

Echo

BLENDING PAIN MINDS WITH SPOONS SINCE 1986

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 41 #14 • September 16, 2026 • www.echo.net.au

How Swell!



Guy Humphrie's 'Bogged Woody' is rubbish. Bits of scrounged steel, recovered, recycled, reappropriated, and upscaled into this very clever, cartoon-like, flamboyant art installation at SWELL Sculpture Festival at Currumbin Beach. Held each year, SWELL continues to grow with more art, entertainment, food, and awestruck punters. SWELL finishes this Sunday, 20 September. Photo Jeff 'Artfully Curated' Dawson

Rally with Bangalow to reclaim the Bowlo

Aslan Shand

The Bangalow community are coming out in all their colour, uniforms, and fury this Saturday, 19 September from 2pm to raise their voice in protest at their treatment by Norths Collective who, they say, have not met the commitments

they made to the Bangalow Bowlo, and the community, when they took over the club.

Formal approval of the Amalgamation Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Norths and the members of the Bangalow Bowling Club took

► Continued on page 2

Council funding under microscope

Paul Bibby

With Byron Shire ratepayers facing a proposed special rate variation (SRV) that could push rates up by roughly a third over three years, a federal inquiry is examining whether councils are being asked to do too much with too little.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and

Transport is holding another public hearing in Canberra today (16 September) as part of its inquiry into local government funding and financial sustainability.

The inquiry is examining whether existing Commonwealth funding arrangements are adequate, including the Financial Assistance Grants that councils can spend according to local priorities.

For Byron, the timing is significant.

Council is considering an SRV that could increase rates by around 33 to 35 per cent cumulatively over three years from 2027, while also arguing that Commonwealth support has steadily eroded.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said Financial Assistance Grants had fallen from around one per cent of Commonwealth tax revenue in the mid-1990s to about 0.5 per cent today.

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NSW police clamp down on illegal e-bikes ► p7

Time for free oral ► p10

Byron Bay FC won the lot! ► p14

Time to charge on up the Chinny ► p15

Byron health, healing and wellbeing ► p18

Soapbox: How do you view the world? ► p22

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Bangalow rallies to save the Bangalow Bowlo

► Continued from page 1 place on 15 June 2023 and set out a range of commitments from Norths to the members of the Bangalow Bowlo. This included multi-million dollar renovations and upgrades to the clubhouse and surrounds, both internally and externally, including the bowling greens. As well, very significant contractual promises were made to support all of the Bangalow sporting clubs with sponsorship packages, the Save Bangalow Bowlo Steering Committee (SBBSC) told *The Echo*.

Norths have not met their commitments

‘Despite all their contracted promises, they did nothing really to enhance the clubhouse at all,’ a spokesperson for SBBSC told *The Echo*. Despite ongoing attempts by club members to follow up on the agreements Norths had made, they were constantly put off, until Norths quietly padlocked the front gates with no notice to staff or members in the early hours of 25 October 2025. Norths said the business had lost over \$900k in the first three years of trading,



Join the Bangalow community rally this Saturday to save the Bangalow Bowlo. Photo Jeff ‘Still On The Green’ Dawson

the buildings didn’t meet the Australian Building Code standards, and that the trading outlook was poor.

Ongoing attempts to negotiate a reasonable return of the multi-million dollar site to the community have failed.

‘Norths have pretended to want to “return The Bowlo to the Bangalow community”,’ said the SBBSC spokesperson, ‘but it has been one false dawn after another, one fairytale after another, one failed proposal after another, never anything in writing.’

Norths recently conducted an Expression of Interest (EOI) process via Clubs NSW with a two-week deadline which local community members say

was designed to fail.

Sale of site

‘We believe that Norths are gearing up for a sale of the property. They are required by the *Registered Clubs Act* and their own Club Constitution to provide notice to members of an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), wherein the lone agenda item will be to reclassify the Bangalow Bowlo from “core property” to “non-core property” and once the property is reclassified “non-core”, Norths are then allowed to sell it off without any further reference to members,’ they explained.

In the meantime Bangalow and Byron Bay members of Norths have found that

their membership can’t be renewed as previously reported in *The Echo*.

Bangalow members excluded

They appear to be changing member numbers without notice, thereby denying members access to the member portal, refusing to renew memberships, and some members believe they will likely to transfer the Bangalow Bowlo members into a non-voting block for the upcoming EGM.

‘If that is the case, and they are generally oppressing Bangalow Bowlo members’ rights and privileges, it is in contravention of their own club constitution, and the registered clubs act itself,’ said SBBSC.

Join the Bangalow community this Saturday for a full update on how the community plans to fight for its club, help raise money for the fund to bring the Bowlo back into community hands and enjoy an afternoon of live music and DJs, kids’ fun and games, ice cream, BBQ, bar, raffle and more at the Bangalow Lions Kiosk at the Bangalow Showgrounds.

John Weiley accepts lifetime achievement award



John Weiley in Antarctica with IMAX camera. Photo supplied

David Lowe

Last week a local filmmaker who has made a significant international impact was presented with the inaugural ScreenWorks Lifetime Achievement Award, at the Regional to Global Screen Forum in Lennox Head.

John Weiley enlarged the frame of screen storytelling throughout his long career, from his early TV documentaries in the UK, through to dramatic features here in Australia, and then to giant-screen IMAX films that carried Antarctica to audiences around the world.

Presenting the award, ScreenWorks chair and legendary publicist Tracey Mair began with a story about John Weiley and his partner

Susannah opening their house to host the first gathering of local screen creatives in the region, more than 25 years ago, to discuss the possibility of establishing a regional screen development agency.

‘More than a hundred people attended from those Northern Rivers beginnings,’ she said.

‘Screenworks is now a truly national organisation championing screen voices from outside metropolitan areas. John, thank you.’

At afternoon tea, John Weiley and his family handed out offcuts of 70mm film from Antarctica for anyone who wanted them – a penquin or two to take home.

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



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Mullumbimby burst into bloom last weekend



Jah Love, aka Jake, admires the blooms at Mullumbimby’s annual Orchid Society Show and sale last weekend.
Photo Jeff ‘Blossom’ Dawson

Inspiring our future – Climate 200 comes to Bangalow

Aslan Shand

With 35,000 members Australia-wide and 1,500 of those in the Northern Rivers, Climate 200 is bringing the conversation about ‘how to restore integrity to politics’ to Bangalow on Friday, 25 September at the Bangalow A&I Hall.

Speaking to *The Echo*, Climate 200 Executive Director, Byron Fay, said that while there has been a surge in dissatisfied voters turning to One Nation, ‘there is another alternative, which is the Community Independence Movement (CIM), which we support’.

Based on community action

‘The CIM revolves around community groups electing their own representative that they put up to run,’ he said.

‘The person therefore is beholden only to the people of that community, to their electorate, and not to some centralised party infrastructure.’

Newly elected Independent MP Nicolette Boele from Bradfield will be a guest speaker at the event to talk to her experience of winning her seat along with Co-Convenors Kate Hook and Simon Holmes à Court, and local filmmaker, author and activist, Damon Gameau.

Fay was clear that the CIM is demand-driven and it is



Newly elected independent Bradfield MP Nicolette Boele with Climate 200 Executive Director Byron Fay. Photo supplied

local communities that come together and create a movement with a candidate that they are looking to support.

Science, integrity, and equality

If the homegrown group meets the three basic commitments of being ‘committed to a science-based response to the climate crisis, restoring integrity to politics in fighting corruption, and to restoring and advancing gender equality and the respect and safety of women, then we can get behind them,’ said Fay.

It is through research, data-driven analytics, capacity building, as well as donations that they are able to support candidates.

‘One of the things that we love about the community independence movement is that most people who are involved in it have never been involved in politics before. It’s a movement of first-timers, and that’s a real advantage.

‘It adds a lot of vibrancy, energy, and creativity to it. But it’s also a weakness because there are just things you don’t know, and it’s always hard to learn things and compete with others that have been in the game for a long time. So we have a team of professionals who have been involved in political campaigning for a long time, that can advise community campaigns about how to compete with the professionals that are

the major parties.

‘People are understandably, completely disenchanted with the major parties and them failing to deliver on the promises they’ve made.

‘People are right to be pissed off. The Labor, Liberal, and National parties have not actually listened and given people a solution to the challenges they’re facing. They have perpetuated policies that have made your life worse. Since Covid our wages, compared to how much things have cost, have not grown enough, and that’s the result of bad government policy,’ said Fay.

Electing the right people is key

‘People have the right to be annoyed, but the answer is not punching down on migrants and turning our back on the biggest existential threat that we face, which is the climate crisis.

‘The answer is electing better people to our parliament who listen to expert advice and are prepared to do what is right, do what is in the interests of the community, rather than what’s in the interests of critical parties and their donors.’

You can join the discussion at the Bangalow A&I Hall on Friday, 25 September from 6.30pm. Pick up a ticket at: www.climate200.com.au/event/northern-rivers-community-get-together-2026.

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Challenge of mobile market wash stations



Mullumbimby Museum's Susan Tsicalas says the mobile wash station fees need to be reconsidered. Photo Jeff Dawson

Aslan Shand

Byron Shire Council (BSC) introduced the mobile market wash stations in 2024 as they looked to phase out single-use food and beverage packaging at events held on Council-managed land.

The Byron Farmers Market has washed an estimated 100,000 reusable dishes over the past 12 months, and reduced landfill waste from eight red wheelie bins per week to just half a bin.

'Reducing waste from eight bins a week to just half a bin at a regular event of this size is a remarkable achievement,' Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye said.

The community markets in Byron, Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads are also diverting up to 10,000 items a month from landfill by participating in a reuse system according to BSC.

Cost too high

However, Mullumbimby Community Markets, which are held monthly to support the Mullumbimby Museum, say they are struggling to meet the high cost of the mobile market wash station.

Writing to BSC, Mullumbimby market manager, Jacqueline Smith, said 'over the past 12 months the market itself has not generated a profit to pass on to the Museum'.

'The market over the last financial year ran at a loss of \$1,700 whereas in the previous financial year we had a profit of \$6,000,' explained Museum treasurer Susan Tsicalas.

'The major difference is the reuse wash station. At the beginning of the implementation of the wash station we put up our market prices for all stalls, though the foodies had a larger increase. Some of the stalls have since left us as they cannot carry the extra cost, also reducing our takings. At the last market in August we only had a net takings of \$1,000. Out of that \$700 went to the reuse wash station, \$240 for the lease of the Crown land, advertising, and then nothing is left for electricity, garbage, water, sewerage etc. The market is supposed to support the museum and its programs for the community! It is killing us slowly. We are supportive of the initiative but it is too expensive,' she told *The Echo*.

Council's mobile dish-washing trailer is available to support event organisers across the Byron Shire. The initiative has also been named a finalist in the Outstanding WARR Project: Regional category at the 2026 Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards. The awards will be held in late October.

Free men's BBQ in Lismore

Parenting can be a challenging experience, with parents often expected to know the answers in every situation. But sometimes it's not so simple.

Lismore's Men & Family Centre is inviting Northern Rivers men and their families to a free Community BBQ and forum in the Lismore Quad and Lismore Gallery on Saturday, 19 September, from 1pm to 3.30pm.

The free event will focus on how modern dads can go 'beyond the BBQ' to build caring and connected relationships with their kids and families.

Men & Family Centre President Stewart Prins said the event would also give dads an opportunity to talk more about the complex challenges facing dads today and learn about local support and ways to get involved.

Gulgan Village heads back to Council



This area has been identified as the Gulgan Village on The Saddle Road under the 2014 Byron Shire Council development control plan (DCP). Image Byron Shire Council

Paul Bibby

Plans for a new village of up to 550 homes between Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby are set to take another significant step forward, with Byron councilors being asked to back the Gulgan Village rezoning following months of public consultation.

The proposal, on elevated land around The Saddle Road and Gulgan Road, would ultimately accommodate between 1,000 and 1,400 people in a mix of conventional houses, terraces, apartments, micro-lots and manufactured homes.

Council received 74 public submissions and four agency submissions after the planning proposal and site-specific Development Control Plan (DCP) were exhibited from 12 June to 12 July.

Big impacts

Traffic, sewer and water capacity, building height and density, impacts on Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby, biodiversity and rural character were among the dominant concerns.

Despite those objections, staff are recommending councillors endorse the proposal at their 17 September meeting and send the amended rezoning to the state government for finalisation.

There have been some concessions.

Traffic issues

The amount of land proposed for R1 residential zoning has been reduced, while the DCP has been amended to strengthen controls around solar access, ridgeline development, views to the Nightcap Ranges, light pollution, groundwater-dependent ecosystems and landscaping. It will also explicitly state that Gulgan Village residents cannot use The Saddle Road as their primary vehicle access route.

Traffic remains one of the biggest unresolved concerns.

Transport for NSW has required a strategic design for upgrades to the Pacific Highway/Gulgan Road interchange and a mechanism to ensure the developer delivers the necessary road infrastructure. Council's report says wider traffic and parking impacts on Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby may be dealt with through future place-planning and transport investigations.

New primary school

The Department of Education has also advised that a new primary school is likely to be needed if the development proceeds.

Developer Brandon Saul has previously defended the project as a response to Byron Shire's chronic housing shortage.

'We really need social housing and housing diversity,' Mr Saul told *The Echo* earlier this year.

'This will not be traditional suburbia; it will be a village with a mix of housing solutions currently not available.'

Affordable housing has been one of the proposal's headline features, with five per cent of developed residential land to go to Council and a further five per cent promised separately to the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal Corporation.

One procedural wrinkle remains. An amended Voluntary Planning Agreement covering affordable housing and major infrastructure is still on public exhibition until 21 September, four days after the Council meeting. Staff are therefore recommending councillors endorse it conditionally and give the general manager authority to execute the deal if no material new issues emerge.

The entire planning proposal must be finalised by 27 October under the state government's Gateway determination.

Take the time to make a difference



Margaret Giles says come in and volunteer and meet some great people. Photo Jeff Dawson

The Mullumbimby Anglican Op Shop is calling out for volunteers in their shop on Mullumbimby's main street.

'If there is anyone out there who is willing to give three hours a week, fortnight, or month please, think about it and drop in to the shop,' said coordinator Margaret Giles.

There are no special requirements nor

experience needed.

'We support local charities, and our food pantry, and we also help locals in need of clothing and whatever else they request,' said Margaret.

'It is a great place to work and you meet people from all walks of life – locals and visitors alike. So come on in, why not give it a go and we can continue to help support our community.'

Swap the classroom for the trenches?

History teachers from the Northern Rivers are being encouraged to apply for the new NSW History Teachers Anzac Scholarship, designed to send a history teacher to the trenches, and bring the experience back to NSW classrooms.

'A history teacher could swap the classroom for the battlefields of Gallipoli, the Western Front or Thailand's Hellfire Pass,' said the press release.

Applications close on 4 October: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7r4hu8>

Zomi Frankcom remembered on National Peacekeeper Day

On Monday, 14 September peacekeepers from Australia and around the world were recognised at the Mullumbimby Cenotaph with particular recognition of aid worker Zomi Frankcom who was killed in Gaza by the Israel Defence Force (IDF).

'Australia has had peacekeepers in the field continuously since its first deployment in 1947,' said John Thurgar who was a senior investigator for Unrecovered War Casualties – Army.

Laying a wreath for Zomi Frankcom, Mandy Nolan recognised the increasingly important role women are playing in peacekeeping.

'Zomi Frankcom was just 43, killed when an aid convoy she was travelling with for the World Central Kitchen



Neville Watts, Mandy Nolan, Melissa McLaughlin and Bill Host. Photo supplied

– taking food to the war ravaged people of Gaza – was hit by three drone strikes, intentionally fired over four

minutes into three vehicles. The IDF have been cleared of criminal wrongdoing, which has left her family and many

in Australia wondering how a dedicated humanitarian could lose her life. Today we remember her.'

