



FRESH GROWTH, OLD ROOTS

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Celebrating 120 years of the Billi Pub

Aslan Shand

The Billinudgel Pub has stood its ground through floods, fires and more for the last 120 years and the unveiling of three recreated historic mirrors on the front verandah last Friday kicked off the celebrations.

The current pub was built in 1906 on the site of the former pub that had been built in 1898 (when the railway came through), but then burnt down.

‘Ma Ring bought this in 1929 and it has been in the family ever since. I grew up upstairs,’ said Ma Ring’s grandson, and former publican, Kenny Barnham.

Ma Ring’s poker skills, and plenty of wild nights, mean the Billinudgel has seen its fair share of history. Ma Ring remained licensee until she passed away at 101, just a few weeks before her 102nd birthday in 1983.

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Kenny and his son Jordan Barnham with signwriter and project coordinator Michael Hodgson. Front: framer Martin Johnson with Kenny’s granddaughter Magnolia, with mum Makenzie and dad Mitch Barnham. Photo Jeff ‘Lack Of Reflection’ Dawson

Can you help our Rainbow community find a permanent home?

Paul Bibby

For four years Queer Family Inc has lived the perilous life of a homeless community organisation – bouncing from one temporary venue to the next, sometimes without anywhere to stay at all.

Now, they’ve come up with a possible solution that could finally allow them to regain stability in the Northern Rivers.

All they need is a bit of space in

someone’s paddock.

The Mullum-based LGBTQ+ group is hoping to secure land where it could establish a permanent community hub using a relocated flood buyback home or pod through the NSW Reconstruction Authority’s Homes Reuse Program.

No dwelling entitlement

Importantly, Queer Family says it has been advised that the proposed community facility would

not require a dwelling entitlement.

Aiden says subdivision rules for community facilities are also different to residential development, meaning the usual minimum lot-size requirements do not apply in the same way.

That potentially opens the door to a much wider range of landowners, including people with smaller rural parcels who may previously have assumed their property was unsuitable.

‘There is so much land. There’s so much farmland. It doesn’t have to be in a town,’ Queer Family Director Aiden Gentle said.

‘Surely somebody has a paddock they don’t want to mow anymore.’

The organisation is primarily looking within Byron Shire, but says suitable land could also be considered a little further afield around places such as Newrybar, Tintenbar, Clunes, Stokers Siding, or Crabbes Creek.

The organisation lost its Mullumbimby clubhouse in the 2022 floods and has spent the years since moving through a succession of temporary homes while continuing to provide programs and support for LGBTQ+ people across the Northern Rivers.

Its most recent reprieve came when Byron Council agreed to provide a 12-month home at the former

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Local artist at Ground Zero for 9/11 memorial

Eve Jeffery

Twenty-five years after the 11 September attacks in America, Ground Zero 360 Remembrance will open at the historic New York City Fire Museum in Lower Manhattan.

This landmark six-month exhibition will present an extraordinary international collection of contemporary art honouring the victims, survivors and first responders of 9/11.

After a chance meeting in Ireland last year, local artist Michael Cusack was invited by co-curator of the exhibition, Eamon Colman, to join such luminaries as Yoko Ono, Jasper Johns, Jeff Koons, James Turrell and U2's Bono, in the exhibition.

‘He invited me to be in the exhibition which I am honoured to be part of given I am the only Australian representative.’

These artists represent some of the most influential voices in contemporary art. The work for this exhibition forms a powerful visual tribute centred on remembrance, resilience, sacrifice, compassion and hope.

A profoundly fitting setting

Located just minutes from the original World Trade Centre site, the New York City Fire Museum provides a profoundly fitting setting for the exhibition during the 25th anniversary year.



Artist Michael Cusack in his studio. Photo Jeff Dawson

Through extraordinary works of contemporary art, historic artefacts, and powerful personal testimony, Ground Zero 360 Remembrance invites visitors from around the world to reflect not only on the tragedy of 9/11, but also on the remarkable resilience, compassion, and unity that emerged in its aftermath.

Cusack, who is a co-director and teacher at the Byron School of Art, said he made a work especially for the exhibition.

‘There was no brief or guidelines other than size which was, “not too big” which was a given as the work

had to be transported to New York. I was just asked to create a work for the exhibition.’

‘At first it was hard to get the idea of a painting for 9/11 out of my head. Particularly as an abstract painter, how do you make a work for a remembrance exhibition for 9/11?’

‘In the end I just made the work and followed my own process of addition and subtraction of marks and gestures on a canvas. I would relate it to how a musician writes a song or a poet writes a poem.’

‘The painting is a reminder that we all witness and suffer loss.’

Celebrating 120 years of the Billinudgel Pub

► Continued from page 1

‘She was the oldest licensee in the British Empire,’ says Kenny.

Kenny ran the pub for a time in the 1980s for his mum and eventually bought the pub from his family in 1999.

In the last few years Kenny has stepped back and handed the pub onto his three sons Craig, Jordan, and Mitch in February 2024 who have also brought in their good friend Panda as the licensee (legend has it that his legal name is somewhere on the building!).

Reflecting the past

The new mirrors on the pub's front verandah are replicas of the ones that have been there since the 1930s and it has been a labour of love by Michael Hodgson and his team to recreate them over the last three years.

‘It has taken a team to do the work to recreate these mirrors,’ Kenny told the gathered crowd last Friday.

‘Michael was here to do the sign on the pub, and we talked about redoing the mirrors on the front of the pub. Signwriting is a real craft, and Michael found the last remaining signwriters that have this trade to do

the work. What a great craft signwriting is.

‘The most recent one is from the WWII era and the other two are from prior and no brewing companies have done these types of works since that period.’

The first Tooheys pub mirror, on the right of the verandah when you are facing it, is of the famous horse jumper Esther Stace high jumping the renowned jumper Desmond side-saddle. Esther set the side-saddle high-jump record of 6 feet 6 inches at the 1915 Sydney Royal Easter Show on Desmond, a record that stood unbeaten for 98 years.

‘They used genuine oil paint and painting and then did a traditional water slide transfer’ to create the image, explained Michael.

Having done his trade apprenticeship in 1996 Michael was uniquely placed to bring together the team of signwriters, artists, and traditional crafts and trades people needed to accurately replicate the mirrors.

‘The signs are hand-painted. There were no computers or computer programs used in the production; it was all done freehand with the brush. This

is the real thing,’ he told the gathering.

The mirrors used the traditional silver hand pouring technique, painting, and signwriting to authentically recreate the mirrors. The central mirror is of another jumper and the mirror on the left is an art deco piece that was the last of the painted silver mirrors done around 1940. The lettering was hand drawn by Michael in the shed near the pub.

Making history, history

‘It's something that I never thought I'd be a part of or understand,’ Panda told *The Echo*.

‘Having Hodgson break it down over the last three years made me really understand what it takes to make something like this.’

Jordy Barnham agreed saying, ‘I'm stoked to see the history renewed and keep the era of the classic old pubs alive. I'm honoured to be able to have it here.’

The mirrors were framed in red cedar from Mullumbimby by local furniture maker Martin Johnson.

‘The framing timber is Australian red cedar. The

cedar was the reason this area was put on the map,’ explained Martin.

‘This tree was felled in 1906, the same year as the pub was built. It was felled at Lavertys Gap. There was an old mate who stored them, his son inherited them, then my father saw them and bought them, then I inherited them – and I thought where else should they be but here at the Billinudgel Pub.

‘I feel quite humble really to have been able to work on these. I grew up around this pub. I've got lots of early memories of all these mirrors. Now to be able to be involved in the rebirth of these mirrors and work with the family who have owned this pub for generations is a real honour.’

‘They all look amazing,’ said Mitch Barnham.

‘I can't wait for the 120-year celebration on 12 September.’

From 11am to 11pm the Billi will be celebrating with live music, DJs, probably a few speeches here and there, food trucks and lots of laughter and everyone is invited to get a ticket (<https://tickets.oztix.com.au>) and join the fun.

Bringing a little colour to Mullumbimby with the annual orchid extravaganza



Byron District Orchid Society stalwart, Laurie Mills with Cass Emanuel preparing for the Annual Orchid Show and orchid sale this September 11 and 12 at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club. Photo Jeff ‘More Than A Little Awkward’ Dawson

Save Wallum judgment to be handed down on Monday

On Monday, 7 September, the community is invited to come together at Bayside Park, Brunswick Heads to hear Federal Court Justice Perry deliver judgment in the Save Wallum case.

‘After more than two years of Federal Court proceedings, judgment in the Save Wallum case is expected to be handed down on Monday, 7 September at 4.30pm,’ a spokesperson for Save Wallum told *The Echo*.

‘If Justice Perry is ready to deliver judgment before 7 September, the matter may be brought forward and the parties will be notified.’

The judgment will be livestreamed via the Federal Court of Australia YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/FederalCourtAus), allowing supporters to watch the decision as it is delivered.



Glossy black cockatoos feeding at the Wallum site in Brunswick Heads. Photo Mark Seiffert

‘Save Wallum is inviting the community and media to gather at Bayside Park, Brunswick Heads, to hear the outcome together,’ said the spokesperson.

‘This has been an extraordinarily long journey for our community, our legal team and everyone who has stood with Wallum.

‘We don’t know what the outcome will be, but we do know that this community has carried this campaign every step of the way. We want to be together when the judgment is handed down,’ they said.

The Federal Court case concerns Save Wallum’s application for a permanent

injunction under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, relating to the proposed development at 15 Torakina Road, Brunswick Heads and its potential impacts on five nationally protected threatened species.

For more than two years, an interim injunction has prevented relevant development works while the case has proceeded.

The September judgment represents one of the most significant moments in the almost three-year campaign to protect Wallum.

‘Traditional Owners, local residents, volunteers, campaign supporters and members of the wider Northern Rivers community are warmly invited to attend,’ said Save Wallum.

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A circular portrait of Julie-Ann Manahan, a woman with short curly hair and glasses, smiling.

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'Waves Without Limits' launches in Bruns



Helen Carpenter (Lions), Mayor Sarah Ndiaye with Pauline Menczer in the beach wheelchair, Judy Kanale on beach walker, and Judy Graydon (Lions). Photo Jeff Dawson

Saturday saw the launch of 'Waves Without Limits' wheelchairs on Torakina Beach that has seen a chair, wheelie walker and hoist available for community use to access the beach and water.

Rotary Club Mullumbimby

has been working hard over the last three years to get the project funded with support from local businesses, the community, and benefactors.

The equipment is being stored in a lockbox in the carpark and can be accessed for one to two

hours by booking through www.spacetoco.com/space/brunswick-heads-nsw-hippocampe-2-wheelchair.

Once you have finished with the equipment, you must hose it down and return it to the lockbox so it is ready for the next user.

Queer Family looking for a permanent home

► Continued from page 1
Station Master's Cottage in Byron Bay.

Aiden said the arrangement had effectively kept the organisation alive, but it had not solved the underlying problem.

'It's a beautiful building and what Council have been able to put through is quite a good arrangement for us that actually keeps us going and stops us from folding,' Aiden said.

'But it is only 12 months, so that still leaves us in a difficult situation with our long-term security.'

The constant search for space has taken a heavy toll.

'Being a homeless organisation is the same as being a homeless person in terms of,

you know, it's a full-time job just being homeless,' Aiden said.

Exciting future

If suitable land can be found, Queer Family hopes to establish a permanent base for its office as well as workshops, creative programs, wellbeing services and potentially artist residencies.

'We could really turn that into a proper queer arts and community centre,' Aiden said.

'Imagine a little queer village.'

Queer Family is open to a range of arrangements including donated land, a long-term peppercorn lease, rent-to-buy, philanthropic

investment or a joint venture. The organisation has DGR1 status, meaning donations can be tax deductible, including gifts of land.

Deadline

There is also some urgency.

The RA's current Homes Reuse Program expression-of-interest round closes on 17 September, although Queer Family says it can lodge an application before every legal detail with a landowner is finalised.

'If we could find land within the next few weeks, it would truly be life-changing,' Aiden said.

'We could set up something incredibly cool here in the Shire.'

Mullum water investigation comes with \$322,000-plus price tag

Paul Bibby

Byron Council faces a bill of at least \$322,000 to complete the next stage of its long-running investigation into Mullumbimby's future water supply, as it simultaneously prepares the ground for a possible 35 per cent increase in general rates.

A report to Thursday's Water and Sewer Advisory Committee says a strategic planning assessment of Mullumbimby's water options would cost at least \$247,000 in external consultancy fees, plus a minimum \$75,000 in Council staff costs.

At the upper end, the consultant component alone could reach \$472,000 before GST, depending largely on the depth of technical analysis and community engagement undertaken.

Council currently has around \$260,000 set aside for the project, meaning at least another \$62,000 would need to be found if the work proceeds. Staff say the money could be drawn from the Water Fund, which is forecast to have a capital works reserve balance of around \$1.5 million by the end of this financial year.

The figures give fresh weight to concerns raised by Deputy Mayor Jack Dods when councillors debated the issue in June.

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

Labor councillor Peter Doherty told the same meeting that around \$640,000 of Council money had already been spent examining Mullumbimby's future water supply.

'We're potentially asking ratepayers for a 35 per cent rate increase,' Cr Doherty said.

'I think it's very important that we look at trying to rein in the spending and just connect to Rous and move on.'

The latest expenditure comes as Council is consulting the community over a proposed Special Rate Variation (SRV) which would increase ordinary land rates by 12 per cent, 10 per cent, and 9.6 per cent over three years from July 2027, amounting to a cumulative rise of about 35 per cent.

Water future

The new Mullumbimby water work follows Council's June decision to continue investigating a range of options rather than committing solely to a permanent connection with the Rous County Council (RCC) regional network.

Those options include hybrid models combining RCC water with Lavertys Gap Weir, as well as a larger treatment plant at Lavertys Gap and a complete RCC connection.

The new consultant report says the existing decision-making process has lacked a sufficiently structured and transparent framework, limiting objectivity and contributing to 'misinformation and reduced public trust'. It warns this could also weaken Council's ability to secure future state funding.

The proposed assessment would include updated hydrological modelling, detailed financial and economic analysis, stakeholder engagement, a multi-criteria assessment and a detailed comparison of the competing supply options.

However, Council has also been told not to bank on help from Macquarie Street.

Staff say the state government's Safe and Secure Water Program is fully committed and there is currently no money available through other existing water infrastructure grant programs.

A wider state review of funding arrangements may not be completed until 2028, with the committee report concluding it is unclear when, or even if, further state funding will become available.

NSW councils face future water challenges

Water security for rural, regional, and remote communities will take centre stage at the 2026 Water Management Conference being hosted by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) in Ballina 2-4 September.

The gathering comes as councils face growing

challenges keeping essential water and sewer services reliable, safe and affordable.

Mayor Darcy Byrne, President of LGNSW, said the conference would focus on the increasing pressures put on local water utilities, including ageing

infrastructure, climate extremes, population growth and evolving water quality challenges.

Find out more at: www.lgnsf.org.au/water/water-program.aspx or read more in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.



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A Splash of Colour for Bangalow



Heather West and Terry Bleakley launched their history of Bangalow book *A Splash of Colour* at Ninbella Gallery. Covering the period 1900 to 1960 many of the 250 old photos benefitted from AI reconstruction and colouring. Photo Jeff Dawson

NRCF’s community grants open

Community groups and not-for-profit organisations across the Northern Rivers can apply for the Northern Rivers Community Foundation’s (NRCF) 2026-2027 Annual Community Grants Round. Applications close Sunday, 20 September. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to support community-led projects that strengthen communities across the region. Grant guidelines available

at: nrcf.org.au. Interested grantseekers can contact the NRCF Grants team at: grants@nrcf.org.au. Eligible organisations must be based in one of the seven LGAs of Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley, Ballina, Byron, and Tweed. Organisations do not need DGR1 tax status to apply. **► Read more in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au**

Animal adoption

Saturday, 5 September is the monthly Adoption Day at the NRAS Rescue Shelter, at 61 Piper Drive, Ballina from 10am to 1pm. They’ll be firing up the barbeque again; offering \$15 grooming services, including hydro bathing and nail clipping, plus microchipping will also be available. Find out more at: www.nras.org.au, call on 6681 1860 or email: shelter@nras.org.au.

Sign up for the Chinny Charge and summer stroll

Aslan Shand

As I turned into my road recently, I saw someone running down it with their torch bobbing in the dark night. I quickly stopped, wound down my window, and asked if they were okay?

The cheerful response assured me everything was fine as they told me they were in training for the Chinny Charge on Saturday, 19 September. I have to admit, they are much fitter than I am – or at least they will be!

The charge (aka run) up Mullumbimby’s Mount Chincogan was first held on 8 October 1960 to raise funds to build the Mullumbimby Memorial Pool. The first male winner was Howard Buchanan of Tweed Heads, who ran the race in 33 min 33 s, and the first female, Belinda Sheldon of Mullumbimby, ran it in 50 mins 50 s.

Though no races were held from 1961 to 1966 they restarted in 1967 with local Colin Creighton winning the race barefoot with four stitches in one foot. Colin had come second in the 1960 race. The run is just shy of 7km



Jack Gill has won the male division of the Chinny Charge over many years and took it out at 30 mins 10 s in 2024. Photo Jeff Dawson

with runners (and these days many walkers) heading to the 1,002 ft top of the local Mullumbimby mountain and enjoying the views on the way before returning to the start line.

The fastest time for the men so far has been Graham Barralet, in 1994, at 28 min 58 s and the best female time was Nicolle Carroll, in 1996, at 35 min 41 s.

The prize money in 1960 was \$38, rising to \$1,000 in 1985 and 1997 total prize money was \$4,500. This year there will be prizes for the first male and female to cross the line as well as the first local male and female to cross the line. ‘The race and the

Chincogan Fiesta were stopped in 2002. We restarted the race again nine years ago to raise money for the local community via the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community,’ said Chinny Charge organiser Jenelle Stanford.

Get your spot now There are limited places for this once-a-year run and walk up Mt Chincogan and everyone is encouraged to book your place at: <https://www.eventwizards.com.au>. The entry fee is \$50 for runners and \$25 for non-competitors (walkers). If you leave it to the last minute, it is \$75 on the day if there are spaces available.

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Have your say on the draft Water Sharing Plan for the Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is inviting local communities, interest groups and businesses to have their say on the draft Water Sharing Plan for the Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2027 from **Monday 31 August to 5 pm Monday 26 October 2026.**

The draft water sharing plan sets limits on how much water can be taken from the Brunswick Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources. It allows for water to be protected for the environment, basic landholder rights and cultural needs and provides secure, legal and tradeable water access rights.

The public exhibition period is an opportunity for water users, stakeholders and other interested parties to provide feedback on proposed changes in the draft Brunswick water sharing plan.

To have your say:

- Attend a webinar on Tuesday 15 September from 1 pm to 2 pm. Scan the QR code or visit the website to register.
- Attend a face-to-face appointment at Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall on Thursday 24 September 2026. Scan the QR code or visit the website to register.
- Make an online or written submission via the website.

