 10 Shirley St
Contact: 02 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
byroncollege.org.au

First Aid & CPR

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Tue 23 June, Mon 27 July, Tue 18 Aug, Wed 16 Sept
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Price: First Aid \$150, CPR \$70
Address: Byron Campus: 10 Shirley St
Contact: 02 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
byroncollege.org.au

Byron Wellness Festival

Held by: Urban Creative Events Pty Ltd
Date: Fri 27 Nov – Sun 29 Nov
Time: Fri 5pm-10pm, Sat 7am-10pm, Sun 7am-9pm
Address: Red Devils Park, Byron Bay
Contact: info@byronwellnessfestival.com
byronwellnessfestival.com

Tuning Fork Workshop

Held by: Elizabeth Huxtable
Date: Sat 18 Jul
Time: 3.30pm-4.30pm
Address: 494 Left Bank Rd, Mullumbimby Creek
Contact: 0477 526 955
elizabethhuxtable.com/events

Byron Mini Retreat

Held by: Flo Fenton's Intouch Yoga
Date: Sat 15 Aug – Sun 16 Aug
Time: Sat 2-4.30pm, Sun 9.30am-4pm
Address: Suffolk Park Community Hall, 145 Alcorn St
Contact: 0418 441 437
intouchyogabyronbay.com/byron-bay-mini-yoga-retreat/
flo@intouchyogabyronbay.com

Bali Yoga and Culture Retreat

Held by: Flo Fenton's Intouch Yoga
Date: Sun 15 Nov – Sat 21 Nov
Time: Begins 5.30pm Sunday, ends 10am Saturday
Address: The Shala Bali, Ubud
Contact: 0418 441 437 · flo@intouchyogabyronbay.com
intouchyogabyronbay.com/bali-yoga-retreat-2026/

Yoga Course for Beginners

Held By: Lila Kirtana and Laxmivan Kubitzky
Date: Mon 29 Jun – Fri 3 Jul
Time: 5am-7.15pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: https://krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/cultivate-your-home-practice

Breathwork Practitioner Training

Held By: Erin Saw & team
Date: Fri 13 Nov – Sun 15 Nov
Time: 10am-5pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd., Eungella
Contact: https://krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/breathwork-practitioner-training

Reiki Practitioner Training Level 2

Held By: Shadi Kennedy
Date: Fri 10 Jul – Sun 12 Jul
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: https://krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/reiki-2

Vedic Fire Ceremony: Maha Yagna

Held By: Narahari Moncrieff
Date: Sat 11 Jul
Time: 4pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd., Eungella
Contact: https://krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/yagna

Learn To Lead Kirtan Immersion

Held By: Lila Kirtana & Laxmivan Kubitzky
Date: Mon 20 Jul – Fri 24 Jul
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: https://krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/kirtan-training

Craniosacral Therapy: Masterclasses 'Eyes & Vision & Immune System'

Held By: Etienne Peirsman
Date: Sat 25 Jul – Sun 2 Aug
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: https://krishnavillage-retreat.com/craniosacral-therapy-training

Yoga Nidra & Sound Bath Immersion - Harmony Within

Held by: Lionsgate Wellness
Date: Sat 18 Jul
Time: 2.30pm-4.30 pm
Address: Heartwood Farm, 498 Binna Burra Rd, Federal
Contact: https://www.lionsgatewellness.com.au/yoga-nidra-sound-bath-18-july-2026

Breathwork, Blue Lotus & The New Moon in Cancer

Held by: Lionsgate Wellness
Date: Sun 19 Jul
Time: 2.30pm-5.30 pm
Address: Heartwood Farm, 498 Binna Burra Rd, Federal
Contact: https://www.lionsgatewellness.com.au/breathwork-blue-lotus-and-cancer-new-moon-19-july-2026

Equine Assisted Healing - Horse Wisdom

Held by: Lionsgate Wellness
Date: Sun 26 Jul
Time: 11am-2pm
Address: Heartwood Farm, 498 Binna Burra Rd, Federal
Contact: https://www.lionsgatewellness.com.au/equine-assisted-healing-26-july-2026

Lion's Gate Portal Day Retreat - Divine Expansion

Held by: Lionsgate Wellness
Date: Sat 8 Aug
Time: 9.30am-4.30pm
Address: Heartwood Farm, 498 Binna Burra Rd, Federal
Contact: https://www.lionsgatewellness.com.au/lions-gate-portal-breathwork-retreat-byron-bay-8-august

Mindful Self Protection - A one-day workshop

Held by: Shirsha Marie
Date: Sun 13 Sep
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Address: Brisbane Venue TBA
Contact: https://heartmindcentre.com.au/workshops/

Vedic Meditation Course

Held by: The Meditation People
Date: Mon 10 Aug – Thu 13 Aug
Time: By arrangement (90 minute lessons each day)
Address: Provided upon registration.
Contact: https://themeditationpeople.com/info-sessions