Uniquely Byron Business Awards

The Byron Bay Uniquely Byron Business Awards are now open.

'These awards are a great opportunity to celebrate the creativity, resilience and diversity of our local business community with prestige and recognition. I encourage businesses to get involved and put

themselves forward,' said Chamber President Matt Williamson.

'Advocacy, connection and promotion remain at the heart of what we do.'

The awards night will be held at Loft in November.

Make sure you nominate your favourite business at: <https://tinyurl.com/5b6rjz3p>.

Friendly pooches up for adoption

Stone & Wood are teaming up with Willow Tree Sanctuary and a whole lot of friendly dogs who are looking for their forever homes this Saturday, 19 September at the tasting room in Byron Bay from 11am to 2pm.

'We love having the hounds in the house and are always up for assisting

Willow Tree with the incredible work they do for animals in our community,' said Kurtis Day, Venue Manager at Stone & Wood.

Petcare Byron Bay will also be at the brewery, supporting Stone & Wood Dog Adoption Day with raffle prizes and gifts for dog lovers who sign up to foster or adopt.



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Wallum case verdict due on Wednesday

The legal fight to protect 'Wallum' at Brunswick Heads returned to the Federal Court this week, where Justice Kennett heard arguments for approximately six hours.

The interlocutory hearing in *Save Wallum Incorporated v Clarence Property Corporation Limited & Anor* began at 10am on Monday, 14 September and continued until approximately 4pm.

The hearing considered whether there is a serious question to be tried in relation to the appeal. Save Wallum is seeking to pursue and whether the court should grant an interim injunction preventing works at the site while that legal process continues.

The court also heard submissions on the balance of convenience, including the potential delay and financial cost to the respondents compared with the risk of permanent harm to threatened species and their habitat if work proceeds.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the matter was adjourned. Justice Kennett will deliver his decision at 10am on Wednesday, 16 September. The Federal Court's current order not to conduct slashing or development works at Wallum has been extended until 5pm on



Save Wallum say they will continue to fight to save the threatened heathland and species at the site.

Photo Mandy Nolan

Wednesday, 16 September.

Following the hearing, members of the Save Wallum community gathered at Bayside Park in Brunswick Heads to receive an update and reaffirm their support for protecting the site. Dressed as zombies, community members took part in a lively dance protest highlighting the threat posed by zombie DAs – historical development approvals that can be activated decades after they were originally granted, as was the case with the Wallum development.

Save Wallum says the community remains deeply concerned about the prospect of clearing and slashing within the rare coastal heathland which provides habitat for threatened species,

including the wallum froglet.

'For our community, the concern is that delays and financial costs can be measured, but the loss of threatened species habitat could be permanent and irreversible,' a Save Wallum spokesperson said.

The group reiterated that it respects the court and the legal process and asks everyone supporting the campaign to remain peaceful and lawful. It is urging the community to stay informed by following updates on the Save Wallum community Facebook group.

Save Wallum say they remain committed to pursuing every lawful avenue available to protect the rare coastal heathland and woodland and the threatened species it supports.

Dance and raise funds for Nepal's flood victims

Byron Shire's music community is coming together on Sunday, 20 September from 2pm at Haven, Byron Bay to raise funds for flood relief in Nepal after the devastating floods and landslides.

The event brings together representatives from across Byron Bay's independent music community, with some

of the region's strongest promoter crews each putting forward a DJ to take part. The result is a collective lineup representing the diversity, creativity and community spirit of the local music scene.

The crews include Aru-anda, BareFootBeat, Sacred Hearts, Reverie, Deepdown,

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink, Flo Records, Haven and Mahico.

'All the DJs and crews are donating their time to the event, allowing as much of the money raised as possible to go towards the cause,' said a spokesperson.

Ticket at: <https://events.humanitix.com/mahico-presents-dance-for-nepal>.

63 patients stuck in local hospitals waiting for care

Paul Bibby

More than 60 hospital beds across the Northern Rivers are being occupied by patients who are medically ready to leave but cannot access aged care or NDIS support, according to new NSW government figures.

As of June 30, there were 63 patients in Northern NSW hospitals waiting for Commonwealth-funded placements: 18 at Tweed Valley Hospital, seven at Ballina District Hospital, five at Murwillumbah District Hospital and four at Lismore Base Hospital. A further eight were at Grafton Base Hospital.

Health Minister Ryan Park said the growing number of patients unable to be discharged was placing significant pressure on hospitals.

'In Northern NSW, this means more than 60 beds in NSW public hospitals

cannot be used as a result,' Mr Park said.

'Waiting indefinitely in a hospital is not good for patient mobility, recovery, or quality of life. These people are more than statistics, and they deserve so much better.'

27 per cent increase

The Northern Rivers figures form part of a much larger statewide problem.

Across NSW, the number of patients medically ready to leave hospital but waiting for aged care or NDIS support rose from 1,065 in June 2025 to 1,355 a year later, an increase of more than 27 per cent.

NSW Health estimates the figure could reach almost 1,700 by June next year if current trends continue.

Older people waiting for aged-care placements account for much of the increase, with the statewide number rising almost 40 per

cent over the past year.

The government says the delays mean the equivalent of about one in eight hospital beds accessible from NSW emergency departments is occupied by someone who no longer requires hospital treatment.

Minister for the North Coast and Lismore MP Janelle Saffin said local health workers were caring for patients while they waited to move into appropriate services.

'Ensuring our older residents and NDIS participants receive the right care in the right setting is a huge priority for our community,' Ms Saffin said.

The NSW government has announced a \$35.7 million Aged Care Response Package and is expanding home-based aged-care outreach and virtual geriatric services in an attempt to reduce hospital admissions and enable earlier discharge.

The Pocket Road to close later this month

The Pocket Road will be closed for several months from 28 September to repair a culvert originally built in 1960.

Properties west of 879 The Pocket Road (just prior to the very windy section that leads up the hill to Main Arm Road

coming from Billinudgel) will need to detour via Main Arm Road. However, pedestrian and cyclist access will be maintained throughout the works.

Byron Shire Council (BSC) says the culvert is in poor condition, and concerns

about its structural integrity have led to multiple road closures this year during heavy rainfall events.

'Work hours will be 7am to 5pm. The road will remain closed outside of work hours,' said a BSC spokesperson.

Council funding squeeze under microscope

► Continued from page 1

'This is especially cruel for Byron Shire where essential services need to be delivered across a dispersed

geographical area with a ratepayer base of only 15,500 properties, substantial visitor numbers, and the federal government has cut us off at the knees through their Federal Assistance Grants program,' Cr Ndiaye said.

She said restoring the grants to one per cent would make 'a massive difference', allowing more spending on roads, parks, facilities and other services.

Byron Council has also told the federal inquiry that the way Financial Assistance Grants are distributed disadvantages Byron Shire because NSW's formula places significant weight on property values.

Council argued that high land values do not necessarily translate into greater capacity to raise rates because NSW councils operate under rate-pegging rules.

Its submission pointed to neighbouring Ballina, saying that despite the two councils being of a similar size,

Ballina received around \$1.63 million more in Financial Assistance Grant funding in 2023/24.

Committee chair Fiona Phillips said the inquiry was hearing widely differing accounts of the pressures facing councils around the country.

'The committee wants to hear more about the differing challenges facing councils in metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria and remote Northern Australia ... and the support available to them,' she said ahead of today's hearing.

Earlier hearings have also examined rising infrastructure costs, climate pressures and the difficulties councils face accessing federal funding programs.

For Byron ratepayers, the question now is whether any future boost in Commonwealth funding would ease the pressure behind the proposed SRV, or whether locals will still be asked to shoulder most of the burden.



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NSW police clamp down on illegal e-bikes

On 21 August, amendments to the NSW *Road Transport Act 2013* became enforceable; allowing illegal, modified, or high-powered e-bikes, other non-registerable motor vehicles, and unregistered registerable vehicles, used in public places, to be seized and destroyed.

Also, in recent weeks the Queensland Police Service has seized hundreds of non-compliant e-mobility devices and issued almost 1,000 traffic infringement notices during the first month of their clampdown.

About time?

In NSW, an ‘about time’ raid on offenders, 36 illegal e-bikes were seized when officers patrolled Manly, Curl Curl, Dee Why and Avalon, targeting illegal, modified and high-powered e-bike use.

A speed-testing dynamometer was also used to assist officers test suspect devices.

The NSW Northern Beaches locations were identified following recent incidents of illegal, dangerous and reckless e-bike use.

Speeds more than 90 km/h

Of note, an e-bike capable of allegedly reaching speeds of more than 90 km/h was seized from a 14-year-old boy at Warriewood.

Traffic and Highway Patrol Commander, Assistant Commissioner David Driver, encouraged riders to ensure their bike was road-legal.

‘Riders need to ensure their e-bike complies with legislation and that when they ride that they comply with the rules about where they can and cannot ride their e-bikes,’ said Assistant Commissioner Driver.

‘Most e-bike riders do the right thing and comply with the rules; however, police will enforce with new legislation if people ride non-compliant vehicles.’

Transport Secretary, Josh Murray said the majority of people using e-bikes on NSW roads were using them legally and safely, but there were a small number who ignore the rules and warnings, and they endangered other road users as a result.

‘We are serious about e-bike safety, and operations like this will continue by NSW Police with support from Transport for NSW to ensure all road users are safe and complying with the state’s upgraded laws,’ said Mr Murray.

‘E-bikes must behave like bicycles, not motorcycles. ‘If your bike can operate like a motorcycle under throttle or go more than 25 kilometres an hour while being powered, it is not legal to ride in public.’

Mr Murray has a warning for parents: ‘Before you or your child jumps on an e-bike, please make sure it’s road-legal, otherwise you risk losing the bike.’

For more information on e-bike rules and requirements, visit: transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/bicycle-riders/ebikes.

Sandhills Wetlands wins Green Apple Award

Byron Shire Council (BSC) have won the international Green Apple Award for their Sandhills Wetlands project in Byron Bay.

The Suffolk Park Community Association (SPCA) had submitted the nomination after they visited the site when they were considering the options for how to improve Baywood Chase Lake in Suffolk Park.

‘We nominated Byron Council and then totally forgot, until last week when we were advised they had won,’ SPCA President Kelly Minahan told *The Echo*.

‘We saw the environmental significance of the Sandhills Wetland and believed the work deserved to be recognised internationally. We were very pleased to nominate Byron Shire Council.’

‘We believe BSC is the first Australian local government council to win a Green Apple Award. If BSC is successful in the next round of the Green World Awards, Byron Bay could have the opportunity to host the Green World Awards in 2028,’ he said in the press release.

Restored after sand mining

The original wetlands, on a 1.8-hectare site in the heart of Byron Bay, were destroyed by sandmining in the 1960s and for many years the site was overgrown, degraded and attracted antisocial behaviour.

The project restored the ecological function of the wetlands, reinstated the natural landscape and honoured cultural heritage. The project was co-designed with Arakwal and supported by Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and Crown Lands.

The awards will be presented in November at the House of Lords in Westminster, UK.

The Sandhills Wetlands project has also won three other awards, including the landscape category of the National Trust (NSW) Heritage.

Mark ‘Mono’ Stewart wins US Open in California



Mark ‘Mono’ Stewart has won his seventh world championship and sixth US Open Championship at the US Adaptive Surfing Championships in California. The ninth Annual US Open Adaptive Surfing Championships will be held on 10 to 13 September. Mono said he was still travelling home ‘but stoked to win my seventh World Adaptive Surfing Title’. Photo supplied

Lennox Town and Gown Art Show fundraiser

The Lennox Head Lions Club are running the Town and Gown Art Show this coming weekend to raise funds for the Lennox Head Public School to fund essential extracurricular activities and vital educational materials.

This spectacular weekend-long exhibition bridges the gap between established regional creators and the next generation of talent. The show features a stunning array of artwork available for purchase, showcasing both professional pieces from regional artists and creative submissions from the students of Lennox Head Public School.

The festivities kick off with the Opening Night on Friday, 18 September at 6pm, \$10 entry at the door with drinks and nibbles.

The exhibition then continues on Saturday and Sunday with entry by a gold coin donation.

Visitors of all ages can cast their votes for the People’s Choice Artwork which will be awarded after counting the votes on Sunday.

Sunday, 20 September promises to be a major highlight for families. The Lennox Head School Choir and Band will take the stage in the late morning, followed by a classic Lions BBQ starting at 12 noon.

The weekend wraps up with an exciting Grand Finale Silent Auction.

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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.

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Tyagarah’s slow and gentle treasure – from their hive to your home

When Michael Howes left Sydney in the mid-1990s, he wasn’t chasing a business. He came north to visit a friend, got lost somewhere in the ranges, fell for the country and stayed. He started keeping bees in 1996 – ‘one or two’ hives on a farm, then 20, then more – until he couldn’t give the honey away fast enough and began selling it into local shops.

The pivot came a year or two later. News of manuka honey was breaking, and as a New Zealander, Michael was familiar with the plant.

A beekeeping friend knew Dieter Horstmann, who owned a property nearby, and they put hives on it. Walking through the bush there, they realised what they were looking at: *Leptospermum* – known in Australia then as jelly bush, for the thick, gel-like honey it yields. They tested it, found it active, and built a brand around it. The name arrived through partner Katrina Evans’ childhood friend Cheryl Livingston, who walked the same bush looking for medicine and announced she’d found manuka. Tyagarah Apiaries

became Australia’s Manuka Honey.

Making of manuka

That heritage is more than branding. The *Leptospermum* genus is endemic to Australia; the plants New Zealand is famous for are thought to have crossed the Tasman around four million years ago. Michael worked with the University of the Sunshine Coast on its early research and on mapping *Leptospermum* species nationally. The business has since won trademark challenges in both the UK and New Zealand over the right to use the word ‘manuka’.

Medical applications

Michael and Katrina say manuka’s reputation rests on its antibacterial strength: early testing proved it kills around 80 pathogenic bacteria. It stimulates wound healing, and hospitals use it on burns, diabetic leg ulcers, and dialysis port sites to prevent infection. Two of the company’s products are certified by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (one for oral care, one for the skin), which means the claims on the tube have been tested,



A team effort from the Australia’s Manuka crew – Eri, Johanna, Uri, Kat, Michael, Simon, Hope and Arlo. Photo Tree Farie

not just marketed. It’s a honey you can eat on toast or put on your skin, and plenty of customers do both. Michael says the key difference lives in how their honey is processed. ‘The honey is treasured. It’s cold-extracted, which is a lot slower. Cold extraction means you maintain all the nutrients, all the tastes, all the polyphenols, which are very complex compounds – the beneficial compounds of the honey. You maintain those by warming it, but not

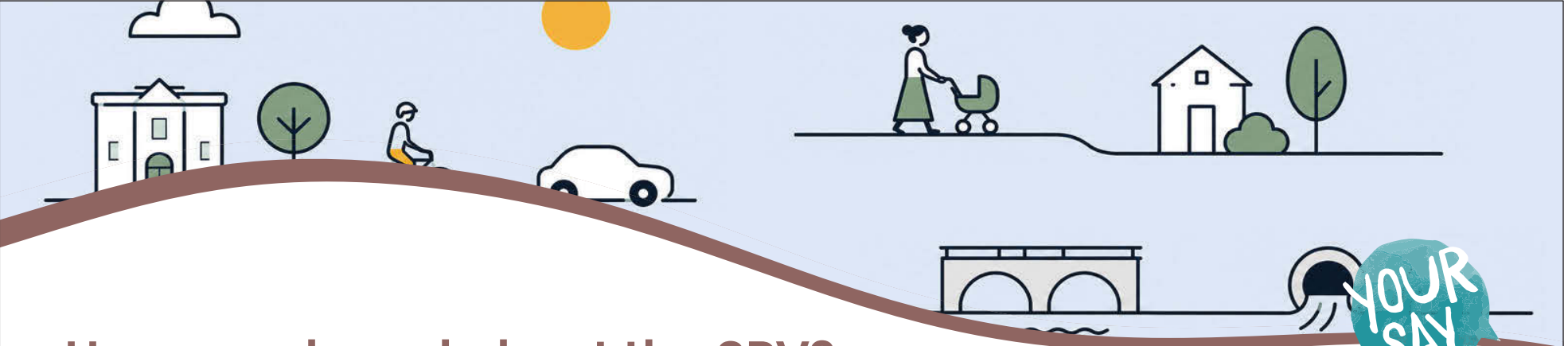
overheating it. So it’s a slower process.’ The creaming process that gives the honey its fine crystal texture is a closely held trade secret. In the hives, there are no pesticides, no antibiotics and no sugar feeding. These practices are common elsewhere in the industry, and residues survive processing. The subtropical Northern Rivers climate means the bees forage year-round and stay strong without shortcuts.