For more information:

- Scan the QR code
- Visit water.dcccew.nsw.gov.au/brunswick-water-sharing-plan
- Email water.enquiries@dpie.nsw.gov.au
- Call 1300 081 047.



LT125

Mullum wins the grand final in Lismore



Mullum's Grade 15, Division 1 celebrate their win last Saturday. Photo supplied

Mark Quinn

Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club (BVFC) Grade 15, Division 1 soccer team won the grand final by defeating Alstonville FC 2-0 at Oakes Oval in Lismore last Saturday, 29 August.

The young BVFC side delivered a stellar performance in front of a passionate crowd of supporters.

Mullumbimby broke the deadlock before half-time when Milo McClain reacted quickest in the box, pouncing on a loose ball after Kymani Veltri's initial shot was parried by the Alstonville

goalkeeper.

Holding a tense 1-0 advantage into the break, the team continued to press with disciplined defence and sharp attacking transitions.

In the second half, Siam Postma sealed the championship triumph in style. He unleashed a stunning, long-range strike from well outside the penalty box that flew past the keeper, securing the 2-0 victory and the grand championship title.

Postma's exceptional goal and overall impact on the pitch earned him the official Player of the Grand Final honours.

The win capped off years of consistent work from coaches Joa McClain and Eddie Postma, who have guided the players through consecutive seasons together.

Team captain Cosmo Quinn praised the group's resilience after the match, noting how deeply meaningful the victory was for the squad.

'This win is so well deserved,' Quinn said.

'After fighting hard and falling short in the semi-finals for two years in a row, it feels incredible to finally lift the trophy together.'

Dabke and Tatreez – keeping Palestinian music alive

The *Dabke and Tatreez* ensemble were the first ever Palestinian music performance at the Sydney Opera House on 6 July last year, and they will be performing at the Bangalow A&I Hall on Saturday, 5 September at 6.30pm.

'This is a performance project which works to protect and promote the music, culture and traditions of the people of Palestine,' said a spokesperson for Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine (NRFP) who are presenting the show.

'Between them, the musicians are from Palestinian,

Syrian, Turkish, Lebanese, Indonesian and Turkish/Cypriot heritage. *Dabke* translates as the "stamping of the feet". The linked arms and heavy stomping represent solidarity, community strength, and resistance.

'*Tatreez* is the cultural practice of embroidery to decorate thobe (or dress) with symbols of history, memory, and place, telling the tale of the maker's life and connection to the land.'

Ayşa Gökür Shanal, the group's convenor and lead vocalist, says that, 'music is one of the most important mediums in expressing

culture and identity. We are witnessing the destruction of so many mosques and churches and art and historical artefacts in Palestine and now Lebanon – it's the loss of history and culture. Our aim is to protect and preserve culture and heritage as a contrast to their destruction and erasure.'

Food will be provided by NRFP with funds raised going to the Palestinian Australian New Zealand Medical Association, which provides medical aid and assistance to Gaza. Book your tickets at: trybooking.com/events/landing/1625452.

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Safer roads for North Coast



MP Justine Elliot at Condong. Photo supplied

Richmond MP Justine Elliot has announced that the Albanese government is delivering more than \$4.6 million in federal funding from the 2026-27 Black Spot Program to improve road safety at four sites across the North Coast.

Road upgrade projects receiving funding include:

Bilambil: \$1,087,320 to install a semi-rigid roadside barrier at Bilambil Road, 70 metres west of Beltana Drive for a length of 530 metres, to reduce the high risk for run-off crashes.

Condong: \$1,843,978 to install a roundabout at Tweed Valley Way at Clothiers Creek Road to reduce crashes, unsafe gaps and predicted future significant congestion.

Clothiers Creek: \$1,246,680 to install

semi-rigid roadside barriers at Clothiers Creek Road between Yandala Place and 897 Clothiers Creek Road to reduce hazards and loss-of-control crashes.

Mullumbimby Creek: \$519,000 for road safety improvements at Left Bank Road, 100 metres west of Tucker Avenue for a length of 1.85 kilometres, to reduce serious crashes including fatality due to poor alignment, no shoulders and poor visibility.

Justine Elliot said, ‘It is great to see these four projects across the North Coast receive funding to ensure a safer journey for the many residents who use these roads. ‘As your local MP, you can always count on me to deliver funding to improve road safety across the North Coast.’

Mullumbimby puts new governance models first

Imagine Northern Rivers says Mullumbimby is the only community across the region to rank new models of governance and decision-making as the number one element of its preferred future, and last week locals gathered to work out how to make it real.

Nineteen residents met in Mullumbimby to review the findings from the Imagine Northern Rivers workshop held in May 2025, one of 27 held across the region.

The 2025 workshop engaged 35 Mullumbimby participants from the civic, business, not-for-profit, government and cultural sectors, who contributed 1,440 responses to questions about the present, the future and the actions needed to get there.

Analysis of the 1,097 responses about the future identified five leading vision elements:

New governance models strengthen our voices (14.4 per cent).

Our housing is affordable, climate-adaptive and sustainably designed (13.9 per cent).

Our economy is localised, circular and nature-based (13.8 per cent).



Imagine Northern Rivers Mullumbimby workshop. Photo supplied

We are actively regenerating our environment and restoring biodiversity (13.7 per cent).

We nurture a culture of connection, mutual aid and contribution to the common good (10.8 per cent).

Foundations

‘There are only 0.7 percentage points separating the first and fourth elements of the vision. They aren’t four competing priorities, but rather an outline of the foundations needed for a regenerative, safe, and adaptive future,’ said Carmen Stewart, the convenor of Imagine Northern Rivers. ‘You can’t fix housing

without planning and political reform that’s in service of people and planet. You can’t localise the economy without changing who makes decisions about land, water and energy. You can’t regenerate the environment without changing the principles of our economy. And all four sit on the foundation of the fifth – a culture of connection and mutual aid. Without strong relationships, nothing else will happen.’

This understanding of the vision to emerge from the 2025 workshop was confirmed last week. Asked what stood out in the data, one participant said, ‘Our community wants to be part

of the solution... to lead it. We’re not commentators.’

Another observed that ‘the story of division is emphasised in the media, but this data demonstrates that we are in fact more united than we’re led to believe.’

What’s next?

What’s missing?

Responses pointed consistently to Mullumbimby already having the ingredients, but needing to strengthen the connective tissue.

Residents named an existing wealth of community assets such as the Mullumbimby Community Gardens, the Food and Agricultural Co-ops, Shedding and the Library of Stuff, the community pantry, Landcare, the Community Resilience Team, MDNC, the Community College and more.

What’s missing, participants said, is a shared framework to weave the existing ‘good stuff’ together with the new initiatives that people are seeking to bring to life.

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

Alcohol-related crashes on regional roads are almost twice as likely to end in death or serious injury.

Say “Yeah...NAH” to drink driving.





The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 41 #12 • September 2, 2026

RIP net zero?

The world is reeling following the horrifying events in Tibet and Nepal with more than 4,200 people missing and the death toll at time of print over 900 as people, animals, houses, bridges, roads and more have disappeared under the massive flood.

The fires across Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia over the last 12-months and the severe El Niño effects that are coming our way – these are all linked to the changing climate taking place because of humans releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Closer to home Pauline Hanson recently campaigned in regional Victoria to ‘RIP net zero’, driving a symbolic nail into a coffin called ‘Net Zero’ to protest green energy policies and subsidies. She has just called for two nuclear reactors to be built on the east coast and for taxpayers to pay to keep the coal-fired Loy Yang power station operating, according to *The Guardian*.

Hanson called climate change a ‘hoax’ in her June 2026 Australian Press Club speech and her call to abandon net zero has been echoed by the National Party and also the Liberal Party when they scrapped their commitment to it in November 2025.

Fear does strange things to people. In this instance the sheer enormity of what will happen if we don’t take action on climate change is so unbelievable that some people would prefer to consider it a sinister worldwide conspiracy than grapple with the idea of, let alone the science of, let alone the reported events caused by, climate change. Self-interest, on the other hand, acts very predictably – Gina Rinehart’s Hancock Prospecting is a big coal miner and has invested in uranium companies, and the billionaire is a big supporter of One Nation.

We had the debate about nuclear power in Australia during the lead

up to the last election with Peter Dutton at the helm of the LNP and the economics and science were clear – nuclear energy does not add up for Australia.

According to the Australia Institute it would take decades to build nuclear reactors in Australia, it is cost prohibitive, and it creates less jobs.

A 2025 study by the Boston University found that, ‘construction costs and delayed timelines stymie many energy projects. In fact, the average project costs 40 per cent more than expected for construction and takes almost two years longer than planned, as the study showed.’

‘Nuclear power plants are the worst offenders, with an average construction cost overrun typically twice as much as expected or more, and the most extreme time delays. To be exact, the average nuclear power plant has a construction cost overrun of 102.5 per cent and ends up costing \$1.56 billion more than expected.’

So what gives us the least risk, the most overall jobs, and the best environmental outcomes?

For lead and first author of that 2025 study Benjamin Sovacool, ‘the evidence is clear: “Low-carbon sources of energy such as wind and solar not only have huge climatic and energy security benefits, but also financial advantages related to less construction risk and less chance of delays,” he says. “It’s further evidence that such technologies have an array of underrated and underappreciated social and economic value”’

The keys are in our hands, we need to call to reach for net zero faster, if we don’t we will see the price rising with more horrific glacial floods, riverine floods, droughts, devastating fires, failed crops and more.

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

More housing where it’s needed most

Sunil Badami

With news that the last of Byron Shire’s pod villages will be closed by the end of the year, both residents and the wider community are asking: where will they go in a region where vacancy rates are less than 0.5 per cent?

There’s no denying governments have been trying to address the housing crisis. But housing’s a Gordian knot for governments, balancing affordability while avoiding the kind of property crash that caused the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and tanked the Japanese and Chinese economies.

Another key problem is they’re now saddled by increasingly expensive debt from spending during the GFC and pandemic, reducing borrowing and spending.

So they’re relying on developers to provide social and affordable housing, or as the previous Coalition government did, selling off social housing, losing around 15,000 dwellings even as waiting lists, especially in regions like Byron, have ballooned 20 per cent since 2023.

The NSW government has introduced a slew of reforms to increase supply, including its Transport Oriented Development Program, and establishing the Housing Development Authority (HAD), which has approved massive designated ‘State Significant Developments’ (SSD) over council regulations and community concerns.

But developers, already hit by high build costs, labour shortages, and falling auction clearance rates, are abandoning outer suburbs and regions where affordable and social housing is most needed for luxury inner city developments. The collapse last week of the Bethla group, which specialised in low-cost outer suburban and regional developments, is a case in point.

If anything, it’s a case of *plus ça change*. Remember the 2019 apartment glut, when high rise completions skyrocketed? While rents somewhat fell, prices didn’t, and the housing industry contracted with over 40,000 jobs lost, leading to chronic supply shortages today.

Because developers can only get lending approval once they reach 80 per cent of sales, the government’s underwriting them with a \$1 billion finance guarantee fund. This includes

the Rozelle Village development which starts at \$2.28 million for a two-bedroom apartment.

To sweeten the deal, the government has reduced affordable housing mandates in new developments from the 30 per cent to less than ten, which reverts back to developers – and market rates – after ten years. Of the 402 projects fast-tracked by the HDA, only 22 have permanent affordable housing, with 100 approved without any. Even then, they’re only 25 per cent cheaper than already astronomical market rents, now more than 50 per cent of average wages.

Density increases prices

While developer lobby groups argue that expensive luxury developments free up cheaper stock, that’s not the case. Density doesn’t reduce prices but increases them: not only because it tends to happen in already well-serviced and located areas, but because build costs skyrocket for high rise. According to the latest ABS data, the average cost to build an apartment is around \$358,000, compared to \$320,000 for a single storey house or \$280,000 for a townhouse.

The big problem is most NSW premiers act as though they’re the Lord Mayor of Sydney, focusing most policy and infrastructure in the city. The government’s Sydney Plan concentrates most development in Sydney’s already pricey Eastern Suburbs. In many respects, it makes sense, given how much infrastructure they and other inner city areas already have – much less the higher stamp duty they bring an under-pressure state budget.

But while the Premier argues that essential workers like nurses, paramedics, and cops should live close to the communities they serve, and young workers and families should live close to the CBD, that also means further raising demand – and prices.

It assumes in an age where most of us work from home that only the Sydney or Parramatta CBDs can support jobs, even as the recent order to public servants to return to the office has resulted in office space shortages and logistics issues. And it means concentrating that economic development away from all the other NSW regions crying out for jobs, infrastructure, and housing. What about all those essential workers in Byron Shire now forced into long

commutes or even tents?

Affordable housing isn’t as desperately needed in already dense, already expensive, inner city areas as it is in outer suburbs and up and down the coast, especially in ‘sea change’ regions like Byron Bay, overrun by short stay holiday accommodation denying locals homes.

As Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW CEO Stuart Ayres says, ‘the solution to our housing supply crisis is not to simply build more apartments in Sydney’s highest-cost locations that most people cannot afford.’

There is hope. Former NSW Building Commissioner, David Chandler has proposed building cheap apartments on Crown land, removing land costs, and scaling roll out by purchasing materials in bulk for multiple developments. He argues it could reduce costs by up to 20 per cent.

The Victorian government’s introduction of a 7.5 per cent short stay levy and Vacant Residential Land Tax have freed up dwellings and brought down prices. While many developers have no qualms demolishing existing affordable housing for luxury developments, some socially-conscious builders are offering accommodation in empty buildings still awaiting DAs under what’s known as ‘Meanwhile Use’.

But while it’s introduced some rental reforms, including rent increase caps, and increased social housing with the \$6.6 billion Building Homes for NSW Program to build 8,400 homes, the government has shied away from similar reforms to Victoria’s and rejected the HDA’s recommendation to increase permanent affordable and social housing in new developments. The government is already falling 40 per cent behind its commitments, with only around 67,000 houses completed of the 113,000 required.

Because the market hasn’t addressed these problems, the government needs to: prioritising housing where it’s needed most, not where it’s easiest or most profitable.

As the soon-to-be-evicted pod villages residents – and many struggling with housing stress and homelessness in Byron Shire and across NSW – could tell them.

■ Sunil Badami is a writer, academic and broadcaster. He’s a regular on ABC Radio and TV.

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Nicholas Shand
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Founding Editor

David Lovejoy
1944-2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Council: civil unrest

Let's support our local businesses – it's time to plan bigger.

Not only struggling shopkeepers in Mullum but literally thousands of us have been expressing our opposition to the proposed development at 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby.

Under the cover of 'creating affordable housing' and 'getting people out of sleeping in their cars' the Byron Shire Council (BSC) continues to bulldoze across our community with this monstrosity.

I'm calling for civil unrest and blockading the roundabout once the building machines arrive. We have succeeded in blocking Club Med at Belongil Beach, Bentley's coal seam gas drilling, and we have caused delays and massive costs to the Clarence Property developer by our 'Save Wallum' campaign in Brunswick (currently before the courts).

Let's see if Council will be applying the draconian NSW legislation to suppress peaceful protest. Which side are our elected councillors on?

Horst Tietze
Montecollum

Height limits in Byron Bay

I think it was Mark Twain who said, 'If something is beautiful, and money can be made by destroying it, someone will come along to destroy it.' Or maybe it was John Muir.

A good example is height limits in Byron Bay, as discussed in the most recent issue of *The Echo*. Higher buildings bring in more money, or so the developers believe. So Byron's attractive appearance is destroyed.

Since what they are destroying is valuable, the destroyers have money on their side. Sadly, preserving beauty generally brings in no money.

And in this case, the developers have the government on their side. It has always seemed strange to me, but property taxes are based on the value of the land, but not the buildings.

My own property tax is



Clem likes to keep up with the local news. Supporter of independent journalism and Mungo's crossword. 98 years young. Photo supplied

based on the land value, but not on the value of the buildings, of my home. This encourages making the buildings as large as possible. I would pay no more tax.

I often hear people complain about the huge buildings that fill up expensive land in places like Wategos. McMansions, they are sometimes called.

The reason people build that way is because the government encourages it. The government says, 'Make your house as large as you like, because we will not tax you any more.' You can hardly blame people for doing what the government encourages.

The same is true of developments in Byron. The government actively encourages higher buildings with its tax policy. Larger buildings pay no more property tax. Property tax is based on the land value only.

It seems surprising that workers don't complain, and try to change the law. Property taxes are wealth taxes. If we had more wealth taxes, the taxes on income could be lower.

Wealth taxes could also help to change the enormous disparities in wealth which are such a troubling feature of our society.

It is hard to make wealth taxes on things like stocks,

bonds, and bank deposits, because their value is so fluid. But wealth taxes on buildings as well as the land value would be easy to assess.

A change in the law about property taxes would certainly help Byron.

Charles MacFarland
Ewingsdale

Gambling advertising

I watch *The Voice Australia* and *Australian Idol*, not for the hype and competition but to see the performances of the contestants.

This year both of these shows had advertising promoting gambling. The shows are aimed at young audiences. Another example of why it's really important to let our 'representatives' know that it's time to have genuine ban on gambling advertising.

Jim Ewan
Main Arm

Forests – INFM best option

Apologies, a correction to my article last week. In a fuzzy head cold state I wrongly referred to Great Koala National Park and Great Southern Forest NP as 'Greater'. I was focused on the greater good but there's potential confusion with other options.

The vote on the Improved Native Forest Method (INFM) disallowance is the 15 September and it deeply concerns me that we could lose the opportunity on offer to preserve forests by a Greens vote, supporting the Coalition and One Nation, to reject the INFM. The world is burning, flooding,

and species extinction is accelerating, it's time to act.

Also, I didn't list all the organisations supporting the INFM, including National Parks Association of NSW, Nature Conservation Council of NSW, North Coast Environmental Council, WWF Australia and South East Forest Rescue as well as numerous Aboriginal groups across the state and our local groups, North East Forest Alliance and the local Conservation Ecologists Association.

We must avoid more forests being destroyed and the INFM is the best option on offer to end native forest logging and preserve biodiversity, water, and First Nations culture. Not perfect but a greater good outcome and that's why I'm speaking out. Please make urgent contact with Green federal representatives or you may regret it.

Jan Barham
Broken Head

Time for a bed tax

Bed tax. No rate rise. Tax the tourists. No rate rise. Tax the tourists. Insert plausible argument here to no avail because the NSW government lives in an ivory tower at Circular Quay.

No rate rise. Bed tax like every other tourist place in the world. I used the Council rate calculator online. It was about a third of reality. If Council is using that to show the rate rise isn't much, it is living in the clouds.

Raphael 'No Rate Rise' Cass
Byron Bay

Council: rate rise

Firstly, do note that Byron Shire Council (BSC) put the rates up less than ten years ago.

As for us two, who've lived here 34 years, and having run for 40 years a national foundation to conserve the diversity of traditional varieties of useful plants, we have lived on a tiny income that is less than the pension, less than the dole.

We will not be able to afford this proposed rate hike. It's not whether we want more services. It's whether we can afford them. We can't.

I speak not just for ourselves, but for the landed poor, the pensioners, the elderly. We might have been lucky enough to buy our homes when prices were relatively low, but we have little income. Rates are pretty much our greatest expenditure.