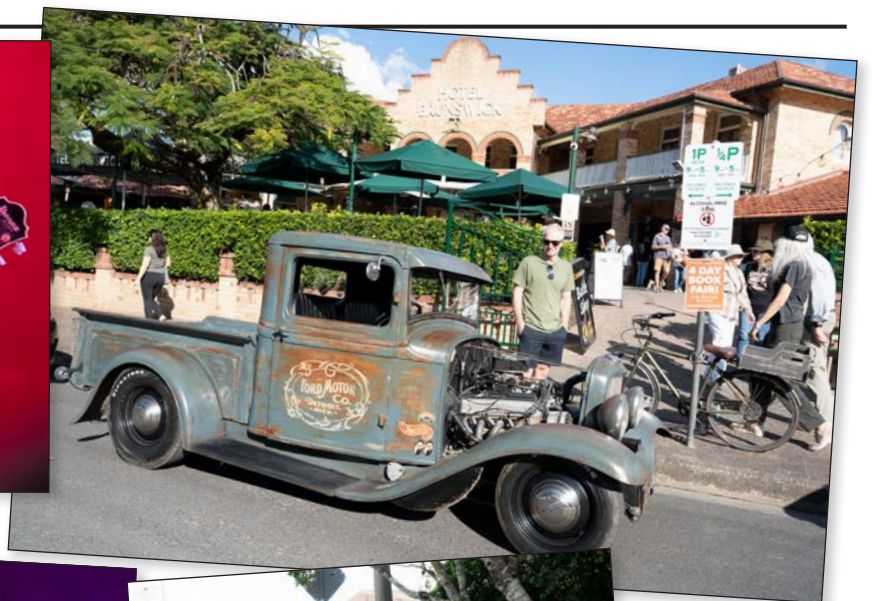
Jeff Dawson's pics from Mullum Roots Festival and Back to Bruns



Accordion busker



Bill Chambers



The Back to Bruns Hot Rod Run rumbled through town on Sunday.



Kyle Lionheart

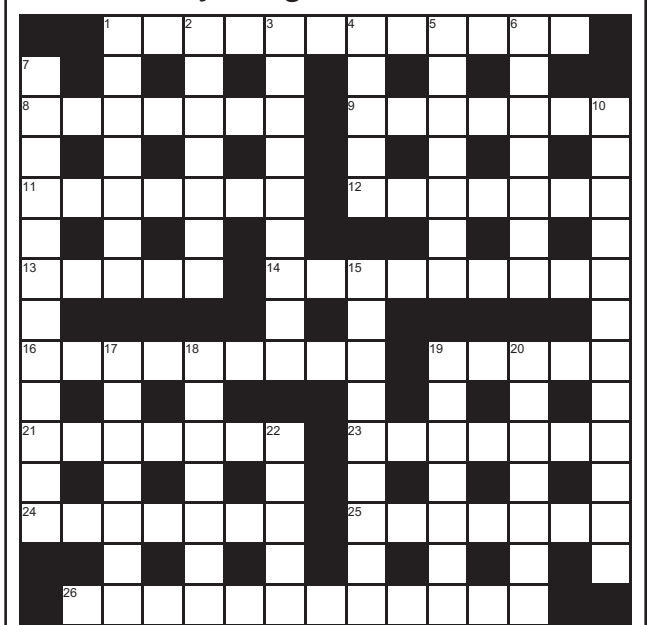


Peter O'Doherty, Claire Moore and Dave Graney



Mungo from the Bardo

Crossword by Mungo MacCallum #17



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Desanctify wicked secret deacon (12)
- Get back together; Grundy to pour out (7)
- Sour expert caught after breaking rib (7)
- Take vehicle, be in debt – Santa's kind of transport! (7)
- Painting, perhaps – skill for master (7)
- She keeps the lists – not the Queen! (5)
- Kill the game – it's a dangerous passage (9)
- Amusing, or badly under-educated? (9)
- Straightforward country singer James (5)
- Absurd English icon, so absurd Romanian playwright (7)
- A toff, the French king – not as rough (7)
- Designer information turns black (7)
- Popular soft drink for Spanish princess (7)
- Questioned when old gun found concealed in grave (12)

DOWN

- Wrong deity rises at a steady pace (7)
- There's a big bird sitting on the pub – take a big lever! (7)
- Greek character, one loony writer up for element 93 (9)
- Cat leaves Median capital for Hulk actor? (1,4)
- About about about about about ten? Go back inside! (2-5)
- Publication for account of sad, short sex-drive (7)
- Requirement to quietly overhaul (12)
- Pundits provide observation, song and tea, by the sound of it (12)
- Surprisingly, soigné gay is unconcerned (9)
- Figure no horse working (7)
- Baronet returns alone for a meatball (7)
- Good gamble over misleading fine (7)
- Smooth but uninsulated (7)
- Maybe wiser, unlike 20 (5)

■ Crossword circa 2008

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Annul declaration of holiness, desanctify (12)
- Come together in a pack once more (7)
- Bitter, caustic (7)
- Reindeer (7)
- Mode of artistic expression (7)
- One who keeps records (5)
- Passage across gap in a glacier (9)
- Uneducated person, idiot (9)
- Direct, not sharp (5)
- Playwright of the absurd, Eugene ... (7)
- Kinder, less rough (7)
- Pertaining to a black person (7)
- Spanish princess (7)
- Questioned aggressively (12)

DOWN

- Steady pace between walking and running (7)
- Large iron lever (7)
- Element with atomic number 93 (9)
- Initial and name of Hulk actor (1,4)
- Go inside again (2-5)
- Small newspaper size, not broadsheet (7)
- Requirement stated in advance (12)
- Collective noun for critics and columnists (12)
- Carefree, untroubled (9)
- Nine-sided figure (7)
- Meatball (7)
- Do good to, be of service (7)
- Without wrinkles, smooth (of a face) (7)
- Of a greater age (5)

Last week's solution Emma Briggs #9



Soapbox

www.echo.net.au/soap-box

How the Phone Stole Us

When I was a child we didn't have a phone. We couldn't afford it. If we needed to make a call we went next door to the Clancys' house and sat at their kitchen bench, lifted the receiver, turned the Bakelite handle three times, and waited for the operator. My school friend's mum, Maureen worked the switchboard at the local post office and she'd ask for the connecting number. I'd say '324' and she'd put me through to my Grandmother, or one of the three people I knew who had a phone. Sometimes you could just say their name because Maureen knew everyone in the district.