Roughly 700 hives sit north and south of the property and down into Bundjalung National Park, each holding about 40,000 bees and a queen laying up to 1,500 eggs a day. Everything is wild harvested. Hives are moved at night so the bees emerge foraging in a new place at first light, which means knowing the flowering cycles of every honey tree in the district. One of the genuine pleasures of the job, Katrina notes, is being paid to walk around looking at flowers.

Running on sunshine

The processing shed, offered by Dieter Horstmann to prove a business could run on sunshine, operates off-grid on 50 kilowatts of solar. Five permanent staff cover beekeeping, processing, sales, and admin, with casuals throughout the extraction season. The honey is sold at the Byron Farmers Market, and the company donates honey to WIRES, Fletcher Street Cottage, and the Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, to name a few. During the floods, staff went out volunteering with honey while the site itself sat under water.

One of the many vital aspect of the Australia’s Manuka Honey brand is the ‘hive to home’ attitude. Many other brands buy the cheapest bulk honey available and put their own label on it. Here, the name on the jar belongs to the people who keep the bees, and visitors are welcome at the factory outlet to taste the difference. Michael is proud of the fact that their honey is really well looked after. As he puts it, ‘It’s a treasure: it’s treasured’.



Have you heard about the SRV?

Council is proposing to apply to the NSW Government for a Special Rate Variation. This will generate much needed additional money so we can fix more roads, improve drainage and provide better community facilities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Special Rate Variation (SRV)? An SRV is an increase to general rates beyond the NSW Government rate peg. Councils can apply to IPART for an SRV when their existing revenue is not enough to support services and maintain infrastructure.

What is a rate peg? Rates increase each year in line with a limit set by the NSW Government. This is the rate peg. The rate peg sets the maximum percentage increase in the total general income that Council can collect from rates.

What is the proposed Special Rate Variation increase? The proposal is for an SRV over three years:
2027/28: 12.0% (8.0% SRV + 4.0% rate peg)
2028/29: 10.0% (7.5% SRV + 2.5% rate peg)
2029/30: 9.6% (7.1% SRV + 2.5% rate peg)

This would result in a total rise of about 35.03% in ordinary rates over three years. This would be a permanent increase to ordinary rates.

How much would my rates go up by? The increase only applies to the ordinary rates component of your rates and does not apply to other charges on the rates notice.

Find out how much your rates may increase by using the Rates Calculator on yoursay. byron.nsw.gov.au/srv/rates-calculator



What will happen if I can’t afford my rates? Council has a financial hardship policy. Staff look at each request individually and can offer tailored payment plans.

What will happen if Council does not continue with the SRV? Council may need to reduce services and defer infrastructure maintenance.

Got a question or want more information?

Go to yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/srv
or srv@byron.nsw.gov.au

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Friday 18 September





The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 41 #14 • September 16, 2026

Time for free oral

Most of us have had a toothache. It is bloody painful and at times I've fantasised taking a pair of pliers and ripping the agonising tooth out while I wait for attention from a dentist to help me – please just help me with the pain!

Looking after your teeth is an important part of health care and apart from ensuring your teeth aren't black, rotting, and falling out of your mouth, good dental care has good health outcomes.

Apart from stopping tooth decay and helping you feel less inclined towards pliers, a key part of good dental care is reducing and preventing gum disease. The reason this is important is that gum disease (and lacking access to a dentist) can place you at risk of a number of health risks.

According to Harvard Medical School repeated studies have shown that 'people who have poor oral health (such as gum disease or tooth loss) have higher rates of cardiovascular problems such as heart attack or stroke than people with good oral health (www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/gum-disease-and-the-connection-to-heart-disease).

Similarly there is a clear link between gum disease and diabetes, with people with diabetes three times more likely to have gum disease, have an increased risk of raised blood sugar levels, while diabetes lowering the body's ability to fight infections, and slows down healing in the mouth.

This is all before you get to the impacts of confidence and appearance.

So I was happy to see the Australian Dental Association (ADA)

calling for more national action on oral health.

'For too long, dental has sat outside the national health reform conversation, even though it's one of the most common reasons people avoid care because of cost. The establishment of this National Oral Health and Dental Reform Senior Officials Group shows government is finally treating dental as the national priority it should be, and the ADA will be at the table making sure the plan delivers real change,' said Dr Chris Sanzaro, ADA President.

While it is important that the calls for government to fund targeted dental care for vulnerable groups, I think they need to be bolder.

Countries like Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Norway provide heavily subsidised public dental care and even the UK provides free dental care if you are under 18, pregnant, or had a baby in the last 12 months, and other subsidised health care is available on the National Health Service (NHS). Mind you visiting the doctor is also free in the UK!

It is time to call for free dental care in Australia. Victoria's Labor government has committed to spend \$230m to open ten public dental clinics across the state, where oral care clinicians would be able to provide free checkups and treatments, including fillings, root canals and extractions, if needed according to *The Guardian*.

If anything in Australia is going to be free, let's make it education and health, including looking after our damn teeth!

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

Graphic violence is fine, but pot smoking? Never

There is a new computer game called 'Halloween: The Game' that builds on the hyper-real and brutal violence of the film. In the online version, gruesome killings are the hallmark, and you can execute victims by repeatedly head stomping another player through a toilet, or frying their brain by thrusting them through a television screen. If that's not enough there is a visceral cinematic coat-hanger impalement, a refrigerator-door-slam head bludgeon, and a rapid knife stabbing or Trotskyite pickaxe slay.

Hopefully, that would have gained the game an R18 classification in the (perhaps forlorn) hope that it protects some young people from delving. But no, it has been banned completely Australia-wide, but not because of the violence. The censor's wrath was excited because, wait for it... the game depicts cannabis use. It is just fine to show slasher ferocity with realistic sadism but god forbid the game actually shows people engaging in something that about half the people in the country have chosen to enjoy.

In more bizarre scenes Waverley Library in Sydney removed a book titled *How to Sell a Genocide – The Media's Complicity in the Destruction of Gaza* after a complaint by *J-Wire* – a Jewish media organisation. Alex Ryvchin, CEO of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry thundered 'a book of this sort has no place on the shelves of a library... in large part due to the dehumanisation of Jews precisely through this sort of libel.' According to *J-Wire*, the word 'genocide' is an 'inflammatory inversion of Jewish trauma'.

Obviously, learning the lessons of history are not high on the agenda of the complainants. Perhaps they've forgotten that in the 1930s the Nazis held mass book burnings of Jewish authors among others, (including the writings of Helen Keller – go figure). It is staggering that mainstream Jewish organisations in Australia believe that censorship and book removal are going to help their cause. If they can't learn from last century, they might have considered Bendigo,



One of the writers who had his books burnt by the Nazis was Heinrich Heine, who had written in 1923, "Where they burn books they ultimately burn people too".

– David Heilpern

Adelaide, Antoinette Lattouf, and banning protests in NSW. Besides, as 40 per cent of American Jews (and 90 per cent of my Jewish friends) believe Israel has committed genocide and 60 per cent believe war crimes – how is it possible to call the G-word antisemitic?

One of the writers who had his books burnt by the Nazis was Heinrich Heine, who had written in 1923, 'Where they burn books they ultimately burn people too'. Prescient. And relevant to all genocides.

I've read the library book now – although everywhere has sold out of course, a combination of the forbidden fruit and Streisand affect – and it is not remotely antisemitic. Staggeringly, at shelf spot 943.086 HIT, Waverley Library has multiple copies of *Mein Kampf*, the most historically significant, virulently antisemitic book ever written. No one calling for its removal? Clearly, censorship by some has nothing to do with antisemitism really. Just as the video game policy actually isn't about community harm or the focus would be on violence, not spliff rolling.

Phrase banning?

And where are we with phrase banning in Australia? Nothing like the UK where you can and do go to prison for sporting a sign saying 'I Support Palestine Action'. Although we do have our own mini-me ban in Queensland with outlawing 'from the river to the sea' which will survive challenge about as long as a morning tea break in the High Court. They'll again to ban *The Little Red Schoolbook* next.

I am not in favour of banning Nazi symbols and flags either (only Australia, Austria, Germany and

Brazil do). But if people can wrap themselves in the flag of one genocidal regime they should be able to fly the flag of another. Elon Musk can give the Nazi salute as often as he wants. I don't want Nazis, actual antisemites, and racists hiding under a bush. I want to know who they are.

I am not anti-censorship in all circumstances, particularly when it comes to protecting people from real harm. For example, I reckon there is a pretty strong argument for following the United Kingdom in banning porn depicting strangulation or suffocation. In Australia, 61 per cent of 18 to 35-year-old women have experienced strangulation. So, yep let's ban that. And also gambling ads of any type anywhere. And posts opposing rail trails in favour of trains.

At this point, I know what you are thinking. Where do we draw the line? You can't just ban the things David doesn't like or cause him offence.

Maybe. Sometimes with these dilemmas it is worth ignoring the grey just for now and starting with the black and white. Banning books from libraries because you want to protect the rep of a foreign nation, and outlawing a violent game because it depicts cannabis smoking, and censoring political phrases with threat of imprisonment are beyond the fuzzy line wherever it is drawn.

Meanwhile, I am kind of glad no one in Australia can play *Halloween – The Game*. I'd rather they read banned books, with or without a joint.

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



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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The golden egg of affordable housing

The following relates to the development application (DA) on exhibition for 3-5 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads, but I understand the theme herein is currently occurring in Byron Bay.

The developers have leveraged the DA on 'affordable housing' to take up a 15.67 per cent concession above the 9m overall height limit.

Once built, it is reasonable to assume the structure will have a life expectancy of say 100 plus years. So, by leveraging concessions on the provision of a two-bedroom x 1 and a three-bedroom x 1 'affordable housing', and having those grandfathered for 10 to 15 years the relevant legislation is a golden egg for developers particularly when they are astutely aware of specific sites to target.

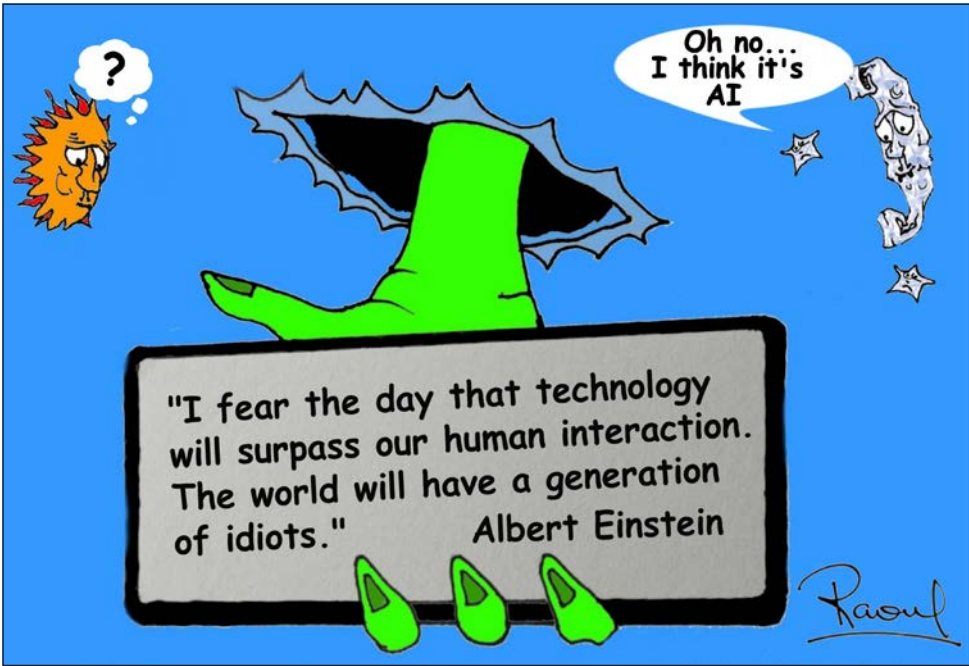
In this case it is in the premium commercial block in Brunswick Heads to be redeveloped for 13 shop top dwellings and four commercial premises. And whilst the DA commits to no holiday rentals it is within the 365 days permissible area for such.

At current market rentals, a two-bedroom unit in Brunswick would be \$900/week and a three-bedroom unit would be \$1,100/week.

Under the notion of affordability, the rents for the two 'affordable units' would be reduced to say \$720/week and \$880/week respectively. Of course, these rents are subject to discretionary change per year to reflect market conditions. Without any enforcement, a holiday rent would return substantially more.

The 15.67 per cent concession on height is critical to the proposed 41 on-site parking spaces in this DA. This effectively circumvents substantial parking contributions to Council being one of the options for the developers.

The Traffic Assessment Report states there are 14 existing on-site parking spaces. The proposed



Cartoon by Raoul. Perhaps Einstein would agree with the sentiment, however it seems this is a famously misattributed quote – see: wikiquote.org/wiki/albert_einstein. – Ed

development is citing 41 spaces. There is a shortfall of 27 spaces. At approximately \$70,000/space this is equivalent to \$1,890,000 that is circumvented by putting in an 'affordable housing' DA. Whilst the parking contributions would be tied to specific expenditures, I can only vision the alternatives foregone.

The bigger question is, was it the purpose and intention of the legislation to be used in the aforementioned way?

Patricia Warren
Brunswick Heads

Byron's character

Protecting Byron's character is not NIMBYism.

The recent article (*Echo*, 2 September) on the increasing use of State Significant Development (SSD) and Housing Delivery Authority (HAD) pathways raises serious questions about who gets to shape Byron Bay's future and indeed the entire Shire. Watch out Brunswick Heads. I am sure these greedy developers have Bruns in their sights.

For decades, our community has worked with successive councils to create planning rules that protect Byron's unique village character. The 11.5-metre height limit did not appear by accident. It was established after extensive community consultation and reflects a long-held vision that Byron should remain a low-rise coastal town, distinct from the Gold Coast style of development.

What is particularly concerning is that some of the latest proposals appear to have been cleverly designed to disguise the extent of their height exceedances. Through architectural treatments, varied rooflines and visual tricks, the impression can be created that

buildings comply with local limits when, in reality, they significantly exceed them. The question is not what a building looks like in a developer's artist impression, but whether it complies with the planning controls that have guided Byron's development for generations.

Residents are repeatedly told that these height breaches are necessary to solve the housing crisis. People of Byron have been accused of NIMBYism (ABC Radio North Coast, 26 August). Yet the proposed 21-metre development at the old Woolworths site reportedly provides only a small proportion of affordable housing, and only on a temporary basis, while the additional height and density would remain forever.