Example: potholes – I've
► Continued on next page

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Spring is stirring in the Northern Rivers



Spring is just around the corner, and across the Northern Rivers our wildlife is becoming more active.

We are fortunate to share this region with an extraordinary diversity of native animals. Echidnas, wallabies, bandicoots, possums and flying-foxes live alongside rainbow lorikeets, tawny frogmouths, waterbirds, water dragons, blue-tongue lizards and snakes – often much closer to our homes than we realise. As temperatures rise, reptiles become increasingly active, with more lizards, turtles and snakes on the move. Wildlife is also more likely to be crossing roads, so slowing down and keeping an eye out, particularly around bushland and at dawn and dusk, can make a real difference.

Spring also means babies. Young birds begin leaving their nests, while joeys and other juvenile wildlife become increasingly visible. But a baby animal on its own doesn't necessarily need rescuing. Fledgling birds may spend time on or close to the ground while learning to fly, with their parents still nearby. If you're unsure whether a young animal needs help, observe from a safe distance and contact a wildlife rescue organisation or wildlife hospital for advice before intervening.

We can make our backyards safer and more welcoming for wildlife too. Planting locally native trees, shrubs and flowering plants provides natural food and shelter, while dense vegetation, leaf litter, logs and rocks offer refuge for smaller species. Clean, shallow water in a safe, shaded location is another valuable resource. Keeping cats contained, choosing wildlife-friendly alternatives to rodenticides and pesticides, and removing potential entanglement hazards can make our gardens safer. Rather than feeding wildlife, creating natural habitat allows animals to find the food and shelter they need while remaining wild.

At Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, spring is one of our busiest times of year. By slowing down on our roads, creating wildlife-friendly gardens and knowing when to seek help, we can all play a part in protecting the remarkable animals that share the Northern Rivers with us.

If you find a native animal that is injured, unwell or you are unsure whether it needs help, call Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital on 1300 WILDLIFE (1300 945 354) for advice.

Letters to the Editor

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



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Council: community consultation?

Really? What a joke when so many of us have put so much effort, expertise, experience, and professional advice into attempting to interact with our Council for decades, Council has produced and organised this 'opportunity' for us all!

Crikey!

PS I wasn't amongst the 'randomly selected BSC residents' invited to participate.

Carole Gamble
Mullumbimby

► **Continued from page 11**

always thought they are rather romantic. They slow the traffic; they lend a bucolic air to the scene; the macadam is too thin anyway, so they just reappear. Just live with them.

There's an environmental reason for living with less luxury, less consumption. It's called climate change.

BSC - just downsize. If you want to continue having residents that care for the earth and care that people get to live in a comfortable climate range, then lessen works, lessen expenditure, lessen maintenance. It's a clear choice.

The tenor of Byron township's residents has already strayed away from a low-income, but vibrantly-creative bunch of eccentrics, into city-speeding, conformist, high-end consumers.

Don't be dragged away from environmental consciousness into their spangled, hollow, meaningless ways.

Sent from a hard-won piece of paradise.

Jude Fanton
Byron Bay

Check your rates

Check your Council rates notice. If you are the 44 per cent part of the community charged a 'Minimum Rate', you are subsidising both Council and the owners of more expensive land.

A Minimum Rates Notice means that Council's Standard Rate calculation would result in less than the Minimum Rate charge, but Council increases your rate bill to the higher Minimum Rate charge, while the more expensive properties only pay the Standard Rate calculation. Check your Land Value, and multiply it by 0.001336 to see how much extra Council increases your bill to the Minimum Rate charge.



**Customer Experience
Focus Group**

Date: 25th August 2026



While Council is having trouble paying its bills, so are we on cheaper land value properties, an issue that may be less significant for those buying multi-million-dollar land value properties. And while eliminating increasing fees to the Minimum Rate would result in less income, Council should look at increases on those that have a higher capacity to pay. That would be: increasing all Byron CBD owners' rates, (including the new multi-million dollar CBD apartments), from the present two times the Standard Rate calculation to three times; increasing the out-of-Byron businesses' rates calculation from the present 1.5 to two times; include every tourist holiday letting property, (which might even encourage more properties returned to residential rentals); and include every rural property that is not used for purely residential or agricultural use, to two times the Standard Rate calculation as well.

Or heavens above, think long term, and use the land around the Byron TAFE, the closed South Byron sewerage land, the ex-Mullum Hospital land, etc. all presently adopted for residential development, for Council-owned residential caravan, cabin, manufactured home, or 'tiny home' developments, that will generate income in perpetuity, while additionally providing capacity for those on low incomes to live here.

The elimination of this Minimum Rate subsidy, and consideration of increased rates for commercial properties, and long-term income generation, should be the basis of a thorough rates review, not the present simplistic Council 'pay more or get less' options.

I note that a few months ago, Mayor Ndiaye stated that the organisers of a democracy conference

in Greece were prepared to pay for her airfares, accommodation, and conference fees to attend. I don't know if she attended, but Greece is the birthplace of democracy and they do have a reputation to uphold.

John Lazarus
Byron Bay

Unnecessary rate rise

The proposed unnecessary rate rise doesn't get decided until 27 February, 2027 by IPART.

Make an objection: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Council needs to go if they can't manage on the rate base they receive now.

Sharon Kelly
Ocean Shores

Council: appoint an administrator

Numerous letters have appeared in *The Echo* expressing grave concerns with regard to the administration of Byron Shire Council (BSC). I have monitored Council activities over many years. I have written submissions, letters etc. etc. I am of the belief that it all falls on deaf ears. I allege BSC is a law unto itself.

There is no apparent accountability for staff or councillors.

Any attempt by ratepayers, (whom they are employed to serve), to challenge Council is seen by Council as a call to arms and to battle. Ratepayers are perceived as the enemy. Council feels compelled to win at all costs.

I allege it is long, long past the time for an administrator to be appointed to BSC. This process is reliant on the integrity of the minister recommending the appointment. Until the community unite in action rather than engage in paper warfare Byron will collapse and never recover. I am aware there are strong local community groups working hard but

Shire-wide action and strong leadership is required.

The *Hawkesbury Gazette* has an excellent online article outlining the procedural steps for the appointment of an administrator.

Hilary Bone
Federal

Save Byron's farmland

Doug Foskey (Letters, 26 August) asks why the state government is taxing farmers for 'services' he never sees. Indeed, why?

The traditional dairy, cane, horticultural, and timber industries created the landscape that initially drew people back to the Byron region after whaling and meat processing ended in the early 1960s.

The region is blessed with a climate that is ideal for agriculture and horticulture and both need to be encouraged, or at least maintained, for the sake of the region's economy and character.

The organic or boutique dairy industry, for instance, is a natural fit for the region and should be encouraged, along with specialist crops.

Open agricultural land also provides space for rural housing that could complement farming income. Also, is there room for a boutique timber industry utilising selected timber from around the region?

As an occasional visitor to Brunswick and Byron Bay from the Gold Coast since the late 1990s, I have noticed a long-term trend - parts of the Shire on the coast and hinterland have become overgrown, apparently because of the 'sacred' status of vegetation.

At Broken Head the only open space seems to be the beach and the caravan park - and the scandalous National Parks pay-per-hour parking wedged into the

► **Continued on page 14**

New film society for Murwillumbah



Peter Castaldi.
Photo Jeff Dawson

David Lowe

In exciting news for lovers of fine cinema across the Northern Rivers, the Regent Film Society has just launched at Murwillumbah's historic Regent Cinema.

The Echo caught up with curator Peter Castaldi to find out more. He said the first screening will be happening in the third week of September, and the program would be interactive.

'I'll select up to ten titles each month, and then everyone who's become a member will vote on which film they want to watch. No one will find out what the

film actually is until they turn up to see it!'

Mr Castaldi said the programming would be high quality and eclectic, presenting an alternative to mainstream fare.

'Yes, completely across the board, from much-loved classics to music documentaries to obscure and unknown gems, in all languages, right across the history of cinema.

'The idea is to have fun, and make it a little bit challenging. I'll present all the films and then hang around, so we can have a tippie in the bar afterwards and chat on for as long as we like. It's as much a social as a cultural event.'

Peter Castaldi will be drawing on his long history as a critic, screen educator and cinema enthusiast to find the films, borrowing from great archives and screen libraries from fellow film societies across the country.

There are already 70 foundation members signed up, with new members welcome to join.

You can find out more about the Regent Film Society by contacting the Regent Cinema or visiting www.theregentcinema.com.au.

► Full story online: www.echo.net.au/new-film-society-for-murwillumbah

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KITCHEN GARDENS BY CREATING THEIR
VERY OWN HOMEGROWN LUNCHBOX

► **Continued from page 12** thick growth.

Should there be an extended drought in Northern NSW the risk to life, limb, and property, and trees and wildlife, will be horrendous.

Is tourism the only 'alternative' for Byron, with its low-paid, part-time restaurant and accommodation servicing jobs?

BC Melville,
Highland Park, Qld

Bird Lake begins

There are times when a community needs to stop, acknowledge what has been achieved and simply say thank you.

For Suffolk Park and Bird Lake, 20 August was one of those days.

After years of community concern, reports and frustration, Byron Shire Council unanimously supported a motion to move Bird Lake towards practical action. For our community, that was an incredibly positive and encouraging moment and one for which we are genuinely grateful.

Council agreed to a scoping report on early interventions such as aeration, including consideration of a solar-powered pilot. The draft Baywood Chase Lake Management Plan will return

to Council in September, with a further report due in December considering effectiveness, costs, funding pathways, and grant opportunities.

Most importantly, Council formally acknowledged its own evidence identifying Bird Lake as the number-one pollution source entering the Tallow Creek estuary.

Councillor Elia Hauge deserves enormous credit for bringing the matter forward. She described the opportunity as finding 'things that we can implement to improve water quality in Baywood Chase before the adoption of the CMP', 'no-regrets, easy wins.'

Councillor Delta Kay, who seconded the motion, brought a deeply personal connection to Suffolk Park and Country. 'Let's clean up this lake with early interventions such as the aeration and the planting,' she said.

Councillor Michelle Lowe spoke passionately about the bigger environmental picture, saying: 'We are running out of time for our native species, and we are running out of time for a future for our children.'

And I particularly appreciated Mayor Sarah Ndiaye recognising the extraordinary enthusiasm of



Participants eagerly awaiting the start of the inaugural Clarkes Beach Sack Race. Photo Phoebe Havyatt

the Suffolk Park community: 'We have a community that has shown how enthusiastic it is to make changes.'

Speaking on behalf of the Suffolk Park Community Association, I said: 'We can do both.' We can continue the Coastal Management Program while taking sensible, practical steps now. 'Not against staff. With staff. Not instead of the CMP. Alongside it.'

The motion passed unanimously.

We are incredibly grateful to every councillor who supported it, to Council staff who will now help turn the resolution into practical work, and especially to councillors Hauge and Kay for putting Bird Lake firmly

back on the agenda.

We are also grateful to the residents, volunteers and community groups who refused to let the issue disappear.

Bird Lake hasn't been fixed yet.

But on 20 August, Council gave our community something precious: momentum, a pathway forward and genuine hope.

For that, Suffolk Park simply says: thank you.

Kelly Minahan
President, Suffolk Park Community Association

Flora, fauna, and funga

Last week, science added a new branch to the Tree of Life.

Instead of just flora and fauna, the world of fungi (all 250,000 of them and counting) was thought significant and unique enough to have its own separate classification.

So now it is flora, fauna and funga.

Scientists surprisingly discovered that fungi are more closely related to animals than vegetables! Many are edible, some are deadly poisonous, and 150 varieties contain the miracle drug psilocybin, which is having amazing results in therapy sessions, rescuing people from trauma and suicide.

Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

Musical visionaries

Sydney is a funny place. When recently at Warringah Mall, I was randomly asked to take part in a poll on whether there's too much music in shopping centres. What a strange thing to ask I thought. Then, I heard the music! It was American commercial fodder that 'young people' supposedly like. Apparently, it's putting people off their shopping, and I dare say life, with its monotonous sound devoid of any creativity or originality.

Within my small business in the Northern Rivers,

listening to music is virtually compulsory. My 'work' space pays homage to a pantheon of the gods of music... Al Green, BB King, Arlo Guthrie and lots of Bob Marley. Then, of course local musical gods such as Babe Rainbow and kinda local Wolfmother. Not even Amyl and the Sniffers has received one complaint in my business. They wouldn't dare!

And musical admiration of these divine entities crosses generations. Some teenage boys the other day asked if that was Nina Simone playing on Spotify? I was very impressed and told them so. When I was their age I wouldn't have known that!

Cruising our town this morning, getting my coffee and newspaper, I've heard everyone from Courtney Barnett to Brian Jonestown Massacre.

In an increasingly homogeneous world rife with the cultural blandness, as witnessed in Sydney shopping centres, the variety and diversity of musical tastes in this region is our strength. We are the musical visionaries of the land! Keep it up, Northern Rivers.

Simon Alderton
Byron Bay

► **More letters on page 16**



Byron Shire Council's Proposed Special Rate Variation

We want to fix more roads, improve drainage and infrastructure and provide the facilities our community deserves.

To do this we're proposing to apply to the NSW Government for a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

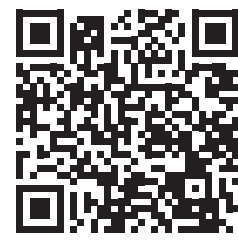
The SRV only applies to Ordinary Land Rates, not the total amount shown on your Rates and Charges notice.

A decision on whether we will apply for an SRV will be made at a Council meeting on 3 December.

Find out how an SRV would impact you financially

Use our online calculator to see the dollar impact the proposed SRV would have on your rates bill over three years. ↓

For 48 percent of residential ratepayers, the increase would be a total of \$403 over three years, which includes the rate peg.





Got a question or want more information?

- Go to yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/srv and post a question for staff to answer.
- srv@byron.nsw.gov.au

Come and see us at the markets

- New Brighton Farmers Market Tuesday 8 September
- Byron Farmers Market Thursday 10 September



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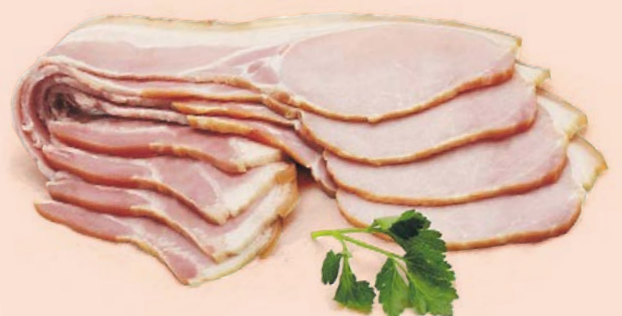
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Monks' blessings

Airship Studio in Byron Bay was blessed by Tibet's venerable Gyuto Monks, last week as one of the final public blessings before the dissolution of the sand mandala the monks have been working on at Crystal Castle. Created during Covid by Sean Latham (left) and Dan Cassidy (right) after their business, North Coast Events, was hit hard, the studio, built like a steampunk airship, kept staff employed and offers space for hire for professional video, photography, audio and podcast facilities for content creators.

Photo Jeff Dawson

Byron businesses shine at tourism awards

Crystalbrook Byron and Better By Bike took out three gold awards at the recent 2026 North Coast Regional Tourism Awards in Coffs Harbour.

They were joined by three silver awards, one bronze award, and recognition as a finalist across a range of tourism categories.

Crystalbrook won two golds for Business Event Venues and 5 Star Accommodation with Better By Bike winning gold for Tourism Retail, Hire and Services.

Silver awards went to Vision Walks Eco Tours in ecotourism and Tour and Transport Operators, while Crystal Castle & Shambhala Gardens



Better By Bike winners accepting their gold award. Photo supplied

took out silver for Excellence in Accessible Tourism.

Crystal Castle & Shambhala

Gardens also took out bronze in Tourist Attractions while Reflections Byron Bay – Tiny Homes, Big Views was a finalist in the Caravan and Holiday Parks category.

'These awards celebrate the special experiences that keep people coming back and continue to make Byron Shire a world-class destination,' said Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, who attended the awards gala.

Winners and finalists from the regional awards will now progress to the NSW Tourism Awards in November, with the opportunity to represent New South Wales at the Australian Tourism Awards in 2027.

Shooting brumbies is inhumane

People across the country have been outraged by the ongoing aerial and ground shooting of brumbies in Australia's national parks. Killing these animals from helicopters is not only profoundly inhumane, but it also fails as a long-term management strategy.

Brumbies have held deep cultural and historic significance since horses arrived on the First Fleet, yet current policies treat them as disposable pests. Repeated culls are a cruel, short-sighted fix that causes immense suffering while doing little to manage populations sustainably. Aerial shooting is inaccurate, with many horses wounded and left to suffer painful and protracted deaths. Wounded mares may leave dependent foals who then starve to death. Just like humans, horses love and nurture their foals.

Far more ethical and effective approaches exist. Rather than relying on lethal measures, management efforts should prioritise non-lethal solutions such as fertility control through immunocontraceptive

vaccines (such as PZP or GnRH) to limit population growth, passive trapping and rehoming of horses to private properties and sanctuaries, and targeted fencing which can protect high-value fragile ecosystems.

We need to adopt a balanced, science-based approach that respects both our native ecosystems and our animal welfare standards. Humane, sustainable management is entirely achievable if the political will exists to pursue it. Let's change this supremacist attitude that is destroying the environment and divesting it of all interconnectedness; it's time to live and let live.

Dr Desmond Bellamy
PETA Australia

Student protest

It is with a heavy heart that I comment on the student protest against Pauline Hanson reported in *The Echo*.

When I was at school in the 1950s and 1960s I was not dragged out of school to protest against any political issues. Who put this to the students it was a good idea?

I was at school to learn other more important things like reading, writing, maths,

geography, and science.

Our young years should be full of joy and laughter.

Margot Hays
Bangalow

War in Iran

The reasons given to justify the war in Iran are quite illogical and hence entirely false: in fact, it's simply a war for resources. We need those resources.

One Nation spokesman, Barnaby Joyce says: 'we're going to be out of milk, eggs, meat, and vegetables.'

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve salt caverns have now reached the level, at which their walls and ceilings will begin to collapse and soon we'll reach the level where they're pumping, sand, brine and a tar-like sludge from the bottom.

My last unpublished letters mentioned America's AI integration into nuclear warfare control and also mentioned the film *Mad Max*, as a possible guide to our future, if these wars continue, and it is very likely these wars will continue. We may see record fuel prices before Christmas: eventual fuel rationing, is now a certainty.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

Arrest runners

Palestinian activist and poet, Bassem Tamimi had his visa cancelled just as he was about to depart on an Australian speaking tour. The government justified this by claiming his visit would cause 'social division'!

Compare this with the participation of 40 Israeli runners in the Sydney Marathon many of whom have been identified as war criminals from their posts on social media. Members of the notorious Golani Brigade are included. The government has not revoked a single visa and there is no mention of the provocative social division their visit will undoubtedly unleash.