A phone was an emergency system. You didn't ring to chat. It was to deliver a message. Someone was sick. Someone was requesting assistance. Someone was dead. Our lack of a phone was further proof that we were poor. But Mum was a widow, and a phone was an indulgence. Contact with the outside world came by actually going outside – to the shops, to the pub, to church. If you wanted to stay in touch with friends and relatives elsewhere you wrote letters. And they turned up daily in the metal box on my fence. I loved letter writing. Ever since I was a little girl I wrote letters. I sent my other Grandmother, the one that lived 90 minutes away, long letters about my week. I shared stories of my pony rides in the bush, a hidden creek I'd found, a drawing I'd done at school, and included a dried flower I'd grown and pressed in a book. I didn't send photos because we didn't have a camera either. And when we did have one, Mum would only ever have a roll of 24 which would last 12 months. The decision to take a photo was made at special occasions, where we would stand in a group after a family lunch and squint into the sun. Most of the memories of my early life are just that – memories. I don't have photographic records.

If I wanted to know something about the world, I would go next door to the Clancys' again and borrow their relevant *Encyclopedia Britannica*. All the knowledge we needed was contained in this set of books that was sold by door-to-door salesmen to parents eager to support their kid's education. Animals, biology, ancient and modern history could be looked up alphabetically, the correct book chosen – E for Egypt, and the entire ancient civilisation would be divulged with two pictures and about 300 words. That was my access to knowledge.

Every night we ate dinner and watched the ABC news on a small black and white television. That was how we were informed about politics and world affairs. I didn't understand it, but it felt important so I



My device has maps to help me when I'm lost. Yet we are so lost. We have so much information, yet we are so misinformed. We have so much connection, yet we are so lonely.

watched quietly, waiting for the story of hope that came at the end about a dog who ran away and came back.

To listen to music I chose from one of about 20 albums and opened the lid on the stereogram, set the dial to 33 and placed a shiny, black vinyl disc on the turntable. Shirley Bassey, Glen Campbell, Johnny Matthis, Chad Morgan. It wasn't an impressive collection. The radio, which we listened to every morning was 4SB. A country radio station that did hospital calls. 'This one's for Mavis, she's just had a hysterectomy', and then they'd play a Slim Dusty song. I didn't scroll on YouTube. I closed my eyes, and I used my imagination.

I'm 58 and it seems incomprehensible how much has changed since I was eight. Now we all have a phone, and it's not a phone, it's a device. It's technically a supercomputer that gives us access to all the information to nearly everything that has ever happened. It streams news. It plays music – not 20 crappy albums – virtually everything ever recorded. It stores thousands of photos and videos that I take every day of things as meaningless as where I parked my car. It holds my banking, my credit cards, my digital ID, it hosts platforms to connect me with friends but also strangers. It gathers my data and sends me advertisements of sensible leather boots

,that I buy while I'm lying in bed. It shows me reels of luxurious holidays, exposes me to the outrage of those who farm hate. If I wanted to I could use this device to surveil my kids. Although we are all surveilled through the massive legal infrastructure of commercial data tracking, cellular network logs and targeted software. My device has maps to help me when I'm lost. Yet we are so lost. We have so much information, yet we are so misinformed. We have so much connection, yet we are so lonely. We use the phone to keep us safe, yet it puts us at risk. We no longer get bored. Instead we are anxious, overwhelmed and sad.

The device meant to save us, has enslaved us.

I think back with irony to the moment when things changed, my short legs swinging on the stool in the Clancys' kitchen, telling my Grandmother the good news. 'We're getting a phone!'

■ Mandy Nolan's column has appeared in *The Echo* for almost 25 years. She is a writer, comedian and artist, is the preselected Greens candidate for Ballina and was the Greens candidate at the past two federal elections.

STARS BY LILITH

Retro Mercury's misunderstandings can be genuinely upsetting. That said, they also offer a golden opportunity to try again, with feeling, for clearer, kinder communicating...

CANCER THE CRAB

ARIES: Neptune retrograde transits, especially when they're in your sign, have a way of dissolving whatever's just not solid enough to hold in current conditions. Which can be challenging, but on the upside does tend to clear the path necessary for something far more deserving of your considerable energy.

TAURUS: Mercury's backspin in your communication zone may see some edgy reactions from your inner circle this week. In which case Chiron in your sign advises that owning your part in miscommunications could broker some genuine breakthroughs to deeper understanding and a more effective way of connecting in the future.

GEMINI: With the explosive combo of changemaker Uranus and motivating Mars in your sign there's bound to be brainstorms, but not every exciting idea is worth pursuing, especially if it stirs up division or drama. Better to park them for now in the pending file till Mercury moves forward again next week.