Has anyone else noticed that all proposed 'affordable housing projects' that are using SSD to bypass local planning legislation are all in a 1.6 km radius and within 365-day holiday letting zone? Surely this is not just a coincidence. Why not propose these dwellings outside the CBD? The answer – follow the money!

Housing affordability is a genuine issue, but it should not be used as a justification to dismantle long-standing planning protections without proper public scrutiny. Once excessive building heights are approved, they create precedents that become increasingly difficult to resist elsewhere.

The real issue is not whether Byron should accommodate growth. It is how that growth occurs and who gets to decide. The growing use of SSD and HDA pathways risks sidelining local communities and councils in favour of decisions made in Sydney by people who do not live with the

consequences.

Byron's character, landscape and scale are the very reasons people choose to live here and visit here. If we lose those qualities, we lose something that cannot be rebuilt.

People of Byron do not oppose development. We are asking for transparency, genuine consultation, and adherence to the planning rules that generations of residents have helped create. That is not unreasonable. It is responsible stewardship of a place we all value.

Maxine Hawker
Byron Bay

E-bikes

I'm a regular visitor from Melbourne staying at Suffolk Park. One recent change puzzles me: the seeming lack of public recognition of recently-revised by-laws meant to slow down e-bike riders and to increase rider and public safety.

The trend to 'fat-tyre' bikes has been very popular, allowing fitting of stronger motors. Nobody pedals anymore.

E-bikes have become a cheap, efficient means of transport, which appeals to adults as basic transport, and to pre-adolescents and adolescents as exciting entertainment.

Laws across the states lack uniformity: Victoria limits motor size to 250 watts. Amongst a group of young boys on bikes whom I recently spoke to, their bike engine sizes ranged from 500 to 1500w.

Many e-bike riders continue to ride without age restriction or fear of censure.

Social pressure amongst (mostly) young boys has made e-bikes highly desirable.

Parents allow their (mostly) boys to ride

unsupervised at a supposedly limited speed of 25 km/h.

I ask: are parents abrogating their responsibilities to their own children as well as to the general public?

While policing of car drivers and traffic are constant, why is the behaviour of e-bike riders ignored?

I make these comments as an e-bike rider of 20 years who happens to live within a safer paradigm down south.

Chris Sanders
Suffolk Park/Melbourne

Student protest

It is with a light heart that I respond to Margot Hay's letter (2 September).

Our children's young years should be full of joy – and many still are, even amid a dreadful situation: accelerating climate devastation and looming ecological collapse, with all its social

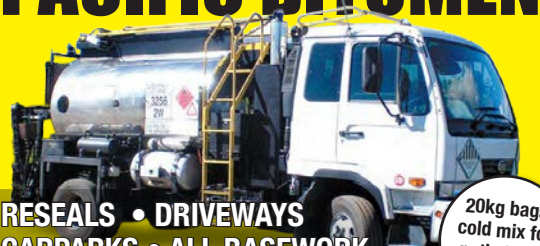
consequences.

Protest is often the only avenue left for them to express their unhappiness at a crisis enabled by politicians – Pauline Hanson among them – who wield their power and privilege with little thought for future generations.

The right to protest is a cornerstone of democracy, and young people are well within their rights to exercise it. In my experience, they are thoughtful and articulate about the anger they feel toward the existential threats bequeathed to them by their elders' lack of political will. Perhaps protest is itself a form of joy – an insistence that a future worth living for is still worth fighting for. I feel that way myself, and I am grateful for others who do.

Ciannait Low
Mullumbimby

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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.

Climate change: not a hoax

Living in Byron Shire I often encounter friends who believe climate change is a hoax – a deep state conspiracy (I wish!).

This can be a bit of a conversation-stopper. So rather than becoming disagreeable, I tend to drop the subject and talk about something else.

Over the years I researched a number of documentaries that included changes in the climate and learned a lot about the subject.

Five mass extinctions have occurred on Earth since life began. Four of the five were caused by too much carbon-based greenhouse gas in the atmosphere coming from volcanic activity, known as a 'carbon spike'.

The Permian mass extinction 250 million years ago, in the Age of Amphibians, was caused by a 5 million square kilometre lava field known as 'The Siberian Traps' when thousands of active volcanoes filled the Earth's atmosphere with billions of tonnes of sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide, and methane. The Permian temperature soared 16 degrees hotter than it is now and 95 per cent of all

living things, plant and animal, died. Ironically, the rotting organic matter from the Permian extinction became the rich Australian coal seams we mine so profitably today.

We are now in the sixth mass extinction which science has named the Anthropocene, because it is human activity that is causing it. This should come as no surprise because we have been burning fossil fuels for the past few hundred years and have pumped hundreds of billions of tonnes of carbon into our atmosphere. When we look up into the sky, it appears our atmosphere goes on forever. But this diaphanous life-supporting envelope is extremely thin. If the Earth was an apple, the atmosphere is as thin as the apple's skin!

Science has known since the 1800s that increasing carbon dioxide levels cause increasing temperatures. This increase doesn't just make the Earth hotter, it turbocharges the global climate, so we get devastating winds, colder winters, catastrophic floods, ferocious heat waves, and heart-breaking fires. Which in living memory, are all happening

We are now in the sixth mass extinction which science has named the Anthropocene, because it is human activity that is causing it.

much more frequently than ever before.

Australia has a schizoid relationship with our abundant coal and gas deposits. On one hand we are aiming for 'net zero' and at the same time, go on endorsing new coal and gas leases for exploitation. Our Pacific neighbours just gave Albo a real roasting for his cognitive dissonance on this matter.

Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

Byron rail trail a 'gem'

The section of the proposed 'rail trail' between old Mitre 10 and the Roadhouse Cafe, is one of the most incredible areas yet to be shown off to locals and visitors alike, running through Cumbegin Swamp's picturesque wetlands.

This 1.3 km stretch is a hidden gem, and has enormous tourism attraction potential, and will be directly accessible just south of Byron's CBD.

With a few small picnic and meditation bays along this heartwarming stretch of corridor, all cyclists and walkers will celebrate this area, much like for example, Melbourne celebrates its Botanic Gardens, but in our own natural way.

Completing the entire rail trail is an obvious goal, but this beating heart really needs to be emphasised in our funding submissions.

Eventually, folk travelling the other way, from Lismore and Bangalow will roll down into Byron, through this delightful avenue entrance.

Tim Shanasy
Byron Bay

Immigration

I think migrants overall enrich our communities. I have an idea! For every new immigrant, we exile a bogan! Tata Pauline!

Warwick Anderson
Suffolk Park

No traffic lights

As someone who lives on Ewingsdale Road, spends half my driving time on that road and when not driving crosses that road as a pedestrian or cyclist all the time, I can't think of a more absurd idea than traffic lights.

Traffic lights would only hamper the traffic flow into Byron. As for pedestrians and cyclists, all that is required is completing the footpath on the south side of the road all the way to Ewingsdale, without the path constantly swapping sides of the road.

A few zebra crossings and Bob's your uncle! A zebra crossing near the Discovery Holiday Park, near Bunnings and the hospital will assist the few pedestrians in these areas.

I imagine whoever is proposing expensive traffic lights on Ewingsdale Road is some bureaucrat who's basing an opinion on theory rather than practice.

Please, no traffic lights in Byron!

Simon Alderton
Byron Bay

Crossing overdue

Calling the crossing 'from nowhere to nowhere' gets it backwards. It would serve people walking and riding between Byron Bay, Sunrise, West Byron and the Byron Arts & Industry Estate – not just future residents.

As a Byron resident of more than 20 years, I make local journeys by bike. Council has built cycling routes from Suffolk Park through town to the industrial estate,

yet they repeatedly dump people at busy roads without protected crossings.

A refuge island provides no right of way. It forces children, families, and bike riders to dodge traffic, wait in a cramped island, then dodge it again. At the current 'crossing' on Ewingsdale Road with four lanes and vehicles accelerating from a roundabout, this is indefensible. The missing zebra crossing outside Byron High and St Finbarr's Primary is a massive shame.

Around half of urban car trips are under five kilometres – ideal cycling distances. Transport produces about one-fifth of Australia's emissions. For a council committed to climate action, enabling residents to replace short car trips should be fundamental. Evidence shows more people choose active transport when routes are safe and connected.

Approve the zebra crossing now, progress signals as the area grows, and incorporate both into the corridor masterplan. This crossing is not premature. It is years overdue.

Tony Jansen
Suffolk Park

Wallum judgment

In *The Echo* online (8 September) a story titled 'Wallum judgment – devastated, but not giving up!' appeared.

This article referred to a final decision in the matter of *Save Wallum Inc vs Clarence Property & Anor*.

In this final decision Her Honour Justice Perry of the Federal Court ruled to 'dismiss the community's application for a permanent injunction on development work at the site known locally as "Wallum".'

An excellent analysis of the decision of Justice Perry can be had at: www.lindsaytaylorlawyers.com.au/in_focus/historical-development-consents.

The Wallum saga has been long, detailed and expensive for locals opposed to this historical development but this specific development is but one of many such 'zombie' approved developments across NSW. Community and Council concerns regarding these developments (which were approved long ago) range back years but came to a head in the early 2020s.

As a result in 2023 the NSW government set up an enquiry titled 'Historical Development Consents in NSW', chaired by Clayton Barr MP.

In late 2023 I made a submission to this committee in which I recommended that all such development approvals that had relied on then best known scientific data to assist with development consent and where the current state of scientific knowledge had altered to the extent that if the development application was presented in late 2023 it would fail to meet the test for approval and thus should have either development approval terminated or modified in the light of current (2023) scientific data.

My overall intent was then, and is now, not to prevent developments but to allow approval of developments, but only if they meet standards of development that do not destroy or inhibit the natural functioning of rare and sensitive biomes such as the Wallum biome in Brunswick Heads.

The committee delivered its report on Thursday, 30 July 2026.

The report in full can be obtained at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/parliamentary-business/committees/inquiry-details?committeeInquiryId=3037.

This report makes several findings and recommendations for future action but the question of how to deal with the existing 'zombie' development approvals from ages past, some known and others as yet unknown has no exact answer, at least from my reading of the report.

An excellent overview of the whole issue can be had by a careful read of the chair's forward.

The government response to the report is due Saturday, 30 January, 2027. I await the response of the NSW government regarding this vital issue to us all.

David Bannister
Mullumbimby Creek

Wallum II

The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. So help me God.

That is what we swear on the Bible in a court of law in this country. English law. My father Richard Beams (dec. 1984) used to say 'the law is an ass' and I agree.

A gross injustice has occurred right now as the justice in the Wallum legal case has just ruled, against our Indigenous owners/custodians' wishes.

Even though the High Court, the highest court in Australia, ruled in favour of Edie Mabo and terra nullius was disproved,

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► Aboriginal law is still ignored.

My heart is breaking for my friends, the Elders of Wallum, the standing nations and all of the natural world.

These trees have lived for up to 500 years in this place, well before we immigrants came. They have spoken with many who have ears to hear. I weep for the greed, blindness and deafness which can allow this to happen.

So what can I do? I ask myself.

This letter is an appeal to all of the good-hearted people in this shire, who have in their lives accumulated money excess to their needs, and could pay Clarence Holdings the money they require to cease and desist this act of vandalism and desecration, in order to create Wallum Wild Life Sanctuary as a piece of common land.

I appeal to your heart, whoever you are who can hear this.

We have been given one week by the justice. This appeal is directly to your heart from mine and thousands of others across the Shire and the nation who have been touched by Wallum.

If you are the one who is to do this, this letter is intended to pierce your heart with our collective grief and horror at this proposed, desecration so that you will act with courage and heart to change this outcome. Whoever you are.

This act of generosity, to create Wallum Wild Life Sanctuary, will benefit all beings and be a transforming act.

For the highest good of all please act now and know that you have done a really good thing.

Create The Wallum Wild Life Sanctuary.

If this is you and you are moved by this plea, please contact this number 0475 446 993.

A legacy for life.

This letter is written entirely by me without any consultation with anyone else except the ancestors and nature spirits.

Josephine Beams
Byron Bay

■ **Ed:** The Arakwal Corporation supported the development application (DA) for the Wallum housing estate in Brunswick Heads, a fact confirmed by their subsequent written statement to Byron Shire Council (*Echo* 29 February 2024). Tweed Byron Aboriginal Land Council also supported it.

Wallum III

The Wallum decision is a huge shock and disappointment. It is also a lost opportunity for the state and federal Labor parties. At the moment we have Labor governments at both these levels of government. It would cost them \$200 million each to buy out the developers, in government terms this is sweet FA. The advantage to both governments would be (I think) a huge increase in electoral support in both the Northern Rivers and with environmentally inclined voters everywhere.

I am also pleased to read that they are not proceeding with the concrete frog ponds. Many species of frog are endangered because they instinctively return to the place where they emerged from the water to lay their own eggs and artificial

ponds will not perform this function.

David Gilet
Mullumbimby

Better stories

David Lowe, as always, tells it how it is. Clearly the Pacific Forum overlooked any number of things. Upsetting. The emphasis on military scenarios becomes quite disturbing – at the behest of the US, the guardians of the free world. Really?

An Australian prime minister 50-plus years ago was ousted in a coup d'état engineered by the CIA because he wanted Australia to become a fully sovereign nation. Not much has changed.

China is not a threat and never has been. They practise something called multipolarity which many countries are embracing. Hegemony has had its day. Empires fall. So too will the American empire. The country is slowly but surely falling apart from within just as happened in ancient Rome two thousand years ago. We do not seem to learn anything.

If humanity is to survive in the longer term we have to think accordingly.

The economy has to become sustainable, our aspirations lessened to suit. Not hard I would have thought.

It is all about stories; we have done this for a very long time.

The stories must alter for the benefit of all.

Olympics: a national event

The 2032 Olympics need to be managed by the federal government, a major

financial contributor to the multi-billion dollar project, because the Queensland state government is being irresponsible in its choices and indeed elitist to the detriment of the interests of sports people. For example Qld are pandering to the written elitist and entitled request of a billionaire to have the rowing on the unsuitable Fitzroy River, when other sports would be more suitable for Rockhampton. The federal government needs to make the Olympics a national event to showcase Australia. One sport Queensland and NSW could share is surfing: make it a travelling event from Byron to Alexandra Headland and of course, Burleigh Heads. Step up, Albo.

John Dobinson
Brisbane

Just a thought

Once upon a time Billy Shakespeare wrote...

'The world is a stage and we are all but actors playing a role.'

What would he write today?

Today's technology, internet, media, social forms, cameras, etc, etc!

Perhaps...

'The world is a circus and we are all but clowns, desperate for attention.'

DYT?

(What will he write when AI becomes the 'normal' world?)

Anthony Plesko
Broadwater

Philosotree

If a tree is planted on a dune, but there's no social media post to announce it, did it really get planted?