If Australia were fulfilling its obligations under international law it would arrest all 40 and grill them about their participation in Gaza's genocide but that's not going to happen. What an appalling act of complicity with genocide and a kick in the teeth for all who uphold the law and protest for the liberation of Palestine!

Gareth W R Smith
Byron Bay

The many honeyeaters of the Wallum

Byron Bird Buddies

We are quietly following the sandy, meandering track that lures us further and further into the Wallum [proposed housing development site in Brunswick Heads].

This magical place seeps into your soul, calming your mind and stirring those feel-good endorphins. Slowing to clamber over logs, detour around intricately woven spiderwebs and admire the smooth trunks of scribbly gums patterned with moth grub hieroglyphs, before long we come across a small glade perfect for birdwatching.

Beside us, Simpsons Creek sparkles in the morning sun. All around and above us, birds flitter and flutter, filling the air with a symphony of song.

To the untrained eye, Wallum might appear to be a chaotic tangle of vegetation intersected here and there by foot-made pathways through the sandy soil. But this surface view belies the intricate and complex web of life woven over epochs.

Honeyeaters

Of these myriad, deep-time relationships, one of the most fascinating is the love story of the *Meliphagidae* family, or honeyeaters, and the families of *Proteaceae* (banksias, grevilleas, hakeas, macadamias), *Myrtaceae* (eucalypts,

paperbarks, bottle brush), and *Ericaceae* (heaths).

Some 70-plus honeyeater species have spread right across Australia.

The ability to survive in spite of being geographically isolated is called *allopatric speciation*, and honeyeaters have it in spades. It accounts for their astounding diversity, ranging in size from 9-50cm, with plumage in almost every imaginable colour, matched by variation in beaks and calls.

Their uniting feature is a long, slim beak and 'paintbrush' tongue, whose shape may be grooved, tubular, or both, designed to extract high-energy nectar from flowers.

In a fascinating display of mutualism – a relationship which benefits both partners – *Meliphagidae* mouth parts and *Proteaceae* flowers evolved together over tens of millions of years. In this process, the birds that were most successful in pollinating plants were rewarded with access to the nectar that lies deep within the flower spikes.

No wonder then, that of the 122 bird species known to frequent the Wallum, it's the Honeyeaters who make their presence felt. Across the heath, through the paperbarks and swamp mahoganies, and along the banks of Simpsons Creek, ten honeyeater species weave a seasonal



Scarlett Honeyeater. Photo Ross Hollands

tapestry of movement, colour, and sound. Each has developed its own niche within this richly abundant and diverse ecosystem.

Quiet workers and energetic residents

Lewin's Honeyeater, a year-round resident, is the quiet worker of the Wallum who consumes more fruit than nectar, along with seeds and selected invertebrates. They generally build their nests in the thick undergrowth near water.

White-cheeked Honeyeater is a dynamic, energetic bird with an affinity for flowering heath. Mainly feeding on nectar, these birds supplement their diet with insects and honeydew – a sticky, sugary deposit made by sap-sucking insects.

Scarlet Honeyeater is more

cryptic, its presence revealed by a sudden flash of vivid red in and between the canopies of flowering swamp mahogany and paperbark trees. Nests bound with spiderweb may be seen in tree forks, or dangling from a horizontal tree branch.

Little Wattlebirds boom when the banksias bloom. Loud, territorial, and brashly confident, they're the undisputed boss of the banksias.

Brown Honeyeater is the quiet, subtle thread in the Wallum tapestry, weaving through heath, forest and around the edges.

Yellow-faced Honeyeaters appear briefly during May, June and July. They partake in one of Australia's great natural spectacles – the annual Yellow-faced Honeyeater east coast migration.

Flocks

Flocks of up to 1,000 birds stream north in autumn and south in spring, following blossom pulses and insect flushes for some 745 kilometres. Small groups veer off to rest and refuel in the Wallum, connecting it with other vital ecological corridors.

Blue-faced Honeyeater is the edge opportunist. Bold as brass, highly vocal and eye-catchingly colourful, these birds bind the interface of natural Wallum with its peripheral edges.

Noisy Miner, the colony

competitor, thrives in open, modified patches of the Wallum and is present in small but persistent numbers. They can be loud and aggressive, and have driven out competitors along with their popularity. Here in the Wallum, other honeyeaters keep them in check.

Noisy Friarbird is our leather-headed nomad. A big, loud canopy feeder.

Eastern Spinebill, the delicate specialist, is a whisper of ecological health.

Looking at the ten honeyeater species together, a pattern emerges. Lewin's shows year-round stability. White-cheeked shows heath integrity. Scarlet shows canopy flowering pulses. Little Wattlebird shows banksia strength. Brown Honeyeater shows generalist resilience. Yellow-faced shows continental migration connectivity. Blue-faced shows edge habitat functioning. Noisy Miner shows disturbance boundaries. Noisy Friarbird shows big nectar events. Eastern Spinebill shows understorey finesse.

The Wallum is not a degraded landscape. It is a living nectar engine, supporting birds across multiple habitat layers, seasons, and movement patterns. The honeyeaters are telling us the Wallum is still working – still feeding, still sheltering, still connecting species across the region. And that is exactly why it's worth fighting for.

► Read full article in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/articles.



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BECOME A MEMBER!

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce represents a mixture of businesses and community groups that have come together for the purpose of ensuring Mullumbimby thrives and remains a vibrant community. Since its inception in 2013, the Chamber has hosted numerous successful events. These include street banquets, the revival of The Chinny Charge, Carols by Candlelight and the

annual Shop Local campaign before Christmas. The Chamber also supports Brunswick Valley Historical Society, Mullumbimby Community Gardens, GateWay Landcare, Spaghetti Circus and many other community organisations.

If you have a business in Mullumbimby area or are a resident of the Mullumbimby area, you are welcome to join the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce.



An initiative of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce

www.mullumbimby.org.au



The law of silence: how Labor made ASIO's powers permanent

Chaïy Donati

On Thursday, 20 August the Federal Senate passed the ASIO Amendment Bill (No. 2). A compulsory questioning warrant lets ASIO require a person who has never been charged, and may never be, to appear and answer questions. Refusing is a criminal offence carrying a potential sentence of years in prison. So is telling anyone it happened: a husband, a mother, a grown child – the law does not merely silence the citizen; it forbids her from explaining the silence.

It was rushed through under a guillotine, the procedure that cuts off debate and forces a vote.

The vote went 26 to 15, and not a single government senator rose to defend it.

The 15 who voted 'no' came from opposite ends of the spectrum, The Greens, One Nation, David Pocock and two South Australian Liberals, Alex Antic and Andrew McLachlan.

'You don't even have to be suspected of anything'

A power that compels answers on pain of prison does not sit at the edge of that system; it sits outside it.

Shoebridge told the Senate.

'You might just be someone they want to talk to'.

A person that has been charged has a lawyer, a court, and a right to silence. A person charged with nothing has a lawyer ASIO can remove at will, questioning that may run 24 hours, no exemption for children as young as 14, and a warrant signed not by a judge but by the Attorney General, with the all partisan interests of their governing party.

The right to silence

The right to silence is among the oldest protections in the common law: the state must prove its case, not extract it from the mouth of the accused. A power that compels answers on pain of prison does not sit at the edge of that system; it sits outside it. And in Australia this right has no constitutional shield. Nothing holds



Pipe up and spill the beans skip, you're not going anywhere! Image Ziggi Browning / Firefly AI

it up but common law, and common law yields to any parliament that writes clearly enough. No court can save it; the right survives only as long as parliament is willing to spare it. This week parliament did not.

The grounds now reach past espionage to sabotage and, elastically, the promotion of communal violence. Read the definition, Shoebridge said and 'you could drive a bus through' it. Advocacy that offends? A protest that turns hot? A sermon? Nobody in that chamber could say, which is the objection.

'Vague drafting' in Antic's phrase, 'is the enemy of the rule of law'. A line you cannot see is not a law. It is a discretion.

None of this pretends security does not matter. ASIO's job is difficult and vital. The objection was never

the mission but the price.

Whose laws?

These are Howard's laws, forged in the panic after 11 September, when the line between the reach of the state and the liberty of the citizen was redrawn in the state's favour and never drawn back. Even then they were sold as temporary, their sunset clause a promise that parliament would look again. This bill removed the sunset clause, and the permanence is not an oversight but a decision. In 2003 a Labor frontbencher called the legislation 'without precedent in Australia's post-war legal history' warning it could allow 'the mistreatment of ethnic minorities, the suppression of dissent, and the detaining and investigations of wholly innocent Australians'. A struggle for democracy, he said 'cannot be won by giving up democratic values, freedom and respect for civil liberties'.

That frontbencher was Anthony Albanese.

A Labor government out-hawing the Coalition on ASIO powers looks like one of the

stranger reversals in our history. However, this was never Labor policy. The party's national platform, adopted by its own conference, endorses the principle that people 'are not compelled to incriminate themselves'. That is the right to silence, the precise protection this bill destroys. It commits Labor to security powers 'reviewable by court'; the ASIO Amendment Bill (No. 2) is a warrant signed by a politician.

What passed the senate did not come up from the membership but down from the leadership, endorsed by a pledge that makes crossing the floor an expulsion offence or the cost of dissent being their own preselection. So the party that invokes the solidarity of the many is, increasingly, the instrument of a few.

The bill forbids a citizen from telling their own family that ASIO questioned them; Labor forbids their own members from rigorously debating or publicly opposing it. A leadership practised at silencing its own caucus has now voted silence onto every citizen.

What is left?

Neither Labor or the Coalition campaigned on these powers. Neither would dare put them to a plebiscite. And in the final debate not one senator stood up to defend them, because to defend this bill, you would have to describe it; to say aloud, on the record, that a citizen suspected of nothing may be taken, questioned for 24 hours, and jailed for telling his wife. No such sentence of that description survives contact with the public. A bill that can win a vote but not an argument must be passed without one. This is what the guillotine was for.

Australians are leaving the major parties in numbers that ought to frighten them; they have noticed how often the two of them agree on things that are against the interests of those who elected them. When the parties meant to check each other, instead reach for the same powers, that is not competition; it is a cartel. Governments are elected to govern, but a law that was never put to the people, passed by government senators forbidden to dissent, under a procedure that cut off debate, may be legal. Whether it is democratic is a different question.

'Extraordinary powers should never become ordinary' Antic told the Senate.

But this is how they become ordinary; not by proclamation, but by procedure, on a Thursday, the numbers settled in advance with nobody obliged to explain. A parliament that would not be questioned about this bill has voted to expand its power to question you.

■ Chaïy Donati is a former President of Queensland Young Labor.

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The Tweed: Valley to Coast

Discover the Tweed - it is worth it!

Just beyond the Byron Shire to the north, lies a region made for exploring. A day trip can take in beautiful villages, independent shops, great food and some of the Northern Rivers' most spectacular scenery. The Tweed Shire: From Valley to Coast, offers an easy change of pace for *Echo* readers looking to discover somewhere new without travelling far from home.

Head north for the day and there are plenty of places to explore. Browse the boutiques, galleries

and local stores of Murwillumbah, stop for lunch in Uki, wander the streets of Tyalgum, or make your way to the coast for the relaxed atmosphere of Kingscliff, Cabarita Beach and Pottsville. Along the way, cafes, markets, local producers and independent small businesses provide plenty of reasons to stop and stay awhile. If it is more mainstream shopping you need, the shopping centres in Tweed Heads have you covered on that score too.

For outdoor adventurers, the Northern Rivers Rail Trail offers another way to experience the Tweed. Walk, cycle or hire an e-bike and follow the former railway corridor through lush countryside, past historic villages, and beneath the dramatic backdrop of the Tweed Valley.

With mountains, rainforest, rivers and beaches all within easy reach, the Tweed is the perfect place to pack the car, bring the bikes and make a day of it.



Northern Rivers Symphony Orchestra

This Father's Day, why not treat Dad to an afternoon of sensational music? The Northern Rivers Symphony Orchestra presents *Spring Sensations* at Tweed Heads Civic Centre on Sunday, 6 September, featuring clarinetist Nathaniel Smorti with pianist Ayesha Gough and leading chamber musicians.

The intimate program brings together Mozart's much-loved *Clarinet Quintet*, Bruch's lyrical *8 Pieces* and Fauré's *Piano Quartet*.

Smorti invites audiences to listen for the humour, drama and stories within the music – and perhaps discover, or rediscover, a love of classical music.

Spring Sensations begins at 2.30pm
Tickets: nrso.com.au



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Looking for your next adventure? Beyond Byron E Bikes, located in Mooball and closest to the Byron Bay end of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, is the perfect place to start exploring.

Ride at your own pace on premium German-made e-bikes, designed for comfort with gel seats and puncture-resistant tyres. Families are well catered for too, with kids e-bikes, tag-a-longs, baby seats and even dog trailers, so everyone can join the adventure.

Explore the beautiful Northern Rivers Rail Trail, with stunning scenery and plenty of great food stops along the way. For the more adventurous, take a self-guided e-bike ride to Husk Distillery or Earth Beer Company, with return shuttle available.

Easy online booking at
beyondbyronebikes.com.au

RAIL TRAIL E BIKE HIRE

Come ride with the best!

- ✓ Starting in Mooball – closest to Byron Bay
- ✓ Puncture-proof tyres and gel seats
- ✓ More than 500 ★★★★★ reviews
- ✓ Go beyond the Rail Trail with self guided rides to Husk Distillery or Earth Brewery



BEYOND BYRON E BIKES
beyondbyronebikes.com.au

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ecocertified.com.au

BOOK ONLINE NOW



Northern Rivers
Symphony
Orchestra
presents

*Spring
Sensations
Chamber
Concert*



Featuring Nathaniel Smorti on clarinet

Mozart | Bruch | Faure
Sunday 6th September, 2.30pm
Tweed Heads Civic Centre
Bookings: www.nrso.com.au



Tweed River Timbers

Services offered include

- Saw milling
- Custom timber, vanities, tables, shelving, bird feeders and more
- Kiln drying timber
- Timber sanding and dressing
- General timber sales
- Wholesale and retail

sales@tweedrivertimbers.com.au
Phone: 0429 313 326





The Tweed:



Belle M Boutique

In the heart of Murwillumbah, Belle M Boutique has all your fashion and accessories covered, with a great range of lingerie, stylish footwear, handbags and jewellery.

Their friendly staff will assist you with finding the perfect pieces to enhance your confidence and complete your look, as well as offering assistance with bra fittings.

Purchase three pieces each over \$50 and receive 30% off the fourth with a Belle M loyalty promotion card.

Gift vouchers and eight-week lay-by are also available.

114 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah
02 6672 1224 or 0428 135 092
missey.bell359@gmail.com
@belle_m_boutique



RAFT Gallery

Renowned Australian landscape artist Rohan Robinson has opened RAFT Gallery, a vibrant new creative space located within the bustling M-Arts Precinct on Brisbane Street, Murwillumbah.

The dynamic venue serves as a platform for both established and emerging contemporary artists, showcasing an eclectic mix of local and interstate talent. RAFT Gallery connects diverse artistic voices across the country, featuring captivating works from the Tiwi Islands to Tasmania.

Operated by Robinson himself, a passionate fixture of the Australian art scene, the gallery promises to enrich the Tweed Shire's cultural landscape.

RAFT Gallery welcomes art enthusiasts from 11am to 6pm, Thursday through Sunday, or via private appointment. For updates, follow @raftgallery on Instagram, and for enquiries, contact 040 084 4074



Paradise Living Co.

Only 45 mins from Byron, in the heart of South Murwillumbah, Paradise Living Co. spans across six showrooms and two levels within a stunning 120-year-old emporium. Specialising in unique stone baths, basins and timber vanities, alongside a curated range of antique doors, furniture and homewares, every piece is chosen with intention.

Paradise Living Co. works with skilled artisans in India and Indonesia, to bring handcrafted designs into Australian homes - from cane and rattan through to timber and stone, each piece will add warmth and character to your space.

Beyond the showroom floor, Paradise Living Co. offers an interior consultation service to help guide selections for any project, whether a full renovation or a simple restyle. With local delivery available and a dedicated team on hand for quoting and support, the process feels as considered as the pieces themselves.

23 Prospero St, South Murwillumbah
02 6672 7353
0447 077 072
hello@paradiselivingco.com.au

Beautiful colours, cool fabrics and styles to suit most occasions.
Highest quality leather European made shoes.
Socials @BELLE M BOUTIQUE
114 Main Street, Murwillumbah. 2484
02 6672 1224

Now personally delivering in the local area from our Murwillumbah depot.
100% Independent, local family owned
Servicing your area

NO RENTAL FEES
Free Call: 1300 727 013
swapabottle@bigpond.com
swapabottlegas.com

RAFT GALLERY

Murwillumbah 3-5 Brisbane Street
from the estate of the late Peter C. Webb - the last 6

PARADISE LIVING CO.
HOME + BATHROOM EMPORIUM

Paradise Living Co. is a hidden gem nestled in the heart of South Murwillumbah, specialising in stone baths and basins, teak vanities, rattan and statement décor - each piece handmade, imported direct from Bali and India. Worth the drive, only 45 mins from Byron.

21-25 PROSPERO ST,
SOUTH MURWILLUMBAH NSW
HELLO@PARADISELIVINGCO.COM.AU
WWW.PARADISELIVINGCO.COM.AU

PH: (02) 6672 7353
M: 0447 077 072
@PARADISELIVINGCO

Valley to Coast



Empire Revival

Empire Revival is a dynamic retail collective in the heart of Murwillumbah, less than an hour's drive from Byron Bay. From interior designers to local artisans to old-school collectors, they house over 30 micro-businesses under one roof, and are growing bigger and better every week!

If you're looking to refresh your home, your wardrobe or just find inspiration, Empire Revival is your one-stop-shop for quality and variety. They are constantly restocking and rearranging to ensure you have more to explore every time your visit.

Surrounded by the vibrant M-Arts Precinct, featuring a patisserie, cheese shop, bar and dozens of artist studios, this is the perfect setting for your next day out!

The Regent Grand Hall and Foyer
3-5 Brisbane St
M-Arts Precinct, Murwillumbah
0455 444 432
@empirerevivalmurbah
empirerevival.com.au



Swap a Bottle

This time of year is a perfect reminder of the power of supporting local businesses and making the switch has never been easier.

By choosing local suppliers for your gas needs, you're not only investing in your community, but also ensuring faster service, reliable delivery, and a team that genuinely cares.

With Swap a Bottle, changing to a trusted local gas company is as simple as a phone call, just friendly, dependable support right around the corner!

Let's all try to keep it local and keep it simple.
10 Kite Street, South Murwillumbah
Free call: 1300 727 013
swapabottlegas.com



Mana Real Estate

14 Years of Putting the Soul Into Local Real Estate

With more than three decades of property experience and family roots in the Northern Rivers and Tweed regions dating back to the 1930s, MANA brings a deep connection to the area and a fresh approach to real estate. For 14 years, MANA has been helping people across the Northern Rivers and Tweed regions navigate some of life's biggest property decisions, with offices in Byron Bay and Murwillumbah.

Founded by selling principal Julie-Ann Manahan, MANA was created to offer a more thoughtful and flexible approach to property. Its bespoke marketing strategies are tailored to each property and designed to connect with the right buyers at the right time.