CANCER: This week's new moon in your sign shines on Cancer's prime season for sprucing up your base of operations. Home is the Crab's power place, and as seasonal peristalsis draws energy inwards to address domestic concerns, if you've been thinking about a decor upgrade, now's the time to do something about it.

LEO: As this year's astral season of at-home cosying draws to a close, Jupiter in Leo boosts your confidence and charisma to tackle this week's challenges with artistic flair, signature saviour faire and trademark showmanship. And also to encourage others by inviting them into your luminous personal sphere.

VIRGO: Yes Virgo, there's plenty to grumble and grouch about this week: climate change, imminent Armageddon, bills through the roof. But try being thankful as you're paying for things many people in the world don't have, because practising gratitude signals to the universe to keep the incoming current flowing.

LIBRA: Online shopping during Mercury retro can be a recipe for post-purchase dissonance, so check return policies, along with backing up data, reconfirming arrangements and being patient with delays and technical difficulties. Good news? It's a peak week to rest, revisit projects on hold and reconnect with friends.

SCORPIO: This week's Mercury retrograde runs true to form in being the time to have a backup Plan B up your sleeve, and also to practise the re- verbs, as in renegotiating relationship agreements, redefining boundaries, reaching towards clearer understandings, revisiting forgotten dreams and restoring order in the home zone.

SAGITTARIUS: Wanting to initiate an air-clearing convo before you explode like a human volcano? Okay, but you'll need to be sensitive to nuance, and willing to attune to the mood of your audience. Or alternatively, wait till Mercury's more amenable next week to finding the right words to express your feelings.

CAPRICORN: Capricorns tend to prefer managing difficult situations solo, but astral emphasis in your partnership department advises that problem-solving would benefit from pairing up. This is an astrologically auspicious week to reach out and ask for support, when connections tested by Mercury retrograde could become even stronger.

AQUARIUS: This week's solar emphasis in your administrative sector is prime time for Aquarians to overhaul anything that's bogging you down. To schedule overdue appointments, clear clutter, and honestly assess whether the helpers in your life are just creating more work. Above all to give Aquarius some quality self-care.

PISCES: Your planet ruler Neptune's retrograde suggests that channelling current astro-energies into conscious choices rather than reflex reactions will help you feel increasingly less and less affected by echoes of the past. Tune into this week's emphasis in your creative zone to make this process more fun and enjoyable.

Volume 41 #05
15-21 July, 2026
Editor: Eve Jeffery
Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
P: 02 6684 1777
W: echo.net.au/entertainment

The good, the bad and the Melbourne Ska Orchestra

If Ennio Morricone (*The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*) swaggered onto a Tijuana dancefloor, with a touch of Melbourne dust kicked up in the process, chances are the end result would sound exactly like Melbourne Ska Orchestra's 2025 album **The Ballad Of Monte Loco**. And in 2026, this bustling collection of desert-soaked ska and reggae songs is taking full flight, with the ARIA Award-winning collective announcing a huge run of Australian headline shows this year, along with the, as yet unannounced, release of a deluxe version of *The Ballad Of Monte Loco*, aptly dubbed *Monte Loco Rides Again*. Melbourne Ska Orchestra will be bringing the full spaghetti-ska big-band – reinvigorating the golden age of ska through a modern and cinematic lens. Melbourne Ska Orchestra boasts some of the country's most revered performers

and musicians, spearheaded by the charismatic **Nicky Bomba** (John Butler Trio, Bomba, Busyamento) at the helm. Forming in the early 2000s, Melbourne Ska Orchestra have spent decades weaving creative magic, from their self-titled debut which sparked sold-out national tours and international festival appearances through to two ARIA Award wins and several nominations, millions of streams, and a reputation as being one of the country's most celebrated and cutting-edge exports. Perpetually pushing the boundaries of ska and reggae, with the group also comprising up to 26 members spanning vocals, horns, keys, percussion, woodwind and more, Melbourne Ska Orchestra's *The Ballad Of Monte Loco* is a collection of songs soaked in rich storytelling, western smoulder and an inescapably infectious

energy that once again expanded the group's sonic identity into tantalising new territory – it's cinematic, it's got swagger, it's got heat – the costumes, the horns blazing, the rhythm section rattling the walls, fans can expect to sweat, dance, and leave with a massive grin on their face. That's the guarantee. A joyful and unstoppable creative force to be reckoned with, the reality of life on the road for a band like MSO, brandishing an army of musicians (or 'the full wagon', as the band puts it) at all times is not without its own unique logistics when it comes to touring and life on the road. But, as Bomba reveals, there's no downside to taking this village of insatiable professionals on the road after all this time, and the upcoming Monte Loco Rides Again Tour is no exception. 'I've gotta say, it's always INCREDIBLE!'