Karin Kolbe
Suffolk Park

Echo



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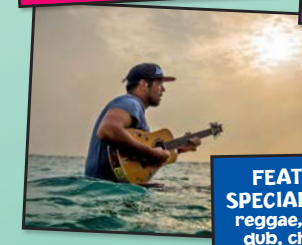


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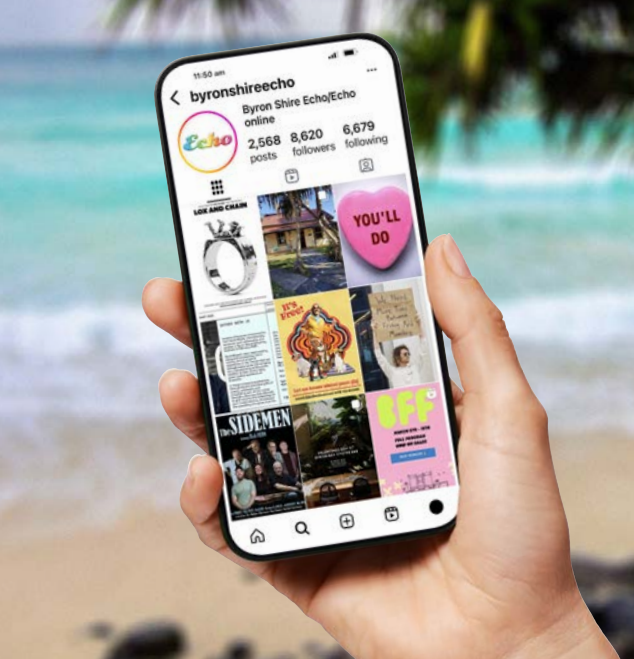


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Byron Bay Football Club grand final super Saturday



Byron Bay Football Club won all four of the Far North Coast's grand final games they entered at last Saturday's Oakes Oval event in Lismore. Photos supplied

John McKay

Byron Bay Football Club (BBFC) went into Football Far North Coast's (FFNC) grand final on Saturday, 12 September at Oakes Oval with a team in each of the four grand finals and came away with a clean sweep, unprecedented in the both the club's and FFNC history.

Men's thirds

Men's thirds kicked things off against Alstonville with a thrilling game that had them 3-0 up only to end 3-3 at full

time. After extra time it was again locked up 5-5. After a tense penalty shootout, they deservedly prevailed and were grand final winners, having previously claimed the pointscore championship. Brian de Herdt was a worthy player of the match.

Men's championship

The Men's championship side took the field against the all-conquering Pottsville team, with a quiet belief they could prevail. Scoring early,

they held the lead for most of the game until Pottsville eventually equalised. A resilient BBFC defence and some amazing saves by the goalie saw the game go into extra time. On tired legs both teams fought with plenty of heart until the Byron striker was brought down in the box. The ensuing penalty, taken by Rhys Newman, hit the underside of the bar and crossed the line, *golazo!* 2-1 up, the Byron team dug deep and saw out the game for a very deserved win. Tom Cohen, with his goalkeeping

heroics, deservedly won player of the match.

Premier men

The Premier men were next, and hit the field with a point to prove against an indomitable pointscore champions, Alstonville. An early goal and a sending-off put them immediately behind the eight ball, yet with a stoic and brave defence they headed in at half time only 0-1 down. A change of strategy was required and the second half saw Byron dominate with the ball, and after relentless

pressure an equaliser was slotted late in the half. Extra time for the third time that day saw the goalie, Marcus Gibbs, step up for the team with a penalty save followed by an some outstanding one-on-one heroics. The team was inspired and after some sublime football, a relentless Byron scored a deserved goal, winning 2-1. Goalie Marcus Gibbs took out the player of the match award.

Premier women

Finally, could the Premier women make it four from four?

Playing the reigning premiers and pointscore winners Pottsville, Byron scored an early goal from a stunning free kick from captain Lucy Hastings and from that point Byron never looked like losing. Solid defence, great goalkeeping and relentless attacking pressure saw a second goal scored midway through the second half after a sneaky by-line run from Golden Boot awardee, Ruby Smith. An amazing team performance saw Lucy Hastings awarded player of the match.

Regional to Global brings movers and shakers of the screen industry to Lennox

David Lowe

When around 300 screen practitioners gathered at Lennox Head last week for ScreenWorks' two-day Regional to Global Screen Forum, the setting was half the story. Here was a serious industry conversation happening a long way from Sydney or Melbourne, and after many successful years, nobody was treating that as a novelty.

The take-home message was that geography shouldn't decide whose stories get made, and that the distance between a regional creator and a global audience is shorter than it looks.

MC, comedian and writer Steph Tisdell set the tone early, telling the room that

it was all about connection, finding your people, and embracing your own weirdness rather than sanding it off to fit.

Lightning in a bottle

Presenting their documentary about the making of *Crocodile Dundee*, filmmakers Delvene Delaney and Victoria Baldock explained how the act of restoring the original film had surfaced a rich, half-forgotten archive.

That discovery grew into a love letter to John Cornell and the whole team, who turned an improbable, self-funded Australian picture into a global phenomenon.

The creators of *Love of an Icon* talked about the emotional edit of their documentary, and the



Deb Cox gets a bit of IMAX history from John Weiley at the 2026 Regional to Global Screen Forum. Photo April Werz

choice to foreground heart, craft, and values rather than pursue the obvious tabloid angles. It became a study of how to capture lightning in a bottle.

Specificity travels. That was a recurring message in the 2026 forum. The more precisely rooted a story is in

a particular place, community, and point of view, the further it can go.

The team behind *Top End Bub* described expanding their film *Top End Wedding* into a series grounded in Darwin and the Tiwi Islands, using rom-com warmth to show Aboriginal characters as

complex, funny, and flawed rather than as problems to be solved, and attracting international partners and audiences as a result.

Later, writer-director Adrian Chiarella recounted the way he and his team built *Leviticus*, a queer horror love story about internalised homophobia, shot in regional Australia, which has since found an unexpected spotlight at Sundance, with the subsequent distribution deal taking the film far and wide, aided by the decision to offer fans high quality clips to cut together themselves, creating an organic publicity machine.

Liz Doran and her collaborators on the Netflix adaptation of *My Brilliant Career* explained how they made

an unmistakably Australian period drama that landed at number two on Netflix globally, reached the top ten in 72 countries, and scored 100 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes.

By the time Screenworks CEO Lisa Rose closed the two-day gathering, the through-line had drawn itself. For all the practical detail about spend ratios and pilot scripts and festival tiers, the forum kept circling back to the same proposition it opened with: that the stories most worth telling are the specific, rooted, sometimes uncomfortably personal ones, and that these are precisely the stories capable of travelling.

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

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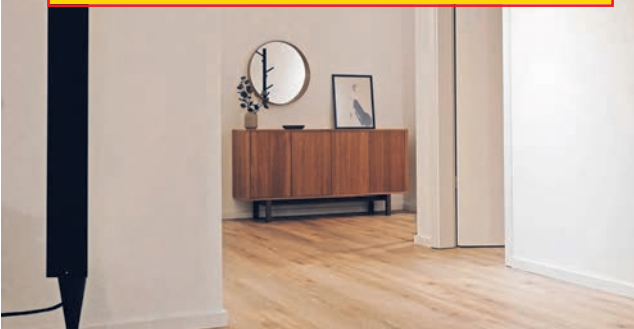
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CHINNY CHARGE

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Make a Saturday of it in Mullumbimby

There's no better way to get behind the Chinny Charge than by making an afternoon of it in Mullumbimby. Come into town on Saturday, soak up the atmosphere, browse the local shops, grab something to eat and enjoy the community buzz as runners and walkers take on Mount Chincogan.

Then find a spot in town and cheer on the Chinny Chargers as they make their way back from the mountain. Whether you've joined the race, taken the walk or simply come along to support the event, it's a great excuse to get together and celebrate one of Mullumbimby's much-loved community traditions.

And the afternoon doesn't have to end when the runners cross the finish line. Head to the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club to continue the celebrations with the Lovelight Duo. Take your time, catch up with friends, enjoy a drink or something to eat, and settle in for the band.

With the Chinny Charge bringing energy to town, local art to discover, and live music to enjoy, Saturday afternoon is the perfect time to come into Mullumbimby, support the community and make a day of it.

CHINNY CHARGE 2026

Come join in the fun at the Chinny Charge 2026 on Saturday, 19 September (#chinnycharge).

This is a once-a-year event, and is an opportunity to both get a little fitness in, as well as see the views from the top of Mt Chincogan.

Food will be supplied on the day by Mullumbimby Public School at affordable prices.

Please bring your own water bottle – there will be water available on the mountain.

ARE YOU OVER 12?

Importantly, competitors have to be 12 years and over to run or walk up the mountain. There will be a separate Children's Challenge (at 1.30pm before the main event, entry \$15) to the base of the mountain.

Race starts at 2.00pm with professional athletes starting first

Everybody must be back off the mountain by 5pm. The race will start and finish outside the fire station, and NSW Fire and Rescue Station 388 will also be assisting with first aid.

PRIZES

There are a range of prizes that can be won as part of the Chinny Charge, from the fastest man and woman to cross the line (\$500), the fastest local woman and man, the oldest woman and man to participate in the charge, the Kevin Moran memorial shield is awarded for special effort and encouragement of others' and was donated in his memory by his closest friends and adopted family – the Davis family of Main Arm.

While the event is underway, family friendly fun and entertainment, including food and drink will be available directly in front of the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.

Dust off your running shoes and get ready for a great day out.

MUSIC – AFTER PARTY

Celebrate your summit at the ultimate Chinny Charge After Party! The Lovelight Duo will be playing at Mullumbimby Ex Services Club from 5.30pm.

Whether you conquered Mount Chincogan or cheered from the sidelines, head over to the club on Dalley Street to keep the energy going.



Photo credits: Sarah Archibald



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Come on down after the race!

CHINNY CHARGE

Photo credits: Sarah Archibald

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2026

Race Starts at 2pm with professional athletes starting first – Mrs Judy Graydon is the official starter.

CHINNY CHARGE SCULPTURE EXHIBITION BY NORTH COAST CERAMICS – SPONSORED BY BANYA

North Coast Ceramics, the team behind the North Coast Mud Trail, exists to champion ceramics as a vibrant art form – connecting makers, collectors, and community across the Northern Rivers. This spirit drives the Chinny Charge Sculpture Exhibition at the Civic Arts Space, Mullumbimby Civic Hall (55 Dalley Street).

Come and experience the diverse and thoughtful sculptures the ceramic artists have been creating and meet the artists behind the work.

Join the fun for opening night on Thursday, 17 September from 5pm, then explore the exhibition on Friday, 18 and Saturday, 19 September from 10am to 5pm both days.

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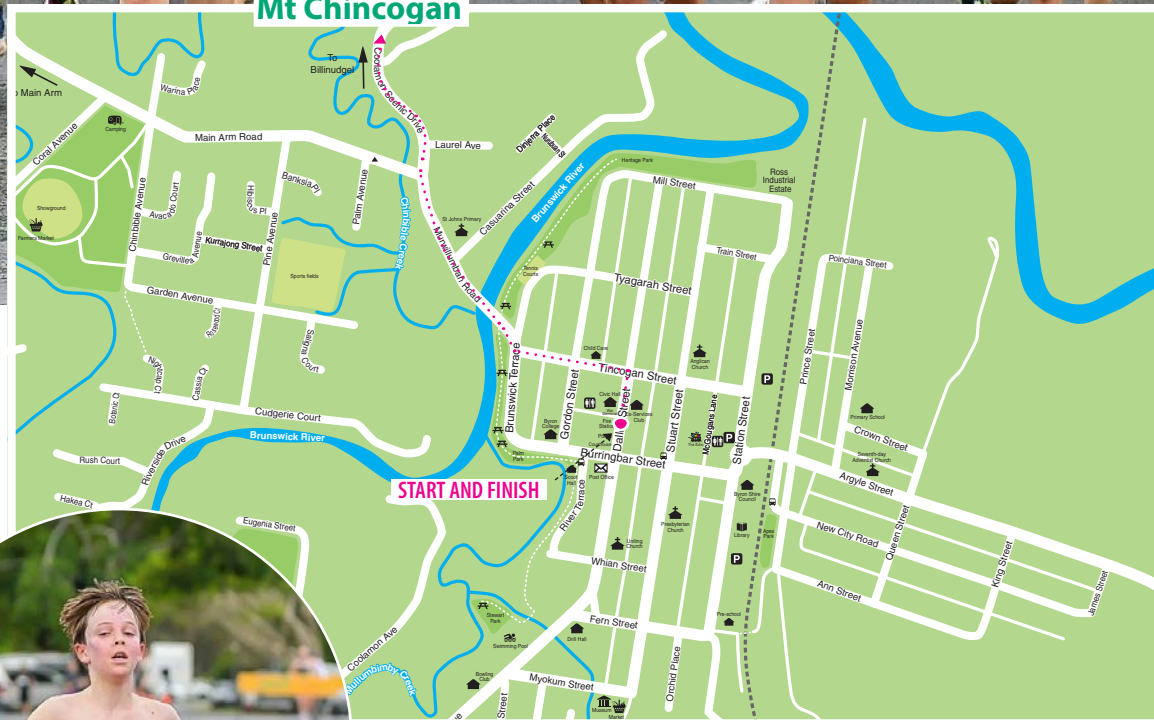
MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND



CHINNY CHARGE

Photo credits: Sarah Archibald

Mt Chincogan



CHINCOGAN CHARGE RULES

Safety information

- First aid stations will be available at the start and finish of the course as well as along the course and at water stations.
- First aid stations will provide immediate assistance as well as further assistance if required such as transportation to hospital.
- Any costs incurred by the patient for first aid, transportation to hospital, or for any other reason are the responsibility of the patient.
- Injury, incident/accident, hazards and reporting
- As is the nature of a cross country running event, hazards and injury may occur along the course. Please ensure you watch your step and wear good running shoes.
- Should you injure yourself at the event please notify course marshals or event organisers.
- If you see any accidents or hazards on the course please notify the event organisers immediately.
- All race entrants must be registered under their own names to ensure we have the correct medical and emergency details in the event of an accident.
- In the interest of safety, NO pets, bicycles, scooters, hand cycles, skateboards, roller blades or drones are permitted at the event.
- If you have been unwell in the two weeks leading up to the event, please do not participate in the event.

RACE ETIQUETTE

- Please do not push. Your start and finish times will be electronically recorded and an accurate timing of your race will be taken.
- Please listen to all instructions from event personnel.
- Please watch your footing, ramps, curbs and potential hazards.
- Please keep to the left unless overtaking.
- Hydrating and training
- Heat stress and exhaustion are common when running on a hot day. Please hydrate before and during the event
- PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE – there will be water stations on the mountain along the course with water and first aid.
- If you feel unwell please let the event personnel know immediately.
- Please also protect yourself by applying sunscreen before the event and wear sunglasses and a hat.

All profits from the event go to supporting local Mullumbimby initiatives.

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Open Male
1st Prize \$500.00
2nd Prize \$350.00
3rd Prize \$150.00

Open Female
1st Prize \$500.00
2nd Prize \$350.00
3rd Prize \$150.00

Local Category (Byron Shire resident) – sponsored by The Byron Shire Echo

Local Male
1st Male \$250.00
2nd Male \$175.00
3rd Male \$75.00

Local Female
1st Female \$250.00
2nd Female \$175.00
3rd Female \$75.00

Reg Burns Memorial Trophy
1st Amateur Male- Perpetual trophy

Doctor Suresh Memorial Trophy
1st Amateur Female- Perpetual trophy

All participants must be off the mountain by 5pm.
There are no exceptions to this rule even if you have not made it to the top of the mountain

This event is for participants aged 12 years and over
High school age and over. No children, no exceptions.
No dogs allowed

ALL THINGS 2027 IN STORE NOW

including calendars and diaries, and a great range of gifts in store.

COME IN TO SEE WHAT'S ON OFFER.
It's great to see the Channy Charge happening again!

Mullumbimby Newsagency
NEWSPAPER

44 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby • 02 6684 2127

MUSEUM
Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

OPENING TIMES
Tuesdays & Fridays 10am-12pm
3rd Saturday-Market Day 9am-1pm
By appointment 02 6684 4367
admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au
mullumbimbymuseum.org.au

MULLUM MARKET AT THE MUSEUM
3rd Saturday
mullummarkets.com.au
02 66 843370
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02 6684 4748

health & healing



Bodyworkz Byron Bay

More than just a gym - it is a complete health and wellness destination designed to support every aspect of wellbeing. Located in the heart of Byron Bay, Bodyworkz offers a welcoming and inclusive environment where people of all ages and fitness levels can improve their health, strength, and vitality. Alongside a fully-equipped gym and expert coaching, members have access to Reformer Pilates, yoga classes, traditional and infrared saunas, steam room facilities, and ice baths for recovery and relaxation. Whether the goal is building strength, improving mobility, enhancing recovery, reducing stress, or achieving long-term wellness, the experienced team provides personalised support every step of the way. Bodyworkz combines fitness, recovery, and community to help members feel their best, both physically and mentally.