"We see the 'Serve us' in Customer Service," says Julie Ann. "This is your dream; we are here to make it a reality."

From first homes to family moves, downsizing and investment decisions, MANA provides personalised guidance throughout the journey. With a focus on thoughtful service, tailored marketing and strong local connections, the team works to achieve the best possible outcome for every client.

MANA Real Estate
manare.au
hello@manare.au



35 boutique businesses under one roof
Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm
3-5 Brisbane St, M-Arts Precinct. Murwillumbah

We're here to
connect the
property dots.

Trusted local expertise,
& personalised guidance
to help you achieve your
property goals.



MANA Real Estate



Good Taste *Dining Guide*

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

BRUNSWICK HEADS

PACIFIC BISTRO AT BRUNSWICK HEADS BOWLING CLUB

Fresh, affordable meals. Relaxed, family-friendly setting. Classic pub favourites, premium steaks, burgers and specials, including our popular Saturday Curry Night.

Open: Tuesday to Sunday for lunch 12pm–2pm and dinner 5pm–8pm

Address: 107 Tweed St, Brunswick Heads
brunswickbowlingclub.com/

BYRON BAY

ROCA BYRON BAY

Latin fusion restaurant blending deeply rooted Latin American traditions, with innovative techniques and a flair for presentation.

Open: every day except Wednesday 6.30am to late

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

FOREST BYRON BAY

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

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

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

BOMBAY TO BYRON AUTHENTIC INDIAN FOOD

Serving Indian food to Byron Bay for last 12 years.

Open: Monday 4.30pm–9.30pm
Tuesday to Sunday 12 noon–3pm
and 4.30pm–9.30pm

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

MANNA HAVEN

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

Celebrating 20 years in Byron!

Open: Mon to Fri 11am–3pm
Address: 97 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
mannahaven.com.au

BAYSIDE YAKINIKU CLUB BY YUKO

Authentic Japanese Charcoal Restaurant
Premium Australian Wagyu, homemade sauces, fermented food, rice bowls and deli salads.

Open: Wednesday to Sunday

Lunch 12pm–3pm

Dinner 5.30pm–8.30pm

Address: 1/14 Bay Street, Byron Bay

Contact: 0493 565 508

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

THREE BLUE DUCKS

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

Open: Monday – Friday 8am–4pm

Saturday 8am–6.30pm

Sunday 8am–8pm

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

NO BONES BYRON BAY

Vegan Kitchen + Bar

\$20 Carbonara Mondays, all night (until sold out).

HAPPIEST HOUR: 5-6pm every night: \$8 local taps, \$14 cocktails, \$10 mocktails, \$9 natural wines
Live jazz by Mondo Hum, first Fri each month

Open: 7 nights from 5pm

Address: 11 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
[@nobonesrestaurants](https://www.instagram.com/nobonesrestaurants)

WILSONS CREEK

THREEWAYS OF THE VALLEY

Nestled in the lush Wilsons Creek rainforest, Threeways is a vibrant, family-friendly cafe where nature, nourishment, and community meet.

Open: Wednesday – Sunday 8am–3pm
and Saturday night.

Address: 10 Huonbrook Rd, Wilsons Creek

Contact: 0421 054 804

www.threeways.store

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



www.echo.net.au/good-taste

Photo: Bovia-co-photography



School lunchbox inspiration



Local school children growing, harvesting, cooking and eating at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market. Photo supplied

Allie Godfrey

Forget the soggy sandwich and packaged snack – some of our local school kids are showing us just how exciting a healthy lunchbox can be.

The Grow Your Own Lunchbox Challenge returns to Mullumbimby Farmers Market this Friday, bringing local schools together for a high-energy celebration of growing, harvesting, cooking and eating great food.

Launched in 2015 by Mullum Farmers Market, the challenge encourages schools to keep their kitchen gardens thriving while giving children a real connection to where their food comes from.

The idea is simple: grow it, harvest it, cook it and turn it into a delicious lunchbox.

And if you need a little inspiration, last year's young cooks came up with some seriously impressive creations.

Goonengerry Public School took out Best Main with their garden-grown croquettes, while The

Pocket won Best Snack with macadamia cookies. Ocean Shores created a refreshing lemon myrtle drink and Mullumbimby Public impressed with their choko and zucchini relish.

The 2025 Best Overall Lunchbox went to Main Arm Upper Public School with an inventive combination of okonomiyaki pancake, strawberry lemonade and beetroot brownie – proving garden produce can go a long way beyond a salad!

But the challenge isn't just about cooking. Schools are also celebrated for what's happening in their gardens. Main Arm took out Best Veggie Garden, Goonengerry Best Sustainable Garden for its wicking beds and healing garden, Ocean Shores Best Native Garden, and The Pocket Best New Gardening Innovation for its aeroponics. Mullumbimby Public was recognised for its gardening program and clever marketing initiatives.

The children are encouraged to think about the

whole food cycle – from composting and sustainable growing to preserving, cooking and finding creative ways to keep their school gardens thriving.

Local farmers, growers and foodies judge the entries, with prizes reinvested directly back into the school gardens.

Come and see our next generation of growers and cooks in action at the Grow Your Own Lunchbox Challenge, Friday 4 September, 8.30am to 11am at Mullumbimby Farmers Market.

■ Mullumbimby Farmers Market is held every Friday from 7am to 11am at the Mullumbimby Showground.

CELEBRATIONS

Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com 0414 895 441

Gluten-free and special dietary needs catered for.

In The Pink is now... PINK

After 38 years of 'In The Pink Byron Bay' it was time for an exciting change. This local family business, known and loved in the community, is welcoming a new chapter with a complete renovation of the shop and a rebrand to 'PINK'.

They are bringing a fresh twist to their quality gelato. A refined range of flavours will spotlight the seasons and connect customers to a taste of the community's best seasonal produce. Expect a burst of ripe, delicious Fresh Strawberry, and Passionfruit, and the core flavours for every season, like the famous Sticky Date, with cake sourced locally from Byron Hot Bread Kitchen.

The new layout of the shop will take customers into the world of artisan gelato making. It will create an immersive experience with the process and people behind the scenes. Up close, there will be something to learn every day, so be sure to bring the kids along.

Another key focus will be on collaborations with local businesses. In the Pink is already deeply embedded in the community through the support of local schools, sporting teams, and the Byron Bay Surf Club. PINK will build on this with specials inspired by other

Is owning a gelato store Byron's best job?



Long-time Byron proprietors Glen and Tanya Lawrence develop and test all the flavours, and invite you to check them out yourself at the newly-renovated PINK store at 20A Jonson Street, Byron Bay'. Photo supplied

incredible businesses unique to the area.

The PINK team invites everyone, including past staff, regulars and fresh faces to come in and celebrate this new beginning with them. It is with the

support of the Byron community that the heart of the business is strong, and can continue for many years to come.

■ PINK
20A Jonson St, Byron Bay.



SIMPLY IRRESISTABLE GELATO
20a Jonson Street Byron Bay

ART GALLERIES

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

Belongil Beach. Open by appointment | 0409 604 405
janrae7.weebly.com

ARTIST'S STUDIO GALLERY

Byron Bay. Landscape inspired works imparting a 'spirit of place'. Open by appointment | 02 6685 5317
jaypearse.com

BANGALOW FINE ART

Consultancy / Sales / Valuations
bangalowfineart.com.au

BLACK FIG GALLERY

Exhibiting Northern Rivers artists
Shop 7, Alstonville Plaza
Wednesday to Friday 10am–4pm and Sat 10am–2pm
(or by appointment) | 0480 676 957
blackfiggallery.com.au | [@blackfiggallery](https://www.instagram.com/blackfiggallery)

BYRON CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

Fairview Studios
Open 10am–4pm Saturdays and Sundays
John Stewart | 0406 404 335
byronclayworkersgallery.com.au

BLUE KNOB GALLERY

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

BURRINGBAR GALLERY

Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am–4pm
(or by appointment) | 0408 998 446
6184 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar
www.burringbargallery.com.au

GALLERY COSMOSIS

Visionary Art | 22 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay
Open Thursday to Saturday
10.30am–3pm or by appointment | 0431 331 205
gallerycosmosis.com

GARAGE GALLERY

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

H'ART GALLERY

Local art in the heart of Mullum at Mullumbimby
Comprehensive Health Centre
60 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby | 0401 647 325
solveig.com.au

HAVEN GALLERY

102 Jonson St, Byron Bay
Open 10am–8pm – seven days a week
havengallerybyron.com

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

World award-winning contemporary realism art direct from
the artist at her Bangalow Studio
Phone or text 0414 822 196

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

11 Rural St, Lismore, Bundjalung Country
Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am–4pm. Thursday until 6pm
lismoregallery.org | [@lismoreregionalgallery](https://www.instagram.com/lismoreregionalgallery)

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

M-ARTS PRECINCT

Spend the day, meet the makers,
shop local and handmade
105 Wollumbin St, Murwillumbah
Open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am
[@m.arts.precinct](https://www.instagram.com/m.arts.precinct) | m-arts.com.au/

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

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

MZ GALLERY

Byron Bay Contemporary Artspace
57 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay, 0468 718 045
www.byronartspace.com

NINBELLA GALLERY

Open Mon–Sat 10–4pm & Sun 10–2pm
19a Byron Street, Bangalow | 0429 357 274 | ninbella.com

NEWRYBAR ART COLLECTIVE

Gallery and Art Studio showcasing local artists
12 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar
Monday to Saturday 10am–3pm,
Wednesday 10am–7pm
0412 264 312 | [@newrybarartcollective](https://www.instagram.com/newrybarartcollective)

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

Cnr Cherry & Crane Streets, Ballina
Open Wed–Fri 9am–3pm, Sat–Sun 9.30am–1pm
02 6681 0530 | nrcgballina.com.au

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY

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

THE ARTS

BRETT ALLEN ART

Trade-based artist with an emphasis on customer service and quality. Architects, interior designers, individual commissions. Bronze, metals, glass, wood, mixed medium twist of all shapes. Small samples of work online at Instagram [@corndaleartfoundry](https://www.instagram.com/corndaleartfoundry), but mostly analog, from fire bowls at Wategos, life-size band at SAE Byron Bay, works at Sea World and multiple wineries. Anything from door handles, art gifts, memorial pieces. Memories that are captured in 3D forever. One man, five sheds, all tools, deal direct, solution-based if I can't, I'll help you find your dreams. In today's disposable society my products are forever.

0427 767 715
[@corndaleartfoundry](https://www.instagram.com/corndaleartfoundry)

NEWRYBAR ART COLLECTIVE

The Newrybar Art Collective offers an affordable way to buy art. Located in a charming house in the heart of Newrybar Village, its intimate and beautiful home setting lets you easily visualise pieces within your own living space. By focusing on the region's finest emerging talents, the collective provides a rare opportunity to own original artwork before they gain mainstream recognition. Visitors can even meet the artists working in the studio, uncovering the personal stories behind every unique piece.

Open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 3pm
12 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar
[@newrybarartcollective](https://www.instagram.com/newrybarartcollective)

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY

The Wollumbin Art Award (WAA) is the Gallery's biennial \$30,000 award open to artists living in the Tweed, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle and Scenic Rim Shires, as well as Richmond Valley, Lismore and Gold Coast City.

The award, named after the mountain that overlooks the gallery, celebrates the calibre and diversity of artists of the region.

The 2026 WAA showcases an impressive selection of artworks from shortlisted finalists across the region including painting, ceramics, works on paper, sculpture and digital works.

The 2026 guest judge is Professor Lisa Slade, curator, art historian and Hugh Ramsay Chair in Australian Art History at the University of Melbourne.

A Tweed Regional Gallery initiative. This exhibition is proudly sponsored by Bondor Metecno, via the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd.

Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm
2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF 'THE MOST EASTERLY POINT'

Step into the serene world of Jay Pearse's local landscape exhibition, 'The Most Easterly Point'. This captivating showcase invites you to explore the tranquil beauty of our region through her vibrant and evocative works.

Don't miss this opportunity to view a selected collection.

The Byron Community Centre
1 September to 30 November
byroncentre.com.au

NEWRYBAR ART COLLECTIVE



ART GALLERY AND
ART STUDIO
FEATURING A COLLECTIVE
OF LOCAL ARTISTS
[@newrybarartcollective](https://www.instagram.com/newrybarartcollective)

12 Old Pacific Hwy
Newrybar
2479

Mon-Sat
10am-3pm



ART SHOW



THE MOST EASTERLY POINT
JAY PEARSE SOLO EXHIBITION



ART FUNDRAISER
BYRON SPACES GALLERY
BYRON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Step into Jay Pearse's *The Most Easterly Point*, a vibrant exhibition of evocative landscapes celebrating the region's natural beauty through light, shadow and reflection.

1 SEP – 30 NOV | 10AM – 4PM WEEKDAYS

ALL PROCEEDS FROM ART SALES GO TO FLETCHER STREET COTTAGE
www.BYRONCENTRE.com.au

BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL PRESENTS THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR PIP WILLIAMS

Join Pip Williams, author best known for her companion novels, *The Dictionary of Lost Words* and *The Bookbinder of Jericho* in conversation on her new book *The German Ward* this October. *The German Ward* is the love story of the year: a breathtaking new novel, and a tale of love between enemies behind the lines of WW1 and the Australian artist who captures their secret. This is a story about desire.

In this luminous tale of hope in the midst of darkness, Pip Williams expands the world of her bestselling novels, *The Dictionary of Lost Words* and *The Bookbinder of Jericho*. Sensual and sophisticated, *The German Ward* shows one of Australia's most significant writers reaching the height of her skills.

Thursday, 8 October at Brunswick Picture House
Tickets on sale now
www.byronwritersfestival.com

SOLVEIG

For Solveig, art has never been about fitting neatly inside categories. A lifelong painter, psychologist, curator, and creative force based in Mullumbimby, her work fuses the emotional resonance of Impressionism with a distinctly graphic sensibility she calls 'graphic impressionism.' Colour, movement, and light become tools not just of representation, but of feeling.

Born in Sydney in 1952, Solveig studied painting and sculpture at the National Art School during the height of Australia's psychedelic era, absorbing the influence of artists such as Martin Sharp and John Olsen. Over decades of practice, motherhood, study, and self-reflection, her work evolved into a deeply intuitive exploration of nature, consciousness, and healing.

That belief in art as a healing force now extends beyond her own practice through the H'Art Gallery at Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre, which she curates as a space showcasing Northern Rivers artists across painting, printmaking, and mixed media. Under Solveig's guidance, the gallery has become an unexpected cultural hub — bringing contemporary local art into a public health setting where creativity, conversation, and wellbeing intersect.

Her own works in Exhibition 12 range from luminous botanicals to abstract neural landscapes, all carrying her signature interplay of colour vibration and layered form.

'Art doesn't just decorate a health centre,' Solveig says, 'It heals it.'

solveig.com.au

ARCAA PRESENTS: FORMED (WOMEN IN ART)

This month, Arcaa's Byron Bay showroom is home to FORMED, a group exhibition celebrating the work of five women artists and their distinct approaches to form, texture and material.

Featuring Niah McLeod, Rikki Day, Jedda, Hattie Zampa and Tahuna Collective, the exhibition brings together painting, sculpture, jewellery and tactile works that reflect the individuality and creative spirit of the artists behind them.

Together, the works explore the relationship between art, object and everyday life, bringing different practices and perspectives into one space. Each artist brings her own language, materials and way of seeing, creating an exhibition that feels diverse, considered and distinctly personal.

The works are available to purchase, offering an opportunity to take a piece of the exhibition home.

FORMED runs until September 26, at Arcaa Showroom, 4B/11 Banksia Drive, Byron Bay, during normal store hours.

@arcaa_movement
arcaamovement.co

THE ARTS

BRETT ALLEN

30 years of being a 3D maker of shapes. Stock sellout, finished pieces, thousands of shapes you can add your own spin too.

For all enquiries phone 0427767715



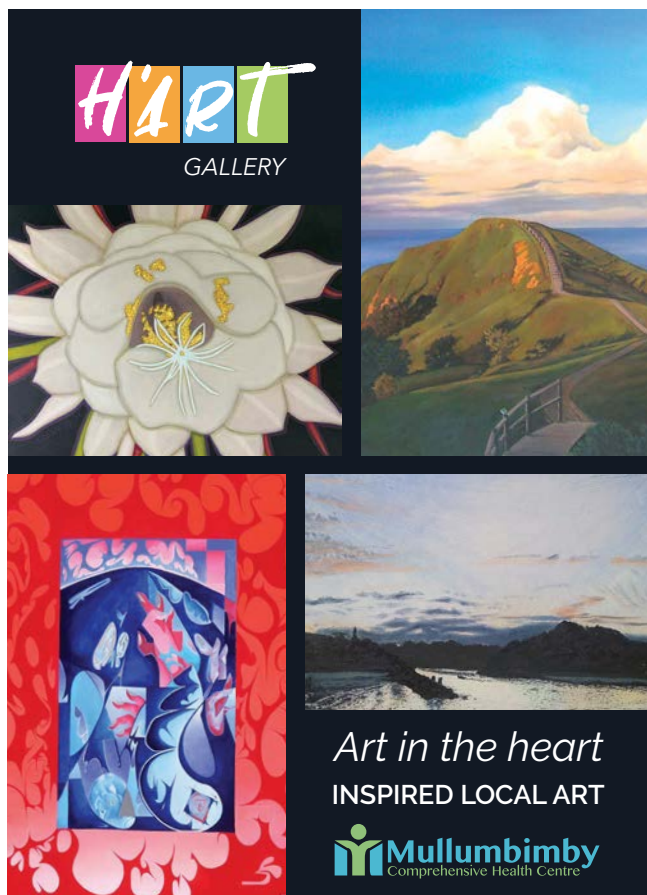
wollumbin art award 2026

29 August – 15 November 2026

Dane Scotcher
Therapy-Over 2026
 video, 2 min seamless loop

This exhibition is proudly sponsored by
 Bondor Metecno, via the Tweed Regional
 Gallery Foundation Ltd.

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
 & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE



ARCAA PRESENTS

FORMED (WOMEN IN ART)

AN EXHIBITION OF LOCAL FEMALE ARTISTS AND MAKERS, PAVING THE WAY IN THEIR CRAFT.