'There's nothing like the feeling of MSO getting back on the road. It's like herding the most talented, beautiful cats you've ever seen. This show will transport you into a world of saloon-ready soundscapes, Latin licks, hazy desert swoon and so much more, do not miss your chance to revel in the unforgettable creative world of Melbourne Ska Orchestra. 'Just come dance,' says Bomba. 'Seriously. Life's heavy right now for a lot of people and we want MSO shows to be the place where you leave all of that at the door for two hours. We put everything into these shows, every night, every city. 'See you on the floor.' **Friday, 18 September at the Hotel Brunswick – this show is guaranteed to sell out – tickets available now from www.moshtix.com.au.**



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6685 6454

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THUR 16 JULY

Sarah Grant 6pm, DJ Renee Simone 9.15pm
Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

FRI 17 JULY

The Swamps 7pm, Zee & The Gravity 10.15pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

SAT 18 JULY

Kane Muir Trio 7pm, DJ Low Rent Dirty 10.15pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

SUN 19 JULY

Tiffany Grace 5pm,
Vinyl Sundays ft Hot Salami 8.15pm

MON 20 JULY

Erin Shay 6pm | Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

TUES 21 JULY

Marshall Okell 6pm | Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

WED 22 JULY

Matt Armitage 6pm | Duelling Piano Bar 9pm



LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT



COCKTAILS!



NORTHERN BOTTLESHOP



Here she comes

Tiffany Grace is a 22-year-old Brisbane-based singer/songwriter/guitarist. Her original songs are deep, uplifting, and relatable, with an acoustic, pop-country feel that are getting attention worldwide. Tiffany has opened for Toni Childs and Vika and Linda – she has made some incredible milestones in her music career, opening for big acts, playing festivals Australia-wide and now her first full-length album/tour for *Ripples in Time*.

Tiffany has been traveling through Queensland bringing her signature heartfelt songwriting, soulful sound, and powerful aura to a set of unforgettable live shows, and this week she is playing at Byron Bay's Northern Hotel – this is one you don't want to miss.

Her songs have been played on radio stations worldwide and streamed on repeat as she progressively takes on bigger stages. Don't miss the chance to experience one of Australia's up-and-coming young stars.

Check out her show on Sunday from 5pm at The Northern, Byron Bay.

Tonight's The Night – actually, it's Thursday night

Rob Caudill, renowned for his uncanny resemblance to the legendary **Rod Stewart**, continues to captivate audiences worldwide – whether he's stopped in airports for autographs or turning heads in restaurants, Caudill's presence is unmistakable.

When he steps on stage, the crowd's reaction is electric. Women scream themselves hoarse, and it's easy to see why. Caudill is a dead-on Rod Stewart tribute, boasting the high-definition jawline, the iconic spiky blonde hair, and, most importantly, the nose. His naturally raspy voice mirrors Stewart's distinctive sound, effortlessly hitting every high note from Stewart's younger days.

Rob Caudill's career as Rod Stewart's doppelgänger has taken him around the globe. For the past 20 years, he has been a staple performer with the world-famous *Legends in Concert* show out of Las Vegas. 'I've got the greatest job in the world, making a living doing something I love,' says Caudill.

His show is a must-see, delivering the very best of Rod Stewart with a world-class performance.

Tonight's The Night – The Ultimate Rod Stewart Tribute takes the stage on Thursday in the Ballina RSL Auditorium. Reserved seating – tickets are \$45 inc. booking fees from ballinarsl.com.au/events. Doors 7pm, show 7.30pm.



Art exhibition inspired by nature

Elemental: Conversations with Nature is an exhibition bringing together a group of local artists who present their work for community enjoyment in one of the Shire's many local halls – **Coorabell Hall**.

Eight established and midcareer artists working across painting, drawing, weaving, ceramics, and textiles, will be on show, with works inspired by the natural world – each artist explores the forms, patterns, materials, and forces found in nature.

The artists: **Sharon Whittle, Rina Genis, Zimmi Forest, Carolyn Delzoppo, Jennifer Muller, Susan Fell, Karyn Fendley** and **Anthea Amore**, each have a clearly developed expression of the natural world, whether drawing, landscape painting, 3D ceramic and woven fibre forms or textile works.

Central to this exhibition is experience. Some have been

working quietly for many years, with occasional group shows, others have held solo exhibitions and some have international recognition – for one artist, it is her very first exhibition.

The official launch is on Friday, 24 July and coincides with the **Coorabell Curry Night** – make a curry date with friends, and enjoy an evening of art.

The joy, for the audience, of visiting this exhibition at the Coorabell Hall is in a curiosity about materials, techniques and the variety of individual approaches.

Rina Genis is an octogenarian. She has been involved in the arts all her life and in recent years has focused on the meditative art of mandala painting.

Anthea Amore makes ceramic sculpture in porcelain and stoneware that draw on seedpods and oceanic forms.

Karyn Fendley is a contemporary landscape artist based in Mullumbimby, and Sharon Whittle's inspiration is nature and flowers.

Susan Fell creates shibori and very distinctive botanical contact printed art shawls, along with drawing and watercolour paintings.

Zimmi Forest has been weaving, working and exhibiting with the plant kingdom for over 30 years, and **Carolyn Delzoppo** says her drawing practice is about looking and noticing, and the quiet contemplation of being present in the moment.

Jennifer Muller is drawn to earthy colours and strong design in her ceramic practice.

This exhibition runs from Wednesday, 22 July to Sunday, 26 July. The official opening is on Friday, 24 July from 5pm.

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e: gigs@echo.net.au

w: echo.net.au/gig-guide.

DEADLINE 5PM ON FRIDAYS

GIG GUIDE

CINEMA

Look who's come down for dinner

Failed musician Joe arrives home from work to discover his stay-at-home wife Angela has invited their upstairs neighbours, divorcee Pina and her partner, widower Hawk, over for dinner at their apartment. Joe and Angela's marriage is rocky and they bicker constantly, most recently over the loud sex sounds they hear from upstairs every night. Joe plans to confront the couple, but Angela, who is desperate to befriend the neighbours, demands he keep calm and quiet.