46-48 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
02 6685 6620
admin@byronbodyworkz.com.au
<https://bodyworkz.com.au/>
@bodyworkzbyron/
F: BodyworkzByronBay



Kate Messenger Kinesiology

Whenever you experience strong emotion, stress, trauma or a survival response without the space, safety or support to process it, your body intelligence steps in: I'll store this until you have the resources to deal with it.

Left unaddressed, that stored tension quietly builds up. Over time, it can manifest as physical discomfort, chronic fatigue, or overreactive nervous system responses that wreak havoc on your daily well-being.

The good news? You don't have to carry it forever. So much stress and pain can be gently released simply by listening to what your body is trying to tell you.

Kinesiology bridges that gap. By directly communicating with your body's natural intelligence, it pinpoints hidden stressors and restores balance—helping you release old patterns, heal, and truly thrive.

katemessengerkinesiology.com.au
0413 003 301
@katemessenger_kinesiology



Psychologist, Christopher Tricker

Christopher discovered psychology when, back in his early 20s, having just completed degrees in philosophy and law, he had the breakdown he needed to have. Anxious, self-conscious, drinking too much, fantasising too much about suicide, always making a mess of his relationships—he had a few things to work out, and by seeing therapists, and studying psychology and Gestalt psychotherapy, he did eventually work those things out. Well, mostly. Life is an ongoing project.

He's worked at the Buttery drug rehab, ACON, NSW Health, and in private practice. He has recently taken new rooms at the Mudita Health Collective in Byron Bay, so he has space for new clients.

At the Mudita Health Collective, Byron Bay
and by video link or phone
trickerpsychology.com



Byron College

Last chance for Beekeeping Introduction! Starting 19 September with experienced beekeeper Kelvin Scandrett, this hands-on Byron Community College course connects participants with nature while teaching the essentials of healthy, thriving hives. Places are limited, so book soon.

Looking to 2027, applications will soon open for nationally recognised courses. Certificate III in Individual Support and Certificate IV in Community Services offer pathways into meaningful work supporting people and communities, while Certificate III in Permaculture explores sustainable living and connection to nature.

Two separate Certificate III in Visual Arts courses will be offered, one for adults and one for young people, alongside the youth Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways. Expressions of interest are also open for Certificate II in Construction Pathways.

From caring for others to creativity, practical skills and nature, there are many ways to learn, grow and make a difference.

This training is subsidised by the NSW Government
026684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au



Releaf Integrative Clinic & Dispensary

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

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

91 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
releaf.com.au



North Coast Medical Centre

North Coast Medical Centre welcomes Dr Samuel Allen to the practice. Sam enjoys getting to know his patients and taking the time to understand what matters to them. He believes good healthcare is about listening, building trust and working together to help patients make informed decisions about their health.

Sam's experience has across, regional and remote communities, developing a broad clinical background through roles in busy emergency departments, general medicine and rural hospitals. These experiences have given him an appreciation of the diverse needs of patients and the importance of providing compassionate, practical care.

Outside of medicine, Sam enjoys surfing, cycling, hiking and exploring the outdoors. He's excited to be joining the North Coast community and looks forward to meeting patients and supporting them with their health and wellbeing.

24 Shirley Street, Byron Bay
P: 02 6685 8666
www.northcoastmedicalcentre.com.au



Wellness Festival celebrates with healing, music, creativity and movement

There are few places in Australia better suited to a celebration of wellness, music, and community than Byron Bay. This November, that spirit comes together at Byron Wellness Festival, transforming Red Devil Park into a vibrant meeting place for wellbeing, creativity, connection, and live music from 27 to 29 November.

Set against the natural beauty and unmistakable energy of the Northern Rivers, the festival invites visitors to slow down, reconnect, and celebrate the things that make life feel good. From movement and nourishing food to music, healing and creativity, the weekend offers an opportunity to experience wellness in all its forms, at a pace that feels entirely their own.

The festival opens on Friday evening with a soulful line-up featuring Cinnamon Sun, Sacred Earth, Samuel J, and Elijah Ray. Setting the tone for the weekend, the opening night offers an invitation to leave the pace of everyday life behind and



Local yoga facilitator Melissa Mai. Photo supplied

step into something slower, more conscious and connected. As the music fills the park, festival-goers can settle into the Byron atmosphere and begin a weekend centred on wellbeing and celebration.

Mind and body

Saturday begins with a program designed to awaken the body and settle the mind. Visitors can choose from Pilates, yoga, breathwork and sound healing, creating space to move, breathe

and reset before the energy gradually builds throughout the day.

As afternoon turns to evening, the atmosphere shifts and the music comes alive with Finojet, Kyle Lionhart, Kim Churchill and Boy & Bear, who will perform a special stripped-back acoustic set.

With the warmth of the Byron sunset providing a natural backdrop, Saturday night brings together music lovers, wellness seekers,



Sound healer Christian Dimarco. Photo supplied

families and friends for an uplifting celebration beneath the open sky.

Connection

Sunday continues at a gentler pace, with further wellness sessions offering the perfect opportunity to recharge and reconnect before the festival draws to a close. The final celebration features internationally acclaimed musicians Yaima, whose immersive and soulful sound provides a fitting

finale to a weekend centred on presence, connection and shared experience.

Beyond the stages and wellness sessions, Byron Wellness Festival offers a diverse range of experiences to explore. Visitors can relax with a sauna session, enjoy nourishing offerings from the food trucks, book a massage or wander through the wellness markets, where conscious-living products, makers, and practitioners come together.

Psychic readers and healers add another dimension to the experience, while the Elixir Bar provides a refreshing place to pause, meet friends and soak up the atmosphere.

Kids' program

Families are also an important part of the weekend, with a dedicated children's program featuring kids' yoga, storytime and creative workshops. Younger visitors can explore movement, imagination, and creativity while parents immerse themselves in their own festival experiences.

At its heart, Byron Wellness Festival is about creating space – space to breathe, move, listen, dance, laugh, discover, and connect. It recognises that wellness doesn't have to mean sitting quietly in meditation, just as music doesn't have to mean standing in front of a stage.

Tickets are available on the website www.byronwellnessfestival.com.

■ Supplied by Byron Wellness Festival.

byron healing
byronhealing.com.au

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

Upcoming Byron Healing client events

Beekeeping Intro

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Sat, 19 Sep
Time: 10am–4pm
Address: Mullum Campus, 6/8 Burringbar St
Contact: 02 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au
byroncollege.org.au

Certificate III in Permaculture

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Tue + Wed, 2 Feb to 8 Dec 2027
Time: 9am–3.30pm
Address: Mullum Campus, 6/8 Burringbar St
Contact: 02 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au
byroncollege.org.au

Certificate III in Visual Arts (Youth)

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Tue + Wed, 2 Feb to 28 Jul 2027
Time: 9am–4pm
Address: Mullum Campus, 6/8 Burringbar St
Contact: 02 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au
byroncollege.org.au

Byron Wellness Festival

Held by: Urban Creative Events Pty Ltd
Date: Fri, 27 Nov to Sun, 29 Nov 2026
Time: Fri 5pm–10pm, Sat 7am–10pm, Sun 7am–9pm
Address: Red Devil Park, Byron Bay
Contact: info@byronwellnessfestival.com

Nourish Your Salves

Held by: Food Culture Bulk and Wholefoods in collaboration with Common Joy Studios
Date: Sun, 18 Oct
Time: 4pm–6pm
Address: Food Culture, Ocean Shores Shopping Village, 82 Rajah Rd
Contact: events.humanitix.com/nourish-your-salves

Bali Yoga and Culture Retreat

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

Krishna Cuisine Cooking Workshop (Turkish Edition)

Held by: Radha Ickrath
Date: Fri, 18 Sep to Sun, 20 Sep 2026
Time: 9am–3pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/krishna-cuisine-full-day-cooking-workshop

Yin Yoga Teacher Training

Held by: Lila Kirtana, Laxmivan Kubitzky
Date: Mon, 21 Sep to Sun, 27 Sep 2026
Time: 6.30am–6pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/yin-yoga-teacher-training

Shravanam Kirtanam Festival

Held by: Krishna Farm Community
Date: Fri, 2 Oct to Mon, 5 Oct 2026
Time: 4.30am–9pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: shravanamkirtanamfestival.com.au

Nurture Your Nervous System Retreat

Held by: Dhama
Date: Thu, 8 Oct to Sun, 11 Oct 2026
Time: 6.30am–6pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/nurture-your-nervous-system-retreat/

200hr Yoga Teacher Training

Held by: Lila Kirtana & Michael Laxmivan
Date: Mon, 12 Oct to Fri, 20 Nov 2026
Time: 5am–5.45pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/200-hour-yoga-teacher-training-retreat-new/

Krishna Cuisine Cooking Workshop (Vietnamese Edition)

Held by: Radha Ickrath
Date: Fri, 16 Oct to Sun, 18 Oct 2026
Time: 9am–3pm
Address: Krishna Village, 525 Tyalgum Rd, Eungella
Contact: krishnavillage-retreat.com/courses/krishna-cuisine-full-day-cooking-workshop/

Embodied Restoration – Nervous System Reset

Held by: Somatic Movement Therapy
Date: Sun, 25 Oct
Time: 10am–12pm
Address: The Engine Room, Ignite Studios, Ballina
Contact: somatic-movement-therapy.com/embodied

Vedic Meditation Course

Held by: The Meditation People
Date: Sat, 10 Oct to Tue, 13 Oct
Time: By arrangement (90-minute lesson each day)
Address: Provided upon registration
Contact: 0404 884 490

Tuning Fork Workshop

Held by: Elizabeth Huxtable
Date: Sat, 19 Sep
Time: 2pm–3pm
Address: 494 Left Bank Rd, Mullumbimby Creek
Contact: 0477 526 955
elizabethhuxtable.com/events



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 –
every Monday until sold out

Happy Hour – \$14 cocktails
from 5–6pm every night

Live Jazz – First Friday of every month from 6.30pm

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



The Good Life



Spring by the glass at Bar Heather

Spring has a way of coaxing us all back out into the world. In Byron, it's no different. As the layers come off and long lunches begin stretching into balmy evenings, calendars start filling with catch-ups, celebrations, and the spontaneous 'one drink?' texts. Tucked inside Jonson Lane, Bar Heather makes a particularly chic place to begin. The Parisian-inspired

natural wine bar comes from the team behind Luna Wine Store and offers the kind of pre-dinner pour made for warmer weather: something pink, pétillant, and best enjoyed with no particular plans beyond the next glass. The wine list is a love letter to small producers and bottles with plenty of personality. For a spring-worthy sparkle, try the

Das Juice Pink Pét-Nat, a Pinot Gris from McLaren Vale, or Summertime's Le Ciel Est Bleu, a rosé blend of Gamay and Grolleau Gris from the Loire Valley. White drinkers might be tempted by Rita & Rudolf Trossen's Silbermond Feinherb Riesling from the Mosel, while those not quite ready to leave red behind can ease into the season with Matassa's Brutal

Rouge, a chilled blend of Syrah and Muscat from Languedoc-Roussillon. The knowledgeable team is always ready with a recommendation, too. Naturally, the menu is built to keep pace with the wines. Think snackable, shareable plates with just enough crunch and salt to warrant another glass: the likes of fried bread with spring onion butter; prawn toast with Marie Rose

sauce; duck liver pâté with radicchio and ficelle; and yellowfin tuna brightened with white soy and ginger. Mid-century Paris is the reference point for the interiors, complete with velvet curtains, aged green leather banquettes, and French parquet. It's moody, nostalgic, and softly lit: the sort of place made for slightly grainy flash photos. And there's good reason to make it a midweek

ritual. On Wednesdays, Bar Heather makes room for a bottle of your own: pick one up from sister venue Luna Wine Store across the street, bring it over and enjoy it with no corkage fee. Or settle in on a Thursday evening for live jazz, with the band striking up at 6pm. ■ Open Tuesday to Saturday, 5pm till late. Walk-in or book at barheather.com.



Bar Heather's stylish interior evokes mid-century Paris, and its food, wine and service is just as stylish. Photos: Jess Kearney

Fresh from the boat to the farmers' market

Allie Godfrey

When it comes to seafood, freshness is everything, and at JJ Seafood, the journey from the ocean, or river, to the farmers market is about as short as it gets. The family fishing business has been operating around Ballina for more than 35 years, with John and his crew fishing both local ocean waters and the Richmond River. With a fleet of six boats, different vessels are used for different types of fishing, allowing them to follow what is locally available and in season. At this time of year, the catch can include snapper, pearl perch, flathead and jewfish, alongside locally caught prawns and other seasonal seafood. What appears on the stall depends very much on what has been caught, meaning customers are

buying seafood that reflects the season rather than produce that has travelled long distances to get there. Sustainability is also an important part of the operation. Fishing in local waterways is tightly regulated, with restrictions around fishing times and minimum size limits. Undersized fish are returned to the water. For some ocean species, John uses fish traps rather than dragging nets across the sea floor. The traps remain stationary and include escape panels that allow smaller fish to swim out – helping reduce the impact on both juvenile fish and the marine environment. And when seafood is this fresh, cooking can stay beautifully simple. Just a little bit of olive oil, a squeeze of lemon and your choice of herbs, with seasoning, is all you need.

Prawns can go straight onto skewers or into pasta, while firmer fish that absorb flavour work beautifully in curries and stews. It's a genuine boat-to-market food story: locally caught, seasonal seafood, handled by the people who caught it and sold fresh to the community each week. ■ Find JJ's Seafood at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 7am-11am and

Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am-11am. Please note if it's rough seas, bad weather or a poor catch, this will affect their attendance. Claire, Julie and Sarah Joblin are part of the crew of JJ Seafood, a family fishing business operating for more than 35 years taking their seafood fresh from the boat to the farmers' markets at New Brighton and Mullumbimby.



BYRON BAY PORK & MEATS BUTCHERY



Come in and see our friendly staff for a choice of local, grass fed, organic & free-range meats. All antibiotic and hormone free.

Mon-Fri 6am to 5pm / Sat 6am to midday
70 Dalley St, Mullumbimby | 6684 2137



CELEBRATIONS

Cakes by Liz Jackson

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

September 16, 2026 The Byron Shire Echo 23



ReWilding Red Riding Hood

Red Riding Hood is the most well-known folk tale in the world. But there is a wilder, mediaeval French version, **L'histoire de la Grand-mère**, in which the heroine is a trickster who outwits her predator. The plot includes an enchanted striptease, a spot of accidental cannibalism, a daring escape and a pursuit through the forest across a dangerous river. In the Scottish tale of **Tamlin**, you'll meet dauntless Janet, who rescues her true love, at midnight in an enchanted forest.

These ancient tales of daring, difficult women have mature content and are definitely not for young ears! This performance was a part of the Brisbane Anywhere Festival in May. All three shows sold out and the feedback was enthusiastic. Your tale spinner will be former local, **Jenni Cargill-Strong**, a nationally recognised storyteller, with award-winning albums. Jenni is well known for having hosted 'Stories in the Club' in Mullumbimby in pre-Covid days and taught storytelling for Byron College for some years. She is now based in Magandjin-Brisbane.

ReWilding Red Riding Hood: Ancestral Tales of Daring, Difficult Women is on for one performance only at the **Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby** on **Friday, 2 October** at 7pm. Doors opens 6.30pm.