HATTIE ZAMPA
 RIKKI DAY
 JEDDA
 TAHUNA COLLECTIVE
 NIAH MCLEOD

28 AUG – 26 SEPT
 ARCAA SHOWROOM, 4B/11 BANKSIA DR, BYRON BAY

[@ARCAA_MOVEMENT](http://ARCAAMOVEMENT.CO)

b

Special Event

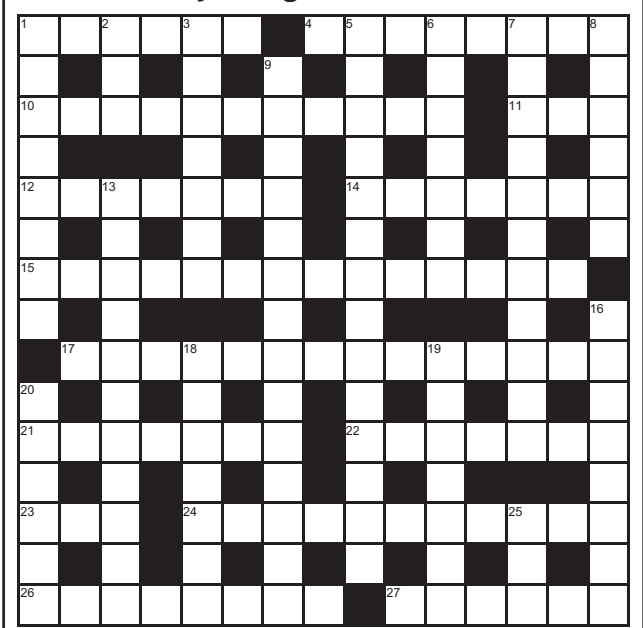
Pip Williams in Conversation



Thursday 8 October, 6:00pm
Brunswick Picture House

Join NYT bestselling author Pip Williams, author of *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, in conversation about her latest novel *The German Ward*.

TIX brunswickpicturehouse.com



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Mate doubles back to get Papuan gear... (3-3)

4. ...and friend about right, providing French (French!) holy fool for Wagner (8)

10. Moving speech – treat for favourite pupil (8,3)

11. Record the first king of the frogs – the one before Stork (3)

12. Right at this moment, level is gained back! (4,3)

14. Reside in popular nun’s outfit (7)

15. Lift Vinca Rosea, replace with other flowers... (7,7)

17. ...while Brahms cellists play for still more (9,5)

21. James, perhaps, has a drink on the job (7)

22. Setter admits being out of date – there’s no way out (7)

23. Japanese theatre lacks aspirate (3)

24. Wife, husband or just a worker? (5,6)

26. Angrier about Australia’s ties with New Zealand – that’s wizard! (8)

27. Is light cut off from its neighbours? (6)

DOWN

1. Stringed instrument, covering high, moved quickly – like Joh Bjelke-Petersen? (8)

2. Chosen pulse (3)

3. Upwardly mobile American spies cover Japanese theatre quietly; soundlessly, actually, because of injury (7)

5. Enlargements of insurance giant with 51 lies about a single article (14)

6. Old bag presided over a revolutionary, left (7)

7. Drunken preserves, but they are definitely in the picture (4,7)

8. Herald’s support consumed (6)

9. Sketching the equator, maybe, and setting limits (7,3,7)

13. Soil dam – let’s call it ‘Gaia’ (5,6)

16. Like burned, like Bottom (3-5)

18. Arrive uninvited, perform untried (7)

19. Fighters, or just jive dancers? (7)

20. Swoons over French crushed satin (6)

25. Peep at a snake (3)

■ Crossword circa 2008

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Loin cloth (3-3)

4. Wagnerian opera (8)

10. Specially favoured school pupil (8,3)

11. Ship’s diary (3)

12. At the present, at this moment (4,3)

14. Live in, occupy (7)

15. Indoor flowering plants, *Saintpaulia ionantha* (7,7)

17. Outdoor summer flowering plants, *Blandfordia* (9,5)

21. Follower, disciple (7)

22. Dead end, stalemate (7)

23. Style of Japanese theatre (3)

24. One who joins a workers’ association (5,6)

26. Wizard, magician (8)

27. Piece of land surrounded by water (6)

DOWN

1. Member of a strict Protestant sect (8)

2. Seed vegetable (3)

3. Mute, usually through injury or illness (7)

5. Enlargements, increase, especially of sound (14)

6. Bag, formerly made of leather (7)

7. Those who are very well informed on a subject (slang) (4,7)

8. Herald, ambassador (6)

9. Calling a halt, setting a limit (7,3,4)

13. Tutelary goddess and creator of the planet; Gaia (5,6)

16. Having lugs like a donkey; the fate of King Midas (3-5)

18. Break in, interrupt (7)

19. Jazz dancers (7)

20. Swoons, passes out (6)

25. Stole or neck scarf (3)

Last week’s solution #23

A	T	I	N	F	U	L	L	O	F	W	O	R	M	S
T	L	R	U	P	P	O	I	T						
E	P	I	C	E	N	T	R	E	M	A	G	M	A	
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I	N	D	E	B	T	G	A	U	N	T	L	E	T	
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B	A	T	S	I	N	T	H	E	B	E	L	F	R	Y

Warning: Choking Hazard

There is no safe way of choking someone.

When you put your hands around someone’s neck, you are trying to kill them. You can kill them. And in some cases, you will kill them. Somehow that’s become a ‘normal’ sexual activity. If you’ve ever needed evidence that the patriarchy wants to rape and kill women, then that’s it. And it’s gendered. It tends to be the hands of men on the throats of women, trans and nonbinary people.

Last week a 16-year-old Sydney girl died after losing consciousness as a result of asphyxiation during sexual intercourse. How does someone so young die from such an extreme sexual act? How has sexual violence been so normalised that young women are consenting to be strangled in their family bedrooms?

Sex is a beautiful, fun and enjoyable part of being human. How does someone so young end up engaging in something so extreme? How are young women being indoctrinated into believing that unless they consent to being choked, that they’re somehow ‘vanilla’. Vanilla is code for boring. And in a pornographised world there is no place for gentle loving intimacy. For tenderness. It’s about performing violence as a sexual act. And women are being tricked into giving consent. Tricked because they think they’re safe. And they should know, you can’t consent to choking in Australia. You can’t legally consent to anything that causes serious harm or death.

It’s clear, young people engaging in choking are not aware of the harm. Pornography is their teacher, and porn is not real. It’s a performance of sexuality. And sadly it’s become the tool that most young men use for sexual gratification and information. It dehumanises. It’s setting them up to normalise and simulate the attempted murder of their partner. And in some cases, as we’ve seen, it ends in death.

I’m a mother of daughters. Did I miss this conversation too? I don’t watch porn, so I don’t know what they’re seeing. I didn’t know how they’re being coerced into behaviours that are going to hurt them. This is an uncomfortable topic. I risk coming off as a prude. But I don’t care. I don’t think men should be killing women or anyone in violent sexual play. I think industries that groom



When you put your hands around someone’s neck, you are trying to kill them. You can kill them. And in some cases, you will kill them.

men into hurting us should be held accountable. So what should we know?

Firstly, for those who aren’t aware, more than half of young people, and I’m talking about under 30s, use choking as a regular part of their sexual repertoire. It involves one person putting pressure on the neck of another, restricting breathing or blood flow, or both. These practises are NEVER safe. They are physiologically unpredictable, and can cause a rapid loss of consciousness, brain injury or even death within seconds. It’s now the second most common cause of stroke in women under 40. According to an article in *The Guardian* last year, it can lead to difficulty swallowing, incontinence, seizures, memory problems, depression, anxiety and miscarriage. And that’s a turn on?

I thought we were trying to stop violence against women, so why are women saying yes to hands around their neck? How has the porn industry been permitted to normalise rape and abuse? And why haven’t we said something? Why have we championed

being killed as some sort of sexual kink? Why is emulating being the victim of a serious assault seen as ‘safe’? And how do we hold makers and distributors of pornography responsible for the harm they cause? For their sexual misinformation and indoctrination of our vulnerable young people?

If you have sons, educate them not to emulate strangulation. And if you have daughters, trans or nonbinary kids, tell them about the risks. And tell them both about how wonderful sex can be, in all its many flavours, even vanilla. Especially when you don’t die.

It’s time to stop eroticising violence. And maybe porn could achieve something it seems to do poorly – eroticise mutually respectful loving connection.

■ 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

Could your meals be greener, your sleep deeper, your home neater and your feedback sweeter? September’s astral energetics are here to help...



VIRGO

ARIES: September intensifies the Saturn/Neptune retrogrades in Aries further with healing planet Chiron’s retreat into Aries to finalise the life lessons of its eight-year cycle in your sign. Chiron medicine is about turning wounds into wisdom and pain into purpose, so use this valuable passage to release any outworn stories.

TAURUS: Your planet guide Venus in the zodiac’s most aesthetic sign makes the first half of September perfect for style upgrades, wardrobe updates, decor makeovers, bringing more grace into your daily interactions and indulging sensual pleasures that have a practical application – the latter especially beneficial around midweek Taurus moon.

GEMINI: As this week’s sun teams up with your planet ruler Mercury in the sign of service, little things mean a lot: like complimenting a coworker, helping a neighbour or giving a thank-you gift. With unpredictable Uranus and late week moon in Gemini, expect the unexpected – which might be a delightful surprise.

CANCER: Motivating Mars in Cancer works through organisational themes: think decluttering and spring-cleaning home, office, relationships, life. This is your year’s prime time to tackle projects you’ve been putting off: sorting, decision-making, repairs, maintenance, upgrades... Forget about getting things perfect, just make a start.

LEO: September’s celestial emphasis in your money sector rewards research and sensible planning, with enough flexibility to handle the unexpected, plus clear communication and checking that everyone’s on the same page. And remembering that some of the best things in life are free: morning walks, and afternoons in the park.

VIRGO: After last month’s over the top grandstanding, your birthday month showcases the benefits of an elegant sufficiency. But not everything deserves your precious attention, so be especially kind to yourself: take tech breaks, give the inner critic time off, and factor in some utterly luxe indulgence, ideally in natural surroundings.

LIBRA: This industrious solar season is excellent for administrative duties so that those healthy habits of clean eating, and screen curfews to let your nervous system recharge, now have a chance of sticking if you commit to them. With Venus in your sign the trick is turning daily routines into artistic Libra-inspired rituals.

SCORPIO: September’s retrograde planets are suggesting that while a touch of intrigue keeps people leaning in, being too mysterious and inscrutable could see audiences lose interest. The communication planet in meticulous mode favours editing, refining and planning ahead, while offering clear, practical takeaways people can easily apply.

SAGITTARIUS: Spring has sprung and you’re getting plenty of stuff done, but is it at the cost of spreading yourself too thin? If life pressures have your shoulders up to your ears, log off and take a walk to refresh your perspective, because you’ll be so much more productive relaxed than trying to push through.

CAPRICORN: September’s breaking astro news for Capricorns is asteroid Lilith striding into your disciplined sign for a nine-month seat at your boardroom table. This autonomous transit offers valuable opportunities for transforming old hurts into a new power source, even becoming an authority on what was formerly a difficult area.

AQUARIUS: Your partner planet, radical Uranus, kicking off its annual five-month hibernation, this year in the area of media and communications, is your call to upgrade the way you connect and share ideas, both interpersonally and with the wider digital world, in which endeavour flexibility will be your best ally.

PISCES: Virgo season in your opposite and complementary sign on the astro wheel isn’t into blessing the mess, it does support getting organised, implementing efficient systems and effective routines for productive outcomes. You might start by buying a shelving unit, donating clothes to a shelter or decluttering small areas one at a time.

Seven

Seven days of entertainment



They're back!

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink launches **Season 11** and they're still dancing, still giving back!

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink launches spring 2026 in The Shed at the Billinudgel Hotel on Saturday, bringing another unforgettable night of music, dancing, connection and community spirit to the Northern Rivers.

As Nudge Nudge Wink Wink embarks on Season 11, that journey has received a very special honour – an official Community Recognition Statement from the Parliament of NSW, recognising Cunning Stunts, Nudge Nudge Wink Wink and its extraordinary community. Member for Ballina Tamara Smith MP described Nudge as a 'cornerstone of community life in the Northern Rivers', celebrating its connection, music and commitment to making a difference.

September launches Season 11 with a killer mix of returning Nudge favourites and fresh talent, taking the dancefloor through soulful grooves, global rhythms, funk, disco, house and plenty of left-field surprises. Making her Shed debut, **DJ Lauren Sly** brings an

intuitive, playful approach shaped by her time co-founding Murwillumbah's Lab Leaked Beats. **DJ Sahaja RIA** (formerly R.I.A.) returns with her eclectic blend of Afro, tribal, nu-global, house, disco and funk, while resident **DJ Lord Sut** brings his signature genre-roaming Nudge sound. Closing the night, renowned **DJ and producer Iain Ha Yes** returns with high-energy machine funk, left-field sounds and an instinct for the dancefloor. **The Hoodlum Ballet** adds its own dose of movement, mischief and magic throughout the evening.

Dancing to make a difference: proceeds from the September and October events will support **The Returning**, an Aboriginal and women-led charity founded by Ella Noah Bancroft on Bundjalung Country, strengthening families and communities through culture, connection to Country, healing and community care.

Saturday from 4pm at the The Billinudgel Hotel

This event is sold out, but you can still support The Returning by making a donation via the ticket link: https://bit.ly/Tickets_Nudge_Sept5

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THUR 3 SEP	Matt Armitage 6pm DJ Oren Selecta Duelling Piano Bar 9pm	 LIVE MUSIC EVERY NIGHT
FRI 4 SEP	Dan Hannaford 7pm Kane Muir Band 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm	
SAT 5 SEP	Erin Shay Trio 7pm DJ Quendo 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm	 COCKTAILS!
SUN 6 SEP	Matty Rogers 5pm Vinyl Sundays featuring Andrea Jones 8.15pm	
MON 7 SEP	Lachy Dwyer 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm	 NORTHERN BOTTLESHOP
TUES 8 SEP	Fergo 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm	
WED 9 SEP	Sarah Grant 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm	

Byron Bay Public School
Presents

The Great School Art Show Off!

Wednesday 9 September
4:00pm - 6:00 pm

Entrance fee by monetary donation

Performances from 4.30pm

- School Band
- Stage 2 And 3 Choir
- Dance Troupe
- Flash Mob

BBPS P & C - food stall

Online auction with local artists work!
<https://galabid.com/bbpsartshowoff>

ARTWORK BY INDIA MAE 51



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BAY FM

RADIO COURSE

SEPT 26 - OCT 17

Learn what it takes to become a radio presenter in this fun, hands-on course held over 4 Saturdays at the Bay FM studios

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Give these men a cigar!

Since their formation in 2019, **No Cigar** has rapidly established themselves as one of New Zealand's most promising musical acts, captivating audiences with their infectious grooves and compelling storytelling. The release of their first single 'Tickets To Space' at the end of that year was just the beginning.

In 2020, No Cigar released their critically acclaimed EP *Radical Road* which showcased their unique blend of psychedelic rock and groovy guitars. Their growing popularity has been fueled by their dynamic live performances, which have earned them a loyal and enthusiastic fanbase.

With the release of their debut album *Bienvenido* in September 2022, No Cigar solidified their position as a major force in the New Zealand music scene, earning airplay on popular radio stations such as ZM, Radio Hauraki, and The Edge.

No Cigar have carved out a unique niche-blending indie, surf, and alternative rock sound that's as rhythm-driven as it is emotionally resonant, earning a fiercely loyal following across Australia, the UK, the US and Europe. They are no strangers to the Australian shores and audiences, making this their fourth headline excursion across the ditch. Spanning the breadth of their catalogue, the show will likely include a few unreleased numbers, giving Australia the first sneak peak of what's next for No Cigar.

No Cigar will play at **The Northern**, Byron Bay on **Saturday, 12 September**

Tickets at: thenorthern.com.au

nudge nudge
Wink wink

PARTY WITH A CONSCIENCE

FEATURING DJS

IAIN HA YES
RIA SAHAJA
LAUREN SLY
LORD SUT

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 / 4 -11PM
THE BILLINUDGEL HOTEL

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SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITY / The Returning

CUNNING STUNTS FELLER BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE




Three screen divas in nuns habits

After what felt like an unusually cold winter, get ready to celebrate warm spring nights with a packed September program at **Brunswick Picture House**. And what better way to sort out your Father's Day with some good old-fashioned live entertainment?

There is a special treat this weekend. On **Friday**, the 'House is excited to welcome maverick songwriter and founding member of the pioneering Warumpi Band, **Neil Murray**.

Brace yourselves as dear mates **Mark Trevorrow** (aka the one and only Bob Downe), **Rupert Noffs** and **Bev Kennedy** return, bringing an eclectic mix of showtunes, hilarious stories and unexpected musical gems in the joyful **Old Friends** on **Saturday**.

Get ready to laugh your arses off with the endlessly funny **Michael Hing** on **Friday, 11 September**; and the ridiculously deadpan **Ray O'Leary** on **Saturday, 12 September**, landing in Bruns with brand new shows.

Byron Shire Council is hosting a free screening of the powerful and important new documentary **The Plastic Country** on **Wednesday, 9 September** followed by a panel with the filmmaker **Kal Glanznig**. Registration for this event is mandatory.

For the kids, the big circus bonanza **Lil' Cheeky** returns for one show only this spring on **Saturday, 27 September** and if you're lucky, there might be a matinee ticket left for the all new Bruns Public School musical, **Beachside Boogie** on **Tuesday, 15 September** and **Wednesday, 16 September**.

And of course, the show on everybody's lips is back. Just when you think you've seen it all, the all new season of **Cheeky Cabaret** will knock your socks off in ways you never imagined possible. Running over two big weeks from **Thursday, 24 September to 4 October**, with discounts for groups of 6+. Go on – it's what you'll need to remind yourself you're alive!

Tickets for all shows at brunswickpicturehouse.com

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MONTE LOCO
Rides Again
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FRI 18 SEPTEMBER
HOTEL BRUNSWICK

TICKETS FROM MELBOURNESKAORCHESTRA.COM





Byron Bay Public School presents:

The Great School Art Show Off! – Byron Bay Public School invites the community to celebrate creativity at a spectacular afternoon of art, music, dance and community spirit on Wednesday, 9 September from 4pm to 6pm.

The Great School Art Show Off! will showcase the incredible creativity and talent of students across Byron Bay Public School, with something for everyone to enjoy.

A special feature of the exhibition will be collaborative year-group installations, created by students working together to produce imaginative and colourful artworks. Alongside these group creations, every student will have an individual piece on display, giving each young artist the opportunity to share their creativity with the wider school community.

The afternoon will be brought to life with performances from the school's talented bands, choirs, dance troupe and flash mob, making the event much more than an art exhibition.

The school's P&C will also have food available, allowing families to enjoy something to eat while exploring the artwork and taking in the performances.

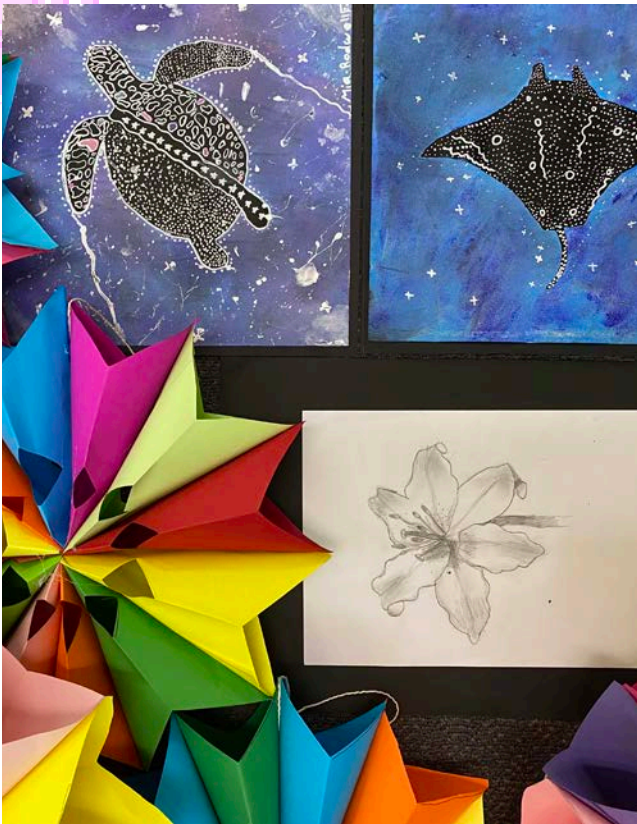
Entry is by coin or note donation, with the community invited to contribute what they can to support the school.