Fresh from Sundance, where it emerged as one of the festival's breakout hits, *The Invite* is the acclaimed new comedy from **Olivia Wilde** (*Booksmart*, *Don't Worry Darling*), praised for its razor-sharp humour, crackling chemistry and perceptive take on modern relationships.

Feeling stuck and increasingly disconnected, Joe (Emmy winner **Seth Rogen**) and Angela (Wilde) invite their enigmatic upstairs neighbours over for dinner. What begins as an awkward evening of drinks and conversation soon drifts into increasingly unexpected territory, forcing everyone at the table to confront uncomfortable truths about love, attraction and commitment.

Also starring Academy Award winner **Penélope Cruz** and Golden Globe winner **Edward Norton**, *The Invite* balances biting comedy with surprising emotional insight, serving up a deliciously awkward examination of the delicate rules that keep relationships together, or pull them apart.

The Invite is screening at Palace Cinemas this week – palacecinemas.com.au.

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

OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS

QCWA HALL, COOLANGATTA, 6PM GOLD COAST JAZZ JAM

THURSDAY 16

BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ALPHA STOMP

NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM OPEN MIC

THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM SARAH GRANT + DJ RENEE SIMONE + DUELING PIANO BAR

GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM TEMPLE OF FIRE

FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL 5.30PM DJ RAHEL

HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM CHARLI JADE

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

BALLINA RSL 7PM ROD STEWART TRIBUTE

LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND

FRIDAY 17

RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM THE FUNNY GOATS BAND

ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM JOSH HAMILTON

LONE GOAT GALLERY, BYRON BAY, 5PM EXHIBITION OPENING – THE STILL POINT FT. DJ KODA

NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM DANI QUAYLE

THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM THE SWAMPS + ZEE & THE GRAVITY + DUELING PIANO BAR

SATURDAY 18

BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM JOCK BARNES + JASON MCGREGOR DUO + DJ REIFLEX

BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM LIFE ON LAND'S EDGE

NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM DJ AFRODISEA + DJ MONSIEUR DIOP

THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM KANE MUIR TRIO + DJ LOW RENT DIRTY + DUELING PIANO BAR

THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 5PM ALLY PALMER

HOTEL BRUNSWICK 12PM BEDDY RAYS, PEACH FUR, VANILLA GORILLA

BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM LIL' CHEEKY, 7PM BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE

WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM DJ VINYL DAN

SUNDAY 19

BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM DON ROGERS BAND + MISS RENEE SIMONE

THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM TIFFINY GRACE + VINYL SUNDAY'S FT HOT SALAMI

THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, 5.30PM MATT DAY

HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM HAYLEY GRACE & THE BAY COLLECTIVE

BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE

DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 10.30AM ONCE UPON A SONG

WEDNESDAY 22

RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, DAN HANNAFORD

BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM HARRY NICHOLS

THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM MATT ARMITAGE + DUELING PIANO BAR

THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM

OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS

MONDAY 20

RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, ALEX TILLEY

BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM TAHLIA MATHESON

THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM ERIN SHAY + DUELING PIANO BAR

TUESDAY 21

RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, NATHAN KAYE

BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM JASON DELPHIN

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

TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, 11AM A TRIBUTE TO THE DELLTONES

MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS

BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM JASON DELPHIN

LENNOX HOTEL 4PM LILLI-ROSE SHEEN

BALLINA RSL 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT RUSTBUCKET

SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM LUKE HAYWARD

ELTHAM HOTEL 4PM THE MAGPIE DIARIES W/ CJ STRANGER

UKI MARKET COSMIC CRUMB AND MICHELLE BELLE

SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM ELEEA

SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, 2PM PHOENIX ROSE

CLUB TWEED 1PM DAVID BARRY + CORY HARGRAVES

TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, 2.30PM CASEY DONOVAN

It's Free!

to post your gig in the Echo Gig Guide

It will appear in the paper, the online gig guide and on Bay FM

email gigs@echo.net.au with the details

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NT LIVE: LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES (CTC)

Sun: 1:30PM

SPA26 MISTURA (M)

Fri, Sun, Tues: 6:00PM – By Pops

SPA26 ROMERÍA (MATS+)

Thurs, Sat, Mon, Wed: 6:00PM – By Pops

FAMILY FILMS

MINIONS & MONSTERS (PG)

Daily except Wed: 10:40AM, 1:50PM, 3:50PM, 5:50PM. Wed: 10:30AM, 1:50PM, 3:50PM, 5:50PM

MOANA (PG)

Daily except Mon, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 7:10PM. Mon:

10:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM. Wed: 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG)

Daily: 10:45AM

TOY STORY 5 (G)

Daily except Mon, Wed: 10:50AM, 12:40PM, 2:50PM, 5:00PM. Mon: 10:50AM, 12:40PM, 2:50PM, 3:30PM. Wed: 10:50AM, 12:30PM, 2:40PM, 4:50PM

ALL FILMS

DISCLOSURE DAY (M)

Daily except Mon: 1:10PM, 3:20PM, 5:20PM, 7:50PM. Mon: 12:50PM, 3:20PM, 5:40PM, 7:50PM