Be daring! Commit early and book your tickets now at <https://bit.ly/RwRRHdrill>



Celebrating 50 years of the Billinudgel-Ocean Shores RFS

The Billinudgel-Ocean Shores Rural Fire Service (RFS) has been working to keep their community safe for the last 50 years and are celebrating this weekend with an **Emergency Services Expo** on **Saturday, 19 September** and a fun **Bush Dance Extravaganza** at the Billinudgel Pub on **Sunday, 20 September**.

The Emergency Services Expo, from 10am to 2pm, will bring together Burringbar and Main Arm RFS brigades along with the SES, Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA), Marine Rescue, and the Community Resilience Team from Ocean Shores, South Golden, and New Brighton, to talk about what they do and how people can get involved in volunteering.

'Volunteering gives local communities the opportunity to look after themselves when there is an emergency and they need to be cared for,' said Billinudgel-Ocean Shores RFS Senior Deputy Captain Murray 'Muzz' Dreschler.

The next day, on Sunday afternoon, the community are invited to celebrate the RFS 50th Birthday by joining in the fun Bush Dance Extravaganza at the Billinudgel Pub.

'Bring your cowboy hat and learn a few dance steps to the music of the **Playing Possum Bush Band**. We have some great raffle prizes to win, and pink lemonade for those young at heart,' said Billinudgel-Ocean Shores RFS President Kitty Crain.

Billinudgel/Ocean Shores Rural Fire Brigade Volunteer Emergency Community Expo takes place on **Saturday, 19 September** from 10am to 2pm at Wilfred Street, Billinudgel. The **Bush Dance Extravaganza** is at the Billinudgel Pub from 4pm to 7pm



Ten plays. Ten minutes. You decide.

What can happen in ten minutes? A retirement village might need a child. A cat could outsmart its human. A fortune teller may know more than you bargained for. Or a routine drive could turn into something altogether stranger.

From 17 to 27 September, Hot Shorts returns to **Mullumbimby's Drill Hall Theatre** with ten original short plays by local writers, selected from 24 entries and developed through months of workshopping, rewriting and rehearsals.

Now in its 15th iteration, *Hot Shorts* has been part of the local theatre landscape for 30 years.

As Artistic Director Mike Russo puts it, '*Hot Shorts* again celebrates our community's creative skills and energy'.

That energy is everywhere in this year's program, with stories spanning comedy, drama, mystery, love, family and the wonderfully unexpected.

And audiences have a job to do. After the show, every audience member can vote for their three favourite plays, with three cash prizes totalling \$1,500 awarded to the playwrights.

So come for ten very different stories, discover some terrific local talent – and help decide the hottest short of 2026.

Hot Shorts, 17 to 27 September at the **Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby**

Thursday to Saturday 7.30pm, and Sunday 5pm.
Tickets: drillhalltheatre.org.au

BAY FM COMMUNITY RADIO PRESENTS

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SEPT 26 - OCT 17

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17 SEPT - 14 OCT
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COMMON HEARTH FOOD

RECORD fair

WANDANA

12-6PM
SAT 19 SEPT

WANDANA BREWING CO.
20 MANNS RD, MULLUMBIMBY

INTERVIEW

PAT POWELL

FROM THE MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA

There is
always
more fun
to be had



Hot off the heels of a wild year touring in Canada and Australia, and Byron Bay, the Melbourne Ska Orchestra's (MSO) Spaghetti Western wagon trail rolls on, and they're bringing along the super deluxe edition of their acclaimed album *The Ballad of Monte Loco* with all the faves, plus a swag of brand-new tracks and honky-tonk renditions of MSO's staples to Brunswick Heads. It's braver, meaner and wilder than anything they've done before...

Seven spoke to MSO's big voice Pat Powell in between Tassie shows last weekend, in the lead up to the Bruns show on Friday.

Born in the UK to Jamaican parents and living in Australia since he was 25, Pat Powell has spent decades singing funk, blues, reggae and jazz, and he's one of the voices out front of the Melbourne Ska Orchestra.

Apart from the orchestra, what's happening musically for you?

There's a thing called 'Riddim 'N Ting', which I do once a month at a place called Miss Celie's in Ashfield, Sydney. Then I do a blues, funk, jazz show with another band called James Ryan's Funktet. I basically do tours. Funk, blues, reggae – everything.

How do you switch between all those styles without losing your place?

You leave home and you go there with that mindset in place before you get there. So I'm fine. A couple of the reggae bands might do two or three of the same songs, but generally speaking, everything's different.

You began your life in the UK?

Yes, I did. Through no choice of my own.

Where would you have liked to have begun it?

Jamaica. That's where my parents started. My dad went over first, my mother a year after him, and I was born a year after that.

Why did you come to Australia?

I came out here following my heart. A long time later, that didn't work either. But it got me here, and I've had kids here, and I'm happy. It took me a while to settle and get to know the kind of people I wanted to deal with.

Are there any new recordings coming out for us?

Yes! It's recorded and mixed, but not mastered. Hopefully I'll drop something before the end of the year. It's a band project that I'm driving. Just keep an eye on my socials.

What's the Orchestra bringing to the Bruns?

We're bringing up as many people as we can – somewhere in the region of 20. We'll be having as much fun as we can. There's new material, in keeping with the Spaghetti Western theme of the last album, *The Ballad of Monte Loco*. And things we've recorded that people may not have heard.

The logistics of traveling must be insane.

It is insane. Everybody flies. I fly from Sydney, everybody else from Melbourne, then we drive up or down the coast. The driving is kept to a minimum.

What appeals about performing with that big a group?

I don't have to do everything. So it's sharing. I like lead singing as much as backing vocals. You've got an instant party everywhere you go.

What gets you out of bed?

Life itself. I've got four great kids, a really great group of friends, and the musical fraternity is massive for me in this country.

Did the reality of teenage Pat's life turn out how he imagined it would?

No. I wanted to be a drummer, and I wanted to be a soccer player. I wanted to kick a ball on Wembley turf, which I never did. But, I have performed at Wembley, as a singer. I got there, but not the way I thought I was going to get there.

Are you having enough fun?

No. There is always more fun to be had.

The Melbourne Ska Orchestra are playing the Hotel Brunswick on Friday – tickets can be found at moshtix.com.au.

Seven days of entertainment

Big weekend at Wandana

Wandana Brewing Co. is set to host a big weekend, kicking off on **Thursday** with their popular weekly **Trivia Night**. The jackpot bonus is now sitting at \$450, that's plenty of reason to dust off the team and show up.

On **Friday**, Wandana is hosting a special **Trivia Night Fundraiser** in support of Mullum Public School. The Taproom is still open for drinks, so pop in for a cold one and support the school by bidding at their silent auction.

On **Saturday** the Taproom transforms into a vinyl records oasis for the return of the **Record Fair**. From **noon to 6pm**, record lovers can dig through crates from some of the region's best sellers – Flo Records, Tropical Hi-Fi, Hold Steady Records and Black Circle Records, all under one roof. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just curious, there's always gold to be found.

Keeping the atmosphere alive all day are vinyl DJs **Papa Bitcho** and **Sunny Side Up**, spinning records from lunchtime until the sun goes down. **Vintage clothing stalls** add to the vibe, and **Common Hearth** will be on hand with simply good food made from primo local ingredients. Or if you're looking for a beer 'n burger recharge after your Chinny

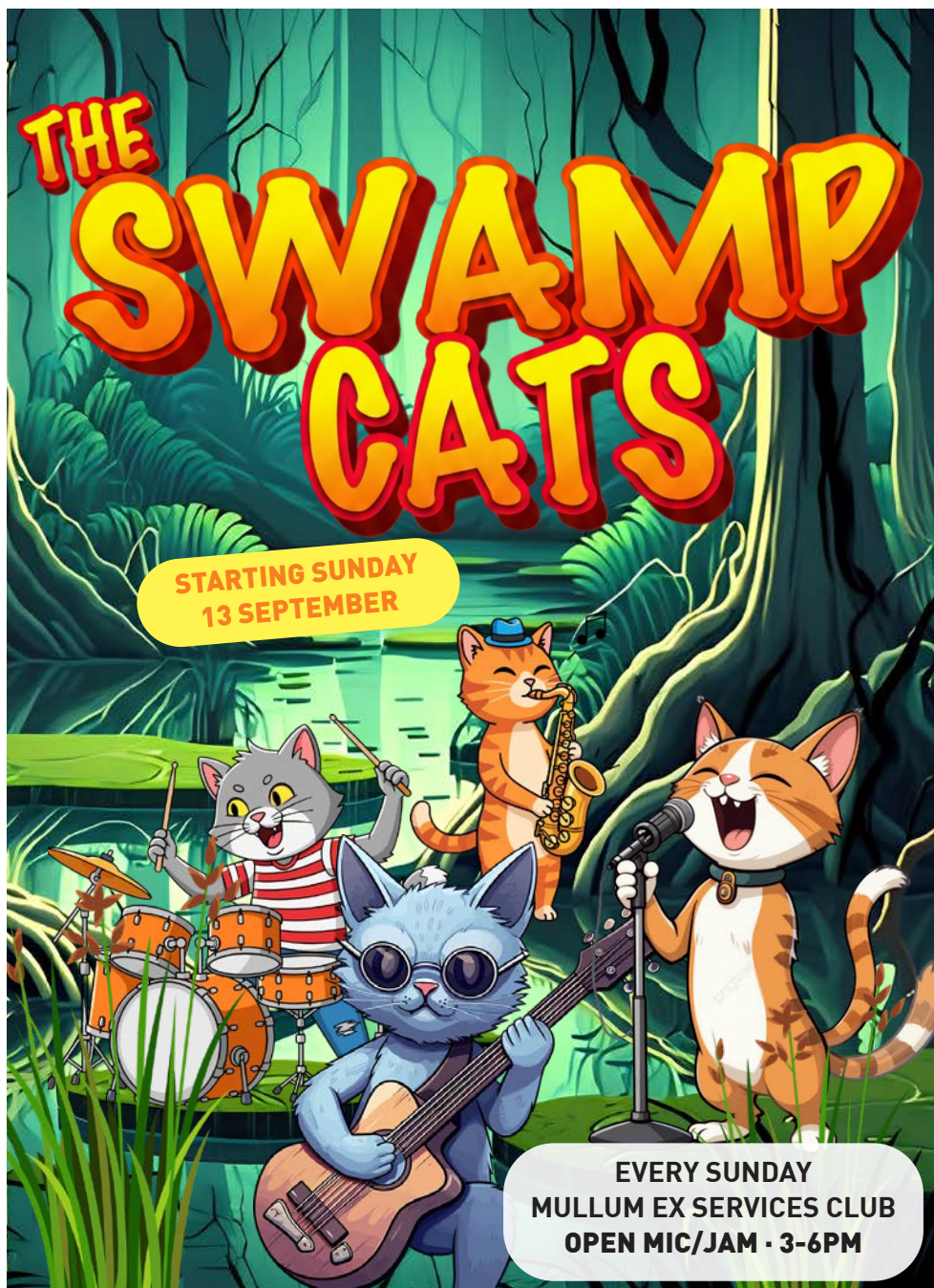
Charge achievement, you know where to find us.

It's also a landmark day for Wandana's own offering, with the launch of a new brew and new cocktails featuring their house-distilled spirits – a good reason to pull up a stool and stay a while.

On **Sunday** the action continues with something a little different. **The Royal Enfield One Ride** is a global event held annually, celebrating Royal Enfield riders the world over and bringing them together in their local communities. This year, the GC Royal Enfield Riders Club and Grid Motorcycles will be finishing their ride at Wandana. Arriving around midday, about 50 Royal Enfield motorcycles will be on display. A genuine gathering for motorcycle enthusiasts and curious onlookers alike.

Together, it makes for a week that captures everything Wandana does best – bringing people, music, culture and community together in one of the Byron Shires' most relaxed settings.

Wandana Brewing Co is located at 20 Manns Road, Mullumbimby. The Record Fair is on Saturday from 12pm and the Royal Enfield One Ride display starts at 12pm on Sunday.



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



Richmond RiverFest returns to Ballina on World Rivers Day

This spring, the Richmond River comes alive with a month-long celebration of culture, community, and Country as **Richmond RiverFest 2026** runs from **27 September to 24 October**. The festival brings together Custodians, community groups, conservation organisations, artists, and educators to honour the region's river systems through storytelling, public events, and a shared commitment to protection and restoration.

RiverFest launches in Ballina on Sunday, 27 September, marking World Rivers Day, a global day recognising the importance of healthy waterways. Celebrate at Captain James Cook Park, beside Ballina RSL Club, where the Richmond River meets the sea and all the tributaries of the catchment converge.

From Ballina, the festival flows upstream with events across the catchment, including the Wardell River Festival on Saturday, 17 October, before the final event, Picnic by the River, a riverside picnic and paddle in Lismore on Saturday, 24 October.

On World Rivers Day the festival runs from 10am and brings together music, talks and hands-on activities for all ages, including a Welcome to Country, live music, storytelling and river yarns with local voices, kids' nature play, weaving, workshops, and family-friendly river activities.

Festival highlights across the month include: festival days – **World Rivers Day in Ballina (27 September)**, **Wardell (17 October)** and the **Picnic by the River finale in Lismore (24 October)**; hands-on restoration – tree plantings, working bees, wetland restoration, and rehydration tours; cultural and creative activities – art workshops, storytelling, and cultural sharing along the river; on-water fun – outrigger, paddling, and fishing.

RiverFest offers ways to connect, learn, and explore how cultural knowledge, science, and community action can come together to heal the Richmond River. With a focus on listening to the voices of the river, exploring the rights of the river, and empowering community-led restoration, RiverFest is a reminder that gathering in celebration and purpose can drive real change.

Get in, get involved, get the river back. Everyone is invited to reconnect with the river and the communities that care for it – starting this World Rivers Day in Ballina.