An exciting online art auction is already open, featuring artworks generously donated by members of the Byron Bay community. To place a bid visit app.galabid.com/bbpsartshowoff/items, scan the QR code in the promotional flyer, or visit the school's website.

The Great School Art Show Off! is a significant event for the Byron Bay Public School community. It celebrates students' artistic and academic achievements while providing valuable opportunities for creative expression and fostering connection and belonging within the school.

The event also highlights the power of collaboration, creativity and community, bringing together families, friends and local residents to celebrate the students' hard work and support the school.

Everyone is warmly invited to come along, enjoy the art and performances, grab some food, and celebrate the wonderful creativity of Byron Bay Public School.



THE SWAMP CATS

STARTING SUNDAY
13 SEPTEMBER

EVERY SUNDAY
MULLUM EX SERVICES CLUB
OPEN MIC/JAM • 3-6PM

BILLINUDGEL HOTEL

120TH BIRTHDAY

12TH SEPT **LIVE MUSIC**
FOOD TRUCKS
GOOD DRINKS

TICKETS ON SALE VIA OZTIX

EARTH
Beer Company

TOOHEYS

AZTECA
MARGARITA

Set

CINEMA



Three screen divas in nun's habits

What could possibly go wrong?

Judy Davis as Sister Agnes, **Miriam Margolyes** as Sister Luke and **Jacki Weaver** as Sister Mary Clare are tossed into the rugged landscapes of 1970s New Zealand in **Holy Days**.

After the death of his mother, young Brian (Elijah Tamati) seeks comfort at a run-down convent, where he forms an unlikely bond with three eccentric elderly nuns.

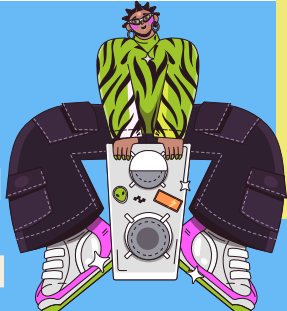
When their beloved home comes under threat of closure, Brian persuades the sisters to embark on an extraordinary journey across the country to find a former nun-turned-lawyer who may be their last hope. Along the way, unexpected friendships are forged, faith is tested, and Brian discovers that miracles can arrive in the most unexpected forms.

Holy Days marks the feature film directorial debut of Nat Boltt and brings together this acclaimed ensemble led by Academy Award-nominees Davis and Weaver, alongside BAFTA-winning actress Margolyes.

Brimming with heart, humour, and high-speed high jinks, *Holy Days* is a warm celebration of resilience, faith and the families we find in the most unexpected places.

Screening at Palace Byron Bay this week.
Palacecinemas.com.au.

GIG GUIDE



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

WEDNESDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MILO GREENE DUO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM JOCK BARNES + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **OPEN MIC WITH SLIM PICKENS**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM JAM AND CURRY OPEN MIC**
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM MONDO HUM JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
- ELTHAM HOTEL **6.30PM NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

THURSDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CINNAMON SUN DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **4PM STELLA, 7PM KATIE BROOKE BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM MATT ARMITAGE + DJ OREN SELECTA + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, **8PM TEMPLE OF FIRE**
- FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL **5.30PM LUNA SUN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM JASON DELPHIN**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, **6PM MONDO HUM JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO **7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, **6.30PM SCREENING – FREQUENCY: THE SECRET OF EVERYTHING**

FRIDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **5PM LITTLE KING, 8PM ERIN SHAY BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE **7PM SCREENING: GRILLIONAIRE**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **4PM O'FLYNN, ASHA FRANCO, AUREAL & EVEL, 5PM MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL **5PM DJ AFRODISEA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM MULLUM OPEN MIC WITH STEPHEN LOVELIGHT, 7PM DAN HANNAFORD + KANE MUIR BAND + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- MARVEL ST HALL, BYRON BAY, **6.30PM BYRON PHILO CAFÉ FT, GERALDINE DOOGUE**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, **7PM SEA MONKEYS, VANDALISM ANGEL & OSMIVM**
- HOTEL ILLAWONG, EVANS HEAD, **8PM SONIC FX**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM BOY AND BEAR**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **7PM NEIL MURRAY**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM DJ SALVE JORGE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **5.30PM BALCONY BEATS + KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB **6PM MULLUM OPEN MIC WITH STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- THE TOP PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **7PM THE VERSACE BOYS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, **7.30PM ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH WILD HONEY**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, **5PM DAN INGRAM**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB **6PM PHIL GUEST**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, **5.30PM ELEEA**
- CLUB TWEED **7.30PM LIVING IN THE 80S**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL **8PM WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW + TEEN SPIRIT**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, **7PM WILLIAM CRIGHTON**

SATURDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PASSPORT TO AIRLIE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **3PM JASON MCGREGOR, 6PM NUFARRAGO, 8.30PM MILO EASTWOOD SUPPORTED BY JAMIE LOWE**
- BYRON THEATRE **3PM OUR BIG FAT GREEK CAFE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL **2PM ANIMAL VENTURA**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **7PM RENDEZVOUS, UN&ON, ANTHOLOGIC, NAPOLEON & ARYA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **7PM ERIN SHAY TRIO + DJ QUENDO + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, **5.30PM JOE CONROY**
- BALLINA RSL **7.30PM BAGGY TROUSERS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **4.30PM PINK ZINC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **7PM OLD FRIENDS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM JOHN HILL PIANO BAR**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL **4PM NUDGE NUDE WINK WINK WITH DJS IAIN HA YES, RIA SAHAJA, LAUREN SLY & LORD SUT + THE HOODLUM BALLET**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB **6PM LEIGH JAMES**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, **6.30PM ABBIE CARDWELL, THE HONKY TONK SWINGERS & DJ HOLY COWBOY**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, **7.30PM**

- WILLIAM CRIGHTON**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS **1PM GREEN VELVET**
- CLUB TWEED **7.30PM SOUL'D**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, **8PM ELVIS: AN AMERICAN TRILOGY**

SUNDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **NATHAN KAYE DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **12.30PM DJ REIFLEX & COZ SALAD, 4.30PM DON ROGERS BAND, 7PM MISS RENEE SIMONEE**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, **12.30PM PHIL & TILLEY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **7PM MATTY ROGERS + VINYL SUNDAYS FT. ANDREA JONES**
- BALLINA RSL **10AM THE BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB, 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT DILLION JAMES BAND**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, **3PM FAT ALBERT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **4PM THE LYRICAL**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, **12PM DJ DARIAN**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **6.30PM MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB **1PM STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB **3PM JON J BRADLEY**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **2.30PM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINDERAH**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, **2PM JOE CONROY**
- CLUB TWEED **1PM LAURA DOOLAN, 2PM MR JOHN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, **2.30PM NORMIE ROWE**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL **1PM LANCE HURA + LISA HUNT**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, **6PM SHAUN KIRK**

MONDAY 7

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM ALLY PALMER**
- CASA LUNA, BYRON BAY, **6PM HUSH POETRY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM LACHY DWYER + DUELING PIANO BAR**

TUESDAY 8

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM JASON DELPHIN**
- BYRON THEATRE **6.30PM DRAMAWORKS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM FERGO + DUELING PIANO BAR**

PALACE CINEMAS
BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3 TO WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9

COMING SOON

ADVANCED SCREENINGS

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

9 TO 5 (PG) DOLLY PARTON TRIBUTE
Sat: 1:00PM

PRACTICAL MAGIC 2 (CTC)
MOVIE MIXER SCREENING
Wed: 7:00PM

SPEED RACER (PG) CULT VAULT
Mon: 6:30PM

TERMINATOR 2: JUDGEMENT DAY - 35TH ANNIVERSARY (M)
FATHER'S DAY SCREENING
Sun: 2:00PM

FAMILY FILMS

PAW PATROL - THE DINO MOVIE (PG) ADVANCED SCREENINGS
Sat, Sun: 11:00AM

SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM (CTC) FATHER'S DAY PREVIEW
Sun: 11:00AM

ALL FILMS

& SONS (M)
Daily: 11:15AM

BY ANY MEANS (MA15+) NFI
Daily: 12:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM

DE GAULLE: RESISTANCE (MA15+) NFI
Daily: 10:50AM, 4:10PM

FALL 2: DEADPOINT (M) NFI
Daily: 2:00PM, 3:50PM, 6:00PM

I WANT YOUR SEX (MA15+) NFI
Daily: 10:50AM, 8:10PM

INSIDIOUS: OUT OF THE FURTHER (M)
Daily except Sun, Mon: 8:30PM, Sun: 8:15PM, Mon: 8:10PM

MAIGRET AND THE DEAD LOVER (PG) NFI
Daily: 10:45AM, 2:45PM, 4:30PM, 6:20PM

PALESTINE 36 (M)
Thurs, Fri, Tues, Wed: 10:50AM, 1:15PM, 6:00PM, Sat: 10:45AM, 6:00PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 5:45PM, Mon: 10:50AM, 1:15PM

SILENCED (M)
Daily: 1:45PM, 4:10PM, 6:00PM

SPA WEEKEND (M)
Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 8:30PM, Sun: 1:50PM, 8:30PM, Wed: 10:50AM, 1:50PM, 8:30PM

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (M)
Daily except Wed: 10:45AM, 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 7:20PM, 8:00PM, Wed: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:20PM, 8:00PM

THE DOG STARS (MA15+) NFI
Thurs, Fri, Tues: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 7:10PM, 8:10PM, Sat, Sun: 1:15PM, 7:10PM, 8:10PM, Mon: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 7:10PM, Wed: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 8:10PM

THE INVITE (MA15+) NFI
Daily except Sun: 3:40PM, 8:30PM, Sun: 8:30PM

THE ODYSSEY (M)
Daily: 12:50PM, 4:00PM, 7:20PM

THE RIVALS OF AMZIAH KING (M)
Daily: 11:10AM

TONY (MA15+) NFI
Daily: 1:45PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

9 TO 5 (PG) DOLLY PARTON TRIBUTE
Sat: 2:00PM

INSIDIOUS: OUT OF THE FURTHER (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:30PM, Sat: 4:20PM, Sun: 4:40PM

MUTINY (MA15+) NFI
Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:40PM

PAW PATROL - THE DINO MOVIE (PG) ADVANCED SCREENING
Sat, Sun: 9:50AM

PRACTICAL MAGIC 2 (CTC) MOVIE MIXER PREVIEW
Wed: 7:00PM

SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM (CTC)
Sun: 10:00AM

SPA WEEKEND (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 9:15AM, 11:20AM, Sat: 11:50AM, Sun: 12:00PM

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:45PM, Sat, Sun: 12:15PM, 3:15PM, 6:15PM

TERMINATOR 2: JUDGEMENT DAY - 35TH ANNIVERSARY (M) FATHER'S DAY SCREENING
Sun: 2:00PM

THE DOG STARS (MA15+) NFI
Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 9:30AM, 2:50PM, 6:00PM, Sat: 9:50AM, 11:50AM, 6:30PM, Sun: 9:50AM, 11:50AM, 6:50PM, Wed: 9:30AM, 2:50PM

THE END OF OAK STREET (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 9:20AM, Sat: 9:45AM

THE ODYSSEY (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:30AM, 5:20PM, Sat, Sun: 2:20PM, 5:45PM

FOR ALL SESSIONS TO THE NORDIC FILM FESTIVAL, PLEASE VISIT NORDICFILMFESTIVAL.COM.AU

6686 9600 BALLINA FAIR • 6680 8555 BYRON BAY

DID YOU KNOW?

It's free to post your gigs in the gig guide and it will also appear on Bay FM



email gigs@echo.net.au with details.

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum *Echo* office:
Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:
classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17⁰⁰ for the first two lines
\$5⁰⁰ for each extra line
\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border):

\$14 per column centimetre

These prices include GST.
Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa
Prepayment is required for all ads.

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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

ALEXANDRA DANIELSON

As she was known in school, but now married. Your great-aunt would like to contact you.
vere2126@gmail.com
Any person knowing Alexandra, please pass this message on.

WHERE TO GET THE ECHO

If you live in
NEWRYBAR, LENNOX HEAD, BALLINA MAIN ARM, BILLINUDGEL, LISMORE but outside our current home delivery area, you can pick up an Echo from many locations.

For example:

LISMORE: Dragonfly Cafe
NEWRYBAR: Newrybar Providore

BALLINA
Richies IGA Ballina, Ballina RSL, One Stop Shop Ballina, Ballina Golf Club East Ballina, Brighton St Takeaway near The Shawys

LENNOX HEAD
IGA Lennox Head, Seagrass Lennox, Lennox pub drive-through, Station St Grocer Lennox, Epiq Marketplace Hutley Dr Lennox

MULLUMBIMBY
Mullumbimby IGA; Mullumbimby Newsagent; Liberty and Carsburgs servos, Echo office stand.

BYRON BAY
Byron Bay Newsagent, Community Centre, supermarkets, cafes, servos etc

ALSO:

FEDERAL Store
MAIN ARM Store
BILLINUDGEL Newsagent
BILLINUDGEL General Store & Pub
CRABBES CREEK Store
NEW BRIGHTON Store
OCEAN SHORES Country Club

HEALTH

KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress.
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The Liquid Waste Specialists!

- Septic tank cleaning
- Grease trap servicing
- Oily Liquids
- Portable toilet hire
- 24 hour service

6687 2880

TREE SERVICES

LEAF IT TO US - Tree Care Specialists
Local, qualified, insured, free quotes.
Big to small we enjoy it all -
0402487213

HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

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

Fully insured • Free quotes
0427 347 380

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas
6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

FOR SALE

ORCHID SALE

Variety of quality orchids for sale. Friday 4th & 5th Sept, 9am–5pm. 6 Pandanus Court, Brunswick Heads 66851709

WANTED

TREE FERNS

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

LP RECORDS:

good condition, no op shop crap! Matt 0401955052

LONG TERM RESIDENT

of Mullumbimby needs a granny flat. Good references. Phone Helen 0457420073

GARAGE SALES

Saturday 9am-2pm Myocum.

Lot 28/ 135 Lagoon Drive. Cash only.

RETRO VINTAGE FAIR

Designer and Retro Clothing, Rugs, Collectables, Bric a Brac.
Brunswick Memorial Hall Fingal St
Sat 5th & Sun 6th September
8.30am - 4.30pm.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

TO LET

LOCAL REMOVAL

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

TO LEASE

STUDIO WITH AMENITIES

Upstairs, Billinudgel \$402pw
Ph Lifestyle Group 66851206

BYRON IND

3x large rooms ideal for storage for expanding business needing more space for stock, + carspace \$480pw. For more info txt 0424906036

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteer with Community Transport

Make a difference in someone's day

1300 875 895
communitytransport.net.au

Want to volunteer?

Volunteers are the heart of our community.

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

We simply couldn't do it without you!

02 6685 6807
volunteers@byroncentre.com.au

Become a volunteer!

For more info or to register

0421 244 640
brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

POSITIONS VACANT

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

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

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

HIGH-END CLEANERS WANTED

*
Exceptional eye for detail essential. Reliable*Professional*Own vehicle*ABN
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\$45/hr | Training \$35/hr
Long-term applicants only.
*
EYE FOR DETAIL AUSTRALIA
0447 039 386

EXPERIENCED KITCHENHAND NEEDED AT

The Other Joint cafe
Email mullum@otherjoint.com

TUITION

Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Tutor

- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

PETS

PET SITTER AVAILABLE

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

Local news matters

Who else is going to tell you what happened down the road, congratulate your neighbour, expose the council potholes, and occasionally embarrass your mate?

Support your local paper!

Who gives a Cluck?

Adopt a Rooster.
Corey (#87) along with his 2 friends, Travis (#88) and Nick (#89) were dumped on the side of the road at Uki a few weeks ago. They are beautiful large boys. Easy going, friendly. They are twice or more the size of ISA Brown hens, Rhode Island Reds, crosses. Check them all out by this link.

whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/
whogivesacluck.org
@whogivesacluck

LEO

Leonardo (Leo) is a sweet, gentle 4½-year-old Cavoodle looking for his new family. He'd suit a calm home with children over 12 who can give him time to settle. Leo can be shy with new people but soon warms up with patience and reassurance. He's affectionate, crate trained, playful and enjoys other dogs. If you're looking for a loyal companion who loves being close to his people, come and meet Leo.
Rehoming #R251 00 00 60

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

INDY

Indy is a Male, 2 year old, Kelpie X. He has plenty of energy and a clever, curious nature. Indy will thrive in a home that can provide lots of enrichment, activity and mental stimulation. M/C # 953010006822158.
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CAN YOU SPARE 3 HOURS ONCE A WEEK OR ONCE A MONTH?

Every minute of your time helps towards re-homing dogs, desexing dogs, and helping people in desperate situations with housing and difficult home lives.

Please call Astro (shop manager) at **0492 861 905** or visit the shop to chat about helping us to help dogs in need

www.byrondogrescue.org

TAMA

Tama is a 7mth old girl who is delightfully affectionate once she feels safe. She initially appears timid but within seconds, transforms into a perfect love bug. Her coat is of medium length but lusciously soft & has a tail any fox would be jealous of. Tama is looking for a calm home where she will be regularly brushed. We are sure that in no time at all, Tama will settle into a new loving home
To meet TAMA, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

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

Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R25100222

ZELDA & ZENA

Meet Zelda and Zena! Our newest kittens enjoying a sleeper at the shelter are now ready for adoption! Both have black and white colourings, but each brings their own main character energy. Zelda rocks long hair with a very laid back smoochie nature, ready for a cuddle. Zena sports short hair with a playful side, ready for an adventure. Their mom was a beautiful friendly ragdoll and the girls have inherited both her beauty and social nature! They are happy, confident kittens who would love to show off their favourite moves. Reach out to meet Zelda or Zena or find more pictures and videos of them on our socials.
900263003153940 - 900263003153936
DOB: 30/06/2026

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

ONLY ADULTS

BALLINA EXCLUSIVE

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

KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP

Large variety of toys and lingerie
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0416 899 048

Need proper erotic relaxation?

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couplesempowerment.global

SOCIAL ESCORTS

LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES

available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In-house & outcalls. 7 days. 0266816038.