EVIL DEAD BURN (R18+)

Daily except Mon: 8:20PM. Mon: 8:30PM

JACKASS: BEST AND LAST (MATS+)

Daily except Sun, Mon:

3:15PM, 8:30PM. Sun: 8:30PM. Mon: 4:00PM, 8:30PM

MICHAEL (PG)

Daily except Mon: 10:30AM, 8:10PM. Mon: 10:40AM, 8:20PM

OBSESSION (MATS+)

Daily: 8:20PM

THE INVITE (MATS+)

Daily except Mon: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM. Mon: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM

THE ODYSSEY (CTC) NFT

Daily except Mon: 10:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 1:30PM, 2:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:00PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM. Mon: 10:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 12:45PM, 2:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:00PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM

TUNER (MATS+)

Daily except Sun, Mon: 1:00PM, 6:15PM. Sun: 6:15PM. Mon: 1:15PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

MINIONS & MONSTERS (PG)

Daily: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 5:00PM

MOANA (PG)

Daily: 9:50AM, 2:30PM, 7:10PM

THE INVITE (MATS+)

Daily: 7:30PM

THE ODYSSEY (CTC) NFT

Daily: 12:00PM, 2:00PM, 3:30PM, 7:00PM

TOY STORY 5 (G)

Daily: 9:45AM, 12:20PM, 5:20PM

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

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\$17.00 for the first two lines

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\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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The Byron Shire Echo does not accept any liability for the representations or promises made in paid advertisements or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on such content, representations or promises.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WHERE TO GET
THE ECHO

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

FUNERAL NOTICES

Carmel Kenway
17.01.1930 · 10.07.2026

The much loved matriarch of the Wategos Kenway clan, now singing with the angels.

A generous and compassionate woman with a great sense of humour who will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Requiem Mass for the repose of Carmel's soul will be celebrated at St Finbarr's Catholic Church, Byron Bay on Friday 17th July 2026 commencing at 11.30am.
After the Mass a private cremation will take place.

Guardian Funerals
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FENTON

Wendy Janice

Nee McMILLAN

30.10.1938 ~ 07.07.2026



Passed away peacefully at Carrington Nursing Home, Grasmere, aged 87 years. Late of Cobbitty, Byron Bay, Sydney, Lismore.
Loved and loving wife of Edward for 45 years. Adored mother and mother-in-law of Christopher, and Donna and Brett.
Cherished Grandma to her grandchildren Ruby: Alexandra, Hayden, Victoria, Preston, and their partners, and her great grandchildren Hudson, Adelaide, and Flynn. Loved by the extended Fenton and McMillan families.

Family and friends are invited to the service of celebration and thanksgiving to celebrate the life of Wendy, to be held at the Chapel of the Lismore Memorial Gardens, Skyline Road, Goonellabah, Friday 17th July 2026, commencing at 10am.
Followed by interment at the Lismore Memorial Gardens Lawn Cemetery.



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DEATH NOTICE

DAVID MICHAEL
BIDDULPH

29.3.1970 – 10.07.2026

David Biddulph of Barcaldine QLD, formerly from Byron Bay. Died peacefully on Friday 10th July at home from bone cancer surrounded by his loving family.

Beloved son of Anne and Kerrie Biddulph of Banora Point and brother to Bronwyn and Bozo (Adrian) of Ipswich. Beloved husband to Tryphena for 30 years and father to Jacinta and Mitchell.



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New ads will be placed at end of section.
Contact: 6684 1777 or adcopy@echo.net.au

Echo

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By Brad Rogan
Sotheby’s International Realty

Positioned along one of Lennox Head’s most tightly-held elevated ridgelines, 63 Amber Drive presents a rare opportunity to secure a substantial coastal family home offering exceptional privacy, breathtaking ocean vistas and an enviable lifestyle just moments from the village and coastline. Combining expansive land, established improvements and an extraordinary setting, the property delivers a unique balance of rural tranquillity and coastal convenience.

Defined by its commanding position and remarkable outlook, the residence has been thoughtfully designed to embrace its natural surrounds, capturing sweeping views across the Pacific Ocean while providing generous proportions and seamless indoor-outdoor living. The result is a home that offers both everyday comfort and an exceptional environment for entertaining or simply enjoying the beauty of the Northern Rivers.

‘Properties in Amber Drive are incredibly tightly held, and it’s easy to understand why,’ Brad Rogan says. ‘The combination of elevated homes, uninterrupted ocean views and close proximity to Lennox Head village is becoming increasingly difficult to find, making opportunities like this exceptionally rare.’



The home’s versatile floorplan provides multiple living and entertaining spaces that flow effortlessly to the surrounding outdoor areas, allowing the spectacular outlook to remain the focal point throughout. Established grounds and generous open space further enhance the property’s sense of privacy while creating flexibility for a wide range of lifestyle pursuits. Brad adds, ‘Buyers are increasingly searching for properties that offer genuine space without compromising convenience. This home delivers that balance beautifully, providing a peaceful lifestyle while remaining only minutes from beaches, cafes, schools and everything Lennox Head has to offer.’ While offering an atmosphere of complete seclusion, the property enjoys immediate access