For more details visit richmondriverfest.com

WEDNESDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL OKELL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM DAN HANNAFORD**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM MATT ARMITAGE**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **OPEN MIC WITH SLIM PICKENS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **12.30PM & 5.30PM BRUNSWICK HEADS PUBLIC SCHOOL – BEACHSIDE BOOGIE**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM JAM AND CURRY OPEN MIC**
- OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM MONDO HUM JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
- THE TOP PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **7PM MARSHALL OKELL**

THURSDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MICKA SCENE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM DONNY SHADES BAND**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL **5.30PM OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM HARRY NICHOLS + DJ QUENDO**
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, **7.30PM TEMPLE OF FIRE**
- FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL **5.30PM MATT CELLO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM BEN WHITING**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, **6PM MONDO HUM JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, **7.30PM HOT SHORTS! 2026**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO **7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, **6PM HORSE DRAWN CADILLAC**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, **6.30PM SCREENING – ALLOWED TO BIRTH**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, **7PM PASH + SEEING VIOLET + JETT LINDSAY + SANTO DOMINGO**

FRIDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOE CONROY BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **5PM MILO GREEN, 8 PM BIG MAMA & SEXY SOUL**

- BYRON THEATRE **8PM JULIAN LAGE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON **5PM ADAM HARPAZ**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM KANE MUIR TRIO + NUFARRAGO + DUELING PIANO BAR, 7PM MATT ARMATIGE**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, **6PM JOSE**
- LENNOX HOTEL **9PM THE SWAMP CATS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **5.30 PM BALCONY BEATS, KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, **7.30PM ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ PEACH**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, **7.30PM HOT SHORTS! 2026**
- HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, UKI, **6.45PM ENCHANTED EVENING – STORYTELLING FOR ADULTS**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, **5PM IAN O REILLY**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB **6PM MERLIN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, **5.30PM SI HOPMAN**
- CLUB TWEED **7.30PM THE HITMEN**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, **7PM JOE CAMILLERI & THE BLACK SORROWS**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL **5PM BERST + VENUS ENVY**

SATURDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TANDIA JAY & THE SHENANIGATORS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **3PM JOCK BARNES, 6PM JEROME WILLIAMS DUO**
- BYRON THEATRE **8PM THE HONEY SLIDERS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL **5PM SALI BRACEWELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **7PM SURVEY STREET, DONNY SHADES + DJ RENEE SIMONE + THINGS IN MOTION + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, **6PM TAHLIA MATHESON**

- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, **5.30PM TIM STOKES**
- LENNOX HOTEL **9PM DJ ABEL TORO**
- BALLINA RSL **6PM CHARLIE HONG**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, **12.30PM DJ PAPA BITCHO & SUNNY SIDE UP**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB **5.30PM LOVELIGHT DUO, 6.30PM EMILY LUBITZ**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM JOHN HILL PIANO BAR**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, **7.30PM HOT SHORTS! 2026**
- DURRUMBUL HALL **7PM LA LUNA FT. DJ MARK SANKHARA**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN **8PM LILLI SHEEN**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB **6PM PHIL & TILLEY**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, **7PM LAP LEAKED BEAT**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **7.30PM REMEDY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS **1PM LUKE PAULEY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, **5.30PM MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, **7PM RAW ORDIO**
- CLUB TWEED **7.30PM GEED UP**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL **5PM SMASHED CRABS + PRETTY FLY + RAMJET**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, **7PM THE LAZY EYES**

SUNDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SMOKIN FIREBIRDS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **4.30PM KINGFISHA**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **5PM MATTY ROGERS + VINYL SUNDAYS FT. SUNNY SIDE UP + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, **5.30PM HARRY NICHOLS**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, **4.30PM JOE CONROY**

- LENNOX HOTEL **4PM RICHIE WILLIAMS**
- BALLINA RSL **2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT MOJO WEBB BAND, CASEY DONOVAN**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, **3PM EPIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **4PM SKY EATER**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB **3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **3.30PM KANE MUIR**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, **5PM HOT SHORTS! 2026**
- YELLOW CHURCH, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM MUSE PARLOUR OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL **4PM CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- PEARCES CREEK HALL **3PM DATE BROTHERS**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, **12PM DJELG + CHRIS PALMER**
- CLUB TWEED **1PM WHITEY, 2PM CORY HARGREAVES**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL **4.30PM HOMEGROWN**

MONDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ADAM HARPAZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM LUKE PAULEY**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- LONE GOAT GALLERY, BYRON BAY, **5PM EXHIBITION OPENING – MORE SALT PLEASE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM LACHY DWYER + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, **7PM GUY BROWN**

TUESDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM DEVU**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM MARSHALL OKELL + DUELING PIANO BAR**

PALACE CINEMAS
BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17
TO WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23

THE DIGGER
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PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS
HEART OF THE BEAST (CTC)
SNEAK PREVIEWS
Sat: 6:15PM. Sun: 4:00PM. Wed: 6:30PM
THE CRAFT (MA15+) CULT VAULT
Mon: 6:30PM
FAMILY FILMS
COYOTE VS. ACME (PG) NFT
Daily: 11:00AM, 1:15PM, 5:00PM
FORGOTTEN ISLAND (PG) NFT
Daily except Thurs & Mon: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 2:45PM, 6:00PM. Thurs: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 2:45PM, 4:10PM, 6:00PM. Mon: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 2:45PM, 6:00PM
PAW PATROL - THE DINO MOVIE (G)
Daily except Mon: 10:45AM, 12:50PM, 4:00PM. Mon: 10:45AM, 12:50PM
SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM (G) SNEAK PREVIEWS
Sat, Sun: 1:30PM

THE LAST WHALE SINGER (PG)
SNEAK PREVIEWS
Sat, Sun: 11:10AM
ALL FILMS
MAIGRET AND THE DEAD LOVER (PG)
Thurs, Fri, Sun, Tues: 11:20AM, 6:15PM. Sat, Mon, Wed: 11:20AM
OASIS: DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Mon: 8:10PM. Mon: 3:40PM, 8:10PM
PALESTINE 36 (M)
Thurs: 11:15AM, 1:10PM. Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:10PM
PRACTICAL MAGIC 2 (M)
Daily except Mon: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 3:50PM, 5:30PM, 7:15PM. Mon: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 3:20PM, 5:30PM, 7:15PM
RESIDENT EVIL (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Mon: 1:50PM, 3:30PM, 6:30PM, 8:30PM. Mon: 1:50PM, 3:30PM, 6:10PM, 8:30PM

RUNNER (M)
Daily except Sat, Wed: 1:30PM, 8:10PM. Sat, Wed: 1:30PM, 8:30PM
SILENCED (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:10AM
SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (M)
Daily: 10:45AM, 4:20PM, 7:30PM
THE DOG STARS (MA15+) NFT
Daily: 1:15PM
THE INVITE (MA15+) NFT
Thurs: 1:50PM, 8:30PM. Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues: 8:30PM
THE ODYSSEY (M)
Daily: 3:40PM, 7:00PM
THE WEIGHT (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Mon: 3:50PM, 6:10PM. Mon: 3:50PM, 8:15PM
TONY (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Sun, Mon: 11:15AM, 3:45PM, 8:15PM. Sun: 11:15AM, 8:15PM. Mon: 11:15AM, 3:45PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

COYOTE VS. ACME (PG) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 9:30AM, 11:50AM. Thurs: 9:40AM, 11:50AM, 4:30PM
FORGOTTEN ISLAND (PG) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 9:30AM, 2:00PM, 6:50PM. Thurs: 9:30AM, 2:00PM, 6:40PM
HEART OF THE BEAST (CTC) SNEAK PREVIEWS
Sat: 6:20PM. Sun: 4:30PM. Wed: 6:30PM
OASIS: DON'T LOOK BACK IN ANGER (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Sat, Sun: 4:20PM
PAW PATROL - THE DINO MOVIE (G)
Daily: 9:40AM, 2:20PM
PRACTICAL MAGIC 2 (M)
Thurs: 11:40AM, 1:45PM, 6:20PM. Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:40AM, 4:15PM, 6:20PM. Sat, Wed: 11:40AM, 4:15PM. Sun: 11:40AM, 6:20PM
RESIDENT EVIL (MA15+) NFT
Thurs: 11:50AM, 4:20PM, 6:50PM. Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:20PM, 4:20PM, 6:50PM. Sat, Sun: 4:20PM, 6:50PM
SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM (G) SNEAK PREVIEWS
Sat, Sun: 2:20PM
THE LAST WHALE SINGER (PG) SNEAK PREVIEWS
Sat, Sun: 4:30PM

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines
\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

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Prepayment is required for all ads.

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Echo



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A fun, busy Not-For-Profit Club with all funds raised going to worthy causes.
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Contact President John Singh 0418 662781 or punjab@byronbaypork.com.au



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TUITION

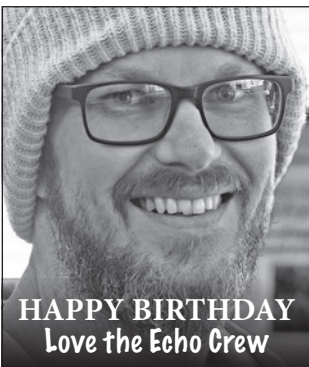
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BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Love the Echo Crew

91 this year... and still a virgin!



Happy b-day Flory
Love, Simon, Benji & Dani

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET & MUSEUM OPEN

THIS SATURDAY 8am - 2pm

Gregg Peterson
Playing Live

www.mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au
Cnr Stuart and Myocum St Mullum
No dogs please



SPRING GALA ROARING 20s'

6pm 24 October

Lismore Workers Club

Volunteers and sponsors needed - email Jill

online@wunh.org.au

www.wunh.org.au



PROBLEMS WITH ALCOHOL...?

...THERE IS HELP

TUESDAY NIGHTS 6:00PM
73 BYRON ST, BANGALOW
CONTACT: 0401 945 671

DEATH NOTICES

BAYLISS, Margaret

Late of Brunswick Heads.
Passed away Thursday 10th
September 2026.
Aged 95 years.

Loving mother, grandmother,
and great-grandmother.

A private cremation
has been held.

Family and friends are
warmly invited to attend
a Memorial Service to
celebrate Margaret's long
and wonderful life, to be
held at St Thomas' Anglican
Church, Brunswick Heads on
Saturday, 19th September
2026 commencing at 2 pm.
Wear a splash of colour.

HEALTH

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physical health. De-stress.
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TREE FERNS

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

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

GARAGE SALES

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CLOSING DOWN

! SALE !

FINAL PLANT CLEARANCE!
Everything must go! Plenty of bargains
to be had on plants, and some tools and
irrigation fittings as well

SALE DATES:
Saturday 19th September 8am-12pm
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Exceptional eye for detail essential.
Reliable*Professional*Own vehicle*ABN

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Long-term applicants only.

EYE FOR DETAIL AUSTRALIA
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Shearwater, the Mullumbimby
Steiner School has the following
exciting opportunity available:

Maintenance Worker (Electrical)
Part time

Applications close:
Sunday 27 September 2026
Please refer to the website
for position description and
details on how to apply at
www.shearwater.nsw.edu.au/
work-at-shearwater



IDFVS Case Manager –
Women's Resource Service

Mullumbimby & District
Neighbourhood Centre

Permanent part-time.

Applications close
Friday 30th September.

Interviews Monday 5th and
Wednesday 7th October.

Email ambyrj@mdnc.org.au
for an application package.

Echo

SALES ACCOUNT MANAGER

See the ad on
the back page

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Lions Club of Brunswick /
Mullumbimby Inc

'Ordinary People Doing
Extraordinary Things'

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

**BYRON DOG RESCUE**
www.byrongogrescue.org

**DAISY**

Daisy is a 10 month old, Cattle/Wolfhound X. She is always ready for an adventure or a cuddle. Daisy has a gentle and good-natured personality, making her a perfect fit for a loving family.
M/C # 97814200035124
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.
Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/

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

COLBY



Colby is approaching another month in care and this almost 6-year-old, gorgeous guy would make an unbelievable addition to the family.
Greyhounds are remarkably calm, quiet and gentle house dogs. Colby is affectionate, loves his daily walks; hanging at the dog park or just relaxing in his favourite spot in the house.
Rehoming #R251 00 00 60

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

**NITE**

Meet Nite! Our lovely gal has beautiful brindle tortoiseshell colourings and a heart of gold to match! Nite will be sure to greet you with a high waving tail or curl up for cuddle time. Nite is a confident little strut-mistress who brings warmth, affection and playfulness wherever she goes.
Whether she's exploring her surroundings or settling in for a snuggle, she's always a delight to be around. If you could see yourself with a sweet, loyal companion, then come meet Nite today or check out socials for more cute content.
Microchip 953010006832260
DOB: 14/09/2024

To make an appointment
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petsforlifeanimalshefter.net

**Corey #87**

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
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ANGEL



Angel may have a 'grumpy cat' look about her, but she's anything but. She's an affectionate, tabby sweetheart who is bursting with love. She's a little stand offish with other cats but that's likely having been thrust into the shelter environment & she needs time to adjust. Angel would absolutely thrive in a loving home.
To meet Angel & our other cats & kittens, please contact the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm
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Call AWL 0436 845 542
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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



SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS						
DATE Sept	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)	
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	
17	TH	5:41 17:39	9:01 23:36	12:18 1.40	05:13 0.39 18:54 0.63	
18	F	5:40 17:40	9:47 23:36	00:00 0.98 13:15 1.34	05:53 0.47 20:18 0.66	
19	SA	5:39 17:40	10:37 0:30	01:05 0.90 14:30 1.32	06:53 0.54 21:45 0.63	
20	SU	5:38 17:40	11:31 1:20	02:49 0.88 15:47 1.34	08:18 0.58 22:50 0.56	
21	M	5:37 17:41	12:28 2:05	04:16 0.93 16:49 1.40	09:44 0.55 23:36 0.49	
22	TU	5:35 17:41	13:26 2:46	05:13 1.02 17:39 1.47	10:47 0.48	
23	W	5:34 17:42	14:24 3:22	05:57 1.12 18:20 1.54	00:13 0.41 11:37 0.40	
24	TH	5:33 17:42	15:22 3:55	06:36 1.22 18:58 1.59	00:45 0.33 12:19 0.32	
25	F	5:32 17:43	16:20 4:26	07:14 1.33 19:32 1.61	01:14 0.26 13:00 0.26	
26	SA	5:31 17:43	17:19 4:56	07:52 1.43 20:07 1.60	01:43 0.19 13:40 0.23	
27	SU	5:29 17:44	18:20 5:26	08:31 1.52 20:42 1.55	02:12 0.15 14:22 0.21	
28	M	5:28 17:45	19:23 5:58	09:11 1.59 21:17 1.46	02:43 0.12 15:06 0.23	
29	TU	5:27 17:45	20:30 6:34	09:53 1.64 21:56 1.35	03:15 0.13 15:55 0.28	
30	W	5:26 17:46	21:38 7:15	10:38 1.65 22:38 1.22	03:51 0.17 16:48 0.35	

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.

Bruns CWA spring market

CWA Brunswick Heads will be holding their spring market on Saturday, 26 September at their hall, corner of Park and Booyun streets, Brunswick Heads, from 8am to 1pm. All your favourites: cakes, jams, pickles, craftwork, plants and flowers. Come early to avoid disappointment. Contact 0431 908 063.

GCAT

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday, 20 September from 9am to 12 noon, meeting in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarks Beach. We plant in the sand dunes from Clarks Beach to Main Beach. From 12 noon to 1pm, enjoy a delicious free BBQ and be in the draw to win one of four excellent prizes. It's good fun. Inquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Peter 0488 715 565.

Free teen girls creative connection day

Together She Thrives is inviting teen girls aged 12-16 to a free Creative Connection Day during the school holidays on Wednesday, 7 October. The relaxed morning will provide an opportunity for girls to step away from screens, meet others and enjoy a range of creative and social activities in a supportive environment. Activities will include macramé, knitting, crochet, painting, journaling, collage, colouring, board games and other activities, along with a clothes swap. The event will run from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Mullumbimby Community College, 6 Burringbar Street. For more information and registration, visit togethershethrives.org.au. Girls can also register on the day.

Free coach trip to Murwillumbah

Together She Thrives is offering local women a free coach trip to Murwillumbah on Wednesday, 30 September, combining a visit to the Murwillumbah Farmers Markets with an op shop crawl through the CBD. The day is an opportunity for women to enjoy a relaxed mid-week outing, explore local businesses, discover some second-hand treasures and connect with other women from the community. The coach will depart from the Mullumbimby Netball Courts on Byron Street at 8.15am and return at 2pm. The event is free, however bookings are essential at www.togethershethrives.org.au.

Bruns U3A

Lifelong learning for retired folk in their 3rd age. Interest groups are Tuesday Forum, garden group, foodies, movie and lunch group, men's shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walker's and talkers, Shabashi, chess, debating group, ukelele. The table tennis need more players phone Jane 0403 170 315. For more info phone Denise 0423 778 573 or info@bvua3a.org.

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

Make and cake and bake

The monthly Bangalow CWA Cake stall is an opportunity to pop into the Byron Street rooms of one of the town's most beloved organisations. For over 100 years this iconic organisation has been using baking and handicrafts to raise money to assist and support women and families living in isolated and regional areas. More than a century on the mission is the same, and the cakes and pickles and jams, well they are imbued with the love and care of generations! The Bangalow CWA monthly cake stall is on Saturday, 26 September from 8am to 1pm, at 31 Byron Street Bangalow.

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 neurodiverse 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

Byron Seniors Club

On Tuesdays you can join the free Byron Seniors Club at