SUN, MOON & TIDES – TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
2	W	5:59 17:32	22:39 8:34	11:44 1.50 23:36 1.24	05:03 0.26 17:44 0.49
3	TH	5:58 17:32	23:47 9:17	12:39 1.49	05:44 0.32 18:57 0.57
4	F	5:57 17:33	00:30 1:09 13:47 1.48	06:35 0.38 20:32 0.60	
5	SA	5:56 17:34	0:55 11:04	01:50 0.99 15:11 1.51	07:45 0.43 22:11 0.55
6	SU	5:54 17:34	1:58 12:09	03:30 0.97 16:30 1.58	09:11 0.42 23:25 0.44
7	M	5:53 17:34	2:56 13:18	04:55 1.04 17:34 1.68	10:29 0.36
8	TU	5:52 17:35	3:45 14:28	05:57 1.14 18:28 1.76	00:17 0.34 11:33 0.27
9	W	5:51 17:35	4:27 15:36	06:48 1.25 19:15 1.80	01:00 0.25 12:29 0.19
10	TH	5:50 17:36	5:04 16:41	07:34 1.35 19:56 1.79	01:37 0.19 13:17 0.15
11	F	5:49 17:36	5:37 17:43	08:17 1.43 20:34 1.73	02:12 0.16 14:02 0.15
12	SA	5:47 17:37	6:08 18:43	08:58 1.48 21:09 1.63	02:44 0.15 14:46 0.19
13	SU	5:46 17:37	6:38 19:42	09:37 1.51 21:42 1.50	03:15 0.17 15:30 0.27
14	M	5:45 17:38	7:10 20:42	10:15 1.51 22:14 1.36	03:44 0.20 16:14 0.37
15	TU	5:44 17:38	7:43 21:41	10:54 1.49 22:45 1.22	04:13 0.25 17:00 0.47
16	W	5:43 17:39	8:20 22:39	11:33 1.45 23:18 1.09	04:41 0.32 17:51 0.56

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Free bus to farmers’ market and op shops

Join Together She Thrives for a free fun day out on Wednesday, 30 September exploring the Murwillumbah Farmers Markets, followed by an op shop crawl through Murwillumbah CBD. Depart form Mullumbimby Netball Courts, Byron Street, Mullumbimby at 8.15am. Book a seat on the bus at: TogetherSheThrives.org.au.

Teen Girls Creative Connection Day

Together She Thrives is hosting a fun and relaxed Creative Connection Day, for girls aged 12–16 years on Wednesday, 7 October from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Community College in Mullumbimby. Registrations are essential ar: TogetherSheThrives.org.au.

Lismore conversations in the pub

Professor David Heilpern will be joined by pharmacological researcher Professor Robert Weatherby and lawyers Steve Bolt and Eddie Lloyd at this Thursday’s ‘Conversations in the Pub’ on Thursday, 3 September, from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Sherwood Hotel, 75 Molesworth Street, Lismore. The panel will discuss the need to change laws around medicinal cannabis use and driving.

Prostate cancer support group

The next meeting of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer

Support Group is on Wednesday, 9 September, from 10am until 12 noon at the Alstonville Plateau Sports Club, Deegan Drive Alstonville. Men previously and newly diagnosed with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories told which give a great opportunity for all to share, learn, and benefit from each other. Partners and carers are also welcome. Enquiries phone Bob Corney 0493 075 612.

AIR

The next meeting of Australian Independent Retirees (AIR) will be held at the Ballina RSL Club on Friday, 11 September at 10am, fee \$5. The date has been changed due to the renovations at the RSL Club. Guest speaker Ron Creber will speak about the Maritime Museum and the shores of the Richmond River. A table has been booked in the Boardwalk restaurant for those who wish to join us for lunch after the meeting. The next meeting will be in November, however, a social get together will be held at the CWA room, next to the RSL Club on Monday, 26 October, at 10am with Dianne Beck’s ‘special award scones’. Numbers will be restricted, so book on 0400 935.

Mullumbimby CWA

The Mullumbimby Country Womens Association (CWA) club has celebrated 41 years and appreciates all the support provided at its celebration luncheon. Supportive businesses were Brunswick Heads Bowling Club, BWS Liquor, IGA Brunswick Heads, Coles Ocean Shores, K Mart Ocean Shores, Ocean Shores Tavern, FDB Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby

Pharmacy, Bunnings Byron Bay, Wholife Pharmacy Ocean Shores and Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. We are proud to support eight disadvantaged students with their educational needs in The Smith Family’s Learning for Life program. The next meeting will be on 10 September at Brunswick Heads Bowling Club, starting at 11am. The guest speaker is Cathie-Anne McGrath, a wildlife officer and zoo keeper at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Come and join us. New members are always welcome. Contact Rita Strong on 0424 852 679.

Free workshops on adolescent neurodiversity

Byron Youth Service is hosting two free workshops with Jodi Rodgers (counsellor on the TV series *Love on The Spectrum*) for parents and carers of neurodivergent youth. Workshop 1 ‘Beginning the Journey to Teenagehood’ explores what adolescence might look like for neurodivergent youth. It is being held in Mullumbimby on Thursday, 24 September from 10am to 12 noon. Workshop 2 ‘Stepping into Adulthood’ shares insights into ways to support nuerodiverse youth navigate life as they move toward adulthood. It is being held in Byron Bay on Wednesday, 30 September from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Bookings are essential, call Sarah on 0494 824 155 or email sarah@bys.org.au

Bruns U3A

Lifelong learning for retired folk in their third age with garden group, foodies, movie and lunch group, men’s shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walker’s and talkers, Shabashi, table tennis, chess, debating group, ukelele. Come and join the fun! For info ring Denise 0423 778 573 or email: info@bvu3a.org.

Free legal advice

The 13th Pro Bono Cafe hosted by Tyndall & Co will take place on Mondays, 31 August and 7 September at the Roadhouse Cafe, Byron Bay from 9am to 3pm. They provide free legal advice and can cover most areas of law from domestic violence elder abuse, visa issues and other challenging legal issues.

Byron Seniors Club

On Tuesdays you can join the free Byron Seniors Club at the Byron Community Centre for drumming from 10.30am, to 11.30am and social tea from 11.30am to 12.30pm. Call the Byron Community Centre on (02) 6685 6807 or email reception@byroncentre.com.au for bookings.

Join the digital world

If you are a senior, or know someone who is, who would like to feel more confident in navigating the digital world, be part of the free, fun basic digital skills sessions for seniors at Mullumbimby Library every Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon from 2 September through to 18 December. Covering such topics as getting to know your device, using it for entertainment and connection, and staying safe online. Phone us on 6684 2992 to book a 40-minute session and learn how we can help you interact in this digital world.

Free singing session

Do you love to sing? Or perhaps you’d simply like to relax, listen, and enjoy the atmosphere? Together She Thrives is hosting a FREE Love Your Voice singing session with Eve Jeffery from Byron Bay Singing on Tuesday, 1 September, from 10:30am to 12 noon at Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. No singing experience needed and everyone is welcome! Bookings are essential: togethershethrives.org.au

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked ‘Regular As Clockwork’ to editor@echo.net.au.

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday–Friday 9am–4pm (closed 12.30–1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include: **Flood recovery support service:** personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods. **Community support:** food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders. **Listening Space:** free counselling. **More Than A Meal:** free community lunch Tuesday–Thursday 12.30–1.30pm. **Financial counselling** **Staying Home, Leaving Violence program:** Information, referral, and advocacy. **Gulganii affordable pantry shop:** located at 3 Bridgeland Lane. **Orange Sky:** free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to enjoy practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. **Fletcher Street Cottage services** are open Tuesday–Friday; breakfast 7am–9am; showers and laundry 7am–12pm; office support 9am–12pm. Individual support appointments with community workers and specialist services available please book on (02) 6685 7830. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Seniors Club:** www.byronseniors.com.au. More info on **Community Services:** www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: (02) 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **The Hub** Baptist Church in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677747 if you find yourself doing it tough. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au, website: www.byronrespite.com.au.

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5–6pm. Do you have a parent, close

friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8–16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert’s Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au.

Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 – 30 meetings a week in the Shire – www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. www.na.org.au. Are you concerned about somebody else’s drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 www.al-anon.org.au.

Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: www.standbysupport.com.au or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

Volunteer call out

Support for New Mums Inc. a Northern NSW community program are recruiting volunteers in the Byron Shire. We offer a free of charge, home visiting program for mothers with babies. For more information email Deb: newmums8@gmail.com.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, South Tweed and Ballina. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further Information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina and South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Carers’ support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers’ Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Susanne 0428 716 431.

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzzerati2010@gmail.com.

Older adult exercise

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

The Echo’s Market Guide

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

MONTHLY MARKETS:

1st SAT: **Brunswick Heads Markets** – 8am–2pm

1st SUN: **Byron Community Market** – 8am–3pm

Pottsville Beach Markets – 7am–1pm

2nd SUN: **The Channon Craft Market** – 9am–3pm

Chillingham Markets – 8am–1pm

Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets – 8am–2pm

Tabulam Community Market – 9am–1pm

3rd SAT: **Mullumbimby Community Market** – 8am–2pm

Murwillumbah Makers & Finders Market – 9am–2pm

Salt Beach Markets, South Kingscliff/Casuarina – 8am–1pm

3rd SUN: **Federal Village Market** – 8am–2pm

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market – 8am–2pm

Pottsville Beach Markets – 7am–1pm

Lismore City Bowlo Markets – 9am–1pm

3rd SUN (Dec & Jan): **Byron Community Market** – 8am–3pm

4th SAT: **Kyogle Bazaar** – 9am–2pm

Last SAT: **Evans Head Rotary Market** – 8am–1pm

4th SUN: **Bangalow Market** – 8am–2.30pm

Nimbin Markets – 9am–3pm

Murwillumbah Showground Market – 8am–1pm

4th SUN (in a 5-Sunday month): **Coolangatta Arts & Crafts** – 8am–2pm

5th SUN: **Nimbin Markets** – 8.30am–3pm



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

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:

Each TUE: **New Brighton Farmers Market** – 7am–11am

Lismore Organic Market – 7.30am–10.30am

Each WED: **Murwillumbah Farmers Market** – 7am–11am

Nimbin Farmers Market – 3pm–6pm

Newrybar Hall Twilight Market – 3pm–7.30pm

Each THU: **Byron Bay Farmers Market** – 7am–11am

Lismore Produce Market – 3pm–6pm

Each FRI: **Mullumbimby Farmers Market** – 7am–11am

Evans Head Farmers Market – 2.30pm–6.30pm

Each SAT: **Bangalow Farmers Market** – 7am–11am

Duranbah Road Farmers Market (Tropical Fruit World) 8am–11am

Uki Farmers Market – 8am–1pm

Lismore Farmers Market – 7.30am–11.30am

Byron Twilight Market (October to April) 4pm–9pm

Each SUN: **Ballina Farmers & Producers Market** – 7am–11am

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







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32 The Byron Shire Echo September 2, 2026

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Where architecture, soul and landscape meet

There comes a point in every property search when you start wondering whether the problem is your budget – or your postcode.

Around Byron and the Northern Rivers, \$1.5 million is still a substantial amount of money. Yet for buyers wanting space, privacy, architectural character and a connection to a vibrant community, it can feel increasingly difficult to find the home they imagined that money would buy.

A little over two hours down the road, something interesting is happening.

Bellingen has long been one of those places people fall in love with almost accidentally. A beautiful, creative town tucked between the mountains and the sea, surrounded by rainforest, rivers, coast and some of the most extraordinary countryside in NSW. It has a strong arts and music culture, great food, independent businesses and, perhaps most importantly, a genuine community.

None of that is new.

What is new is who else has started noticing.

Northern Rivers hospitality operators Luke Sullivan and Matt Rabbidge, owners of the Eltham Hotel, recently

purchased the Bellingen Golf Club, with plans to build on its role as a community, hospitality and dining destination.

Mullumbimby's Banya Bathhouse founder Brenden Lawless is bringing his European-inspired bathhouse concept to the heart of Bellingen, transforming one of the town's beautiful heritage buildings into mineral pools, saunas, steam rooms, treatment spaces and a restaurant.

Three Blue Ducks has established its Bellingen restaurant at The Lodge, set among 16 acres overlooking the mountains. Two prominent former heritage bank buildings in the centre of town have approvals for transformation into boutique hotel accommodation.

There is a pattern emerging.

People who understand what makes the Northern Rivers special in the first place – creativity, community, beautiful landscapes, good food and a slightly different way of living – are looking south.

Which brings us to a rather remarkable house.

The Bellingen House sits on 1,483 square metres, elevated above town with a perfect northern aspect and views across the Bellinger Valley towards the mountains of the Promised Land.



Designed and handcrafted by a long-term Bellingen designer and builder, it isn't a house created for a property market. It was created as a home.

Timber from blackbutt trees felled to create the building envelope was milled and returned to the house. Recycled timbers, handmade details, soaring spaces, established tropical

and food gardens and decades of building experience have produced something increasingly difficult to find: a house with a soul.

There are four bedrooms, generous living spaces, three bathrooms, a loft retreat and a substantial separate studio suitable for work, art, music or simply disappearing for a while.

And there is another significant piece of the puzzle: the property already has DA approval for an additional dwelling and subdivision. For a future owner, that creates options – another home, future income, or the potential creation of a separate asset – without sacrificing what makes the property so special today.

The town's cafes, restaurants, schools and shops are within walking distance, yet from the house you're looking across green hills towards the mountains.

And the price guide? \$1.45 million to \$1.55 million. This isn't an argument against Byron Bay. Byron is extraordinary, and its property prices reflect just how many people want a piece of it.

It's simply an invitation to look a little further down the road.

Because sometimes getting more for your money doesn't mean compromising.

Sometimes it just means discovering somewhere you hadn't thought to look.

■ Discover more at www.thebellinghouse.com



Where Architecture, Soul & Landscape Meet

Private 1,483m² north-facing sanctuary with sweeping Promised Land views, an easy stroll to the heart of Bellingen.

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129 MCKINNON ROAD, BOAT HARBOUR



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Sweeping Hinterland Views

3 3 1 2

24AC

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508M²

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- The private, fully fenced garden is landscaped with tropical plantings, rock walls and established greenery
- A great opportunity for first-home buyers, downsizers, families or investors seeking low-maintenance living
- Set in a quiet, flood-free street within easy reach of shops, schools, public transport and the town centre

PRICE | \$895,000 - \$945,000
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Sat 5th September 10 - 10:30am



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71 BROKEN HEAD ROAD, NEWRYBAR



Private Newrybar Setting
with Ocean & Hinterland
Vistas

4 2 2 2

3404M²

- Elevated hinterland holding set on just under an acre, surrounded by established greenery and leafy outlooks
- Expansive living and entertaining spaces flowing to a generous balcony with hinterland, mountain and sunset views
- Well-maintained two-level residence with spacious, light-filled interiors and expansive windows
- Exceptional Newrybar hinterland location moments from the village, approximately 6 minutes to Bangalow and 15 minutes to Byron Bay

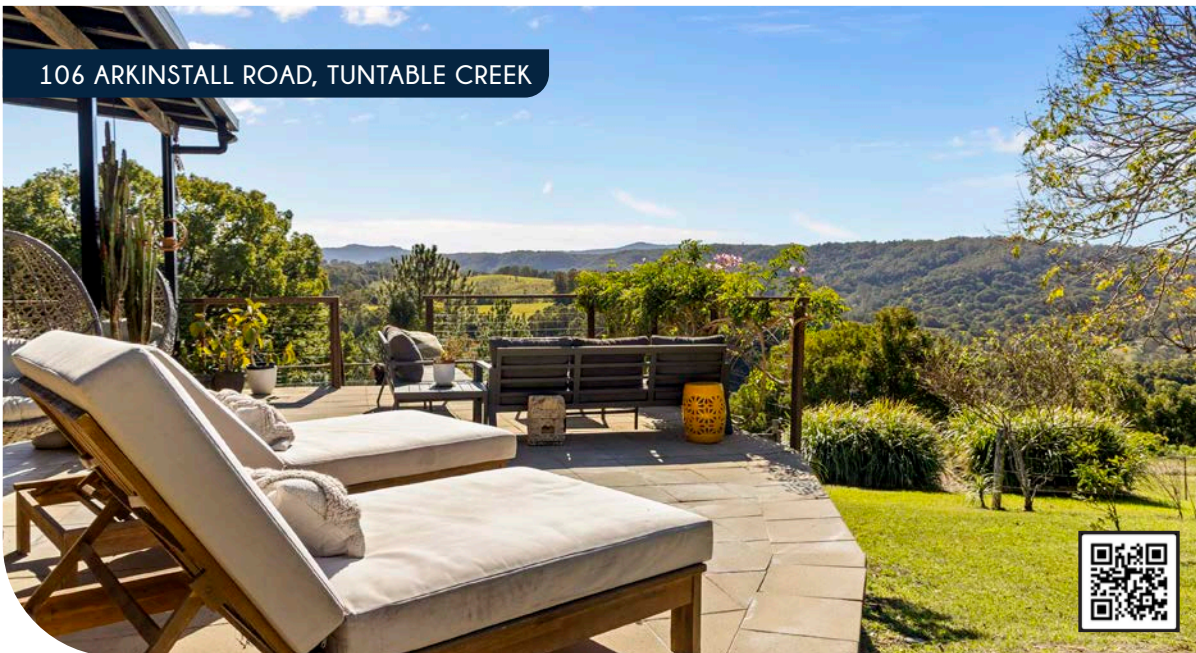
EOI | Guide on Request
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106 ARKINSTALL ROAD, TUNTABLE CREEK



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3 1 2 2

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OPEN | Sat 5th September 1:30 - 2pm



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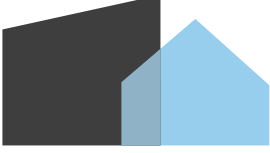


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Last Sunday the community came together to celebrate Lynda Dean. Friends, relatives, and admirers fulfilled Lynda’s wish that everyone should wear colourful clothing, sing, dance, and laugh in celebration of her life. Thousands of brightly coloured petals were arranged mandala-style on top of her ashes which had been scattered in her favourite corner of her treasured garden. Here, husband Chris, takes in the enormity of the outpouring of love. Photo Jeff Dawson



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‘The moral of the Secret Harbour story [WA byelection where One Nation won], and Farrer before it, appears to be that if One Nation can find people who look like the electorate, simplify complex issues and harness the accompanying grievances, then they can win against established parties, providing Gina can keep coughing up the readies to outspend big party machines.’ Read David Lowe’s full article in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/articles.

Who declares who are the greatest American presidents? Trump of course! Last Thursday Trump not only ranked who he believes to be the greatest US presidents – he ranked himself ‘the greatest’. While the likes of George Washington, Abraham

Lincoln, Franklin D Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson were merely ‘great’ according to the *HuffPost*. Trump, such a man of modesty!

Byron Shire Council have held strong on their ban on cats and dogs in the Harvest Estate at West Byron after the developers sought to replace a condition prohibiting residents from keeping cats and dogs with one that would allow pets. Finally, a win for the wildlife!

Apparently ‘the push to end fossil fuel subsidies and put a 25 per cent tax on gas exports is coming from “noisy activists” with “shadowy overseas backers”’, is being promoted by the Murdoch Press and the mining industry, according to the Australia Institute.



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