to Lennox Head’s renowned beaches, vibrant village, walking trails and local amenities. Its elevated position not only captures cooling coastal breezes and spectacular sunrises but also reinforces the enduring appeal of this highly sought-after enclave. Commenting on the current market, Brad notes, ‘Premium homes with ocean views continue to attract significant interest from both local and interstate buyers. As opportunities of this calibre become increasingly scarce, properties within established pockets like Amber Drive continue to demonstrate exceptional long-term appeal.’ ‘We’re seeing consistent demand from buyers seeking a lifestyle that combines privacy, land and panoramic coastal outlooks, all within



easy reach of Byron Bay, Ballina and the wider Northern Rivers.’ Overall, 63 Amber Drive, Lennox Head represents a rare opportunity to secure a premium coastal family home in one of the region’s most prestigious locations, offering an exceptional combination of space, privacy, spectacular ocean views and enduring lifestyle appeal. ■ For more information on this incredible home contact Brad Rogan at Sotheby’s International Realty: Brad Rogan, Associate Principal 0420 529 112 brad@sirbyronbay.com.au

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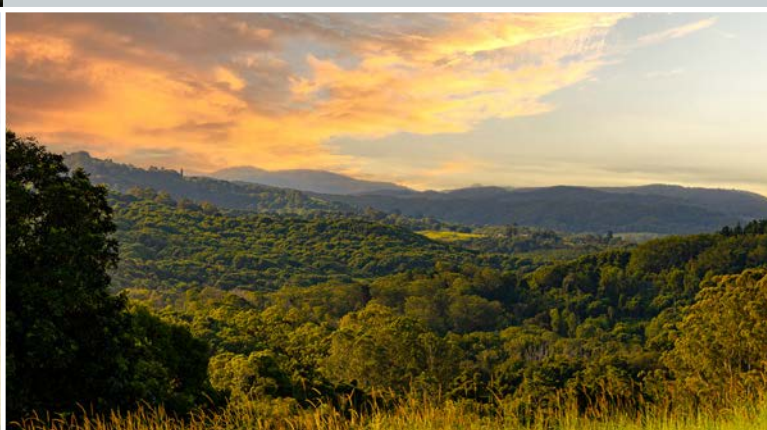
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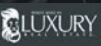


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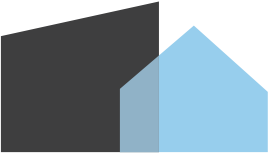
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Ocean Shores 02 6680 2888
Tweed Heads 07 5599 4456



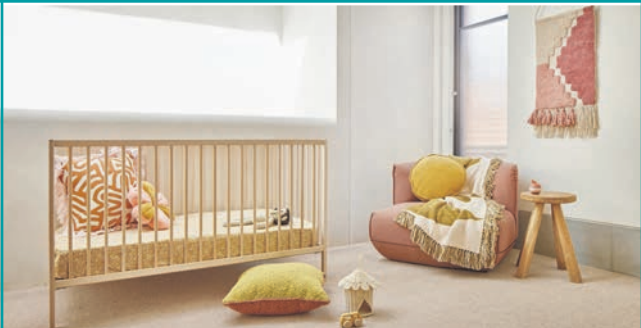
Photo: Tirza Abb

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The relentless campaign in all the Newscorp papers to undermine recent changes to overly generous property investment tax breaks wouldn't have anything to do with them being owned by the same company as realestate.com.au would it?

A local bakery have stopped selling a cake called a 'babka', allegedly because pro-Palestinian/ anti-Israel supporters have been harassing them for selling an Israeli product. A babka is a cake originating in Poland and Ukraine, the name roughly translates to 'grandmother' because the braided loaf was said to resemble the folds of a grandmother's pleated skirt. Jews make it and Christians also make it at Easter. Just like Germans make sauerkraut and so do non-Germans. Shall we boycott chicken Kiev because its origins are Russian and Russia have invaded Ukraine? Or perhaps we should boycott noodles because the Chinese have invaded Tibet? Or maybe boycott all places that sell chocolate chip cookies because they were invented in America?

Nomi Kaltmann's article 'Every Jew, regardless of politics, remains part of our people' that highlighted the abuse of the executive officer of the Jewish Council of Australia, Sarah Schwartz, by other members of the Jewish community, was removed from the *Australian Jewish News* on Monday, 6 July. It has been republished in full at: <https://nomikaltmann.com/every-jew-regardless-of-politics-remains-part-of-our-people/>. As Ms Kaltmann



That's the spirit. Photo Jeff 'Homer Phobic' Dawson

points out in her article, 'Derech Eretz kadmah laTorah. Basic decency comes before Torah'. 'Am Echad k'ish echad, one people with one heart'.

Mungo's crosswords are back! A big thank you to Emma Briggs for generously providing her puzzles over the last couple of months. We now resume our reprising of Mungo MacCallum's catalogue of cryptics with only 520 or so to go - see page 20.

Byron's Rainbow Shop has contacted Backlash after last week's announcement that they are closing to say they, 'are just so grateful for all the love and support from this community, and from afar, over the years. We will stay - and remain half price to give back. We Love you Byron.'

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

Last of the 70s style markets
Third Sunday of every month

NEXT MARKET Sunday
19th July, 8am-2pm

LIVE MUSIC **COSMIC CRUMB**



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Food, music, coffee, clothing, books, plants, art & craft, free face painting, vinyl records, second hand & much more...

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Info/stallholders phone 0487 329 150 [UkiButteryBazaarMarket](#)

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ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
KIDS' PAINTING WORKSHOP

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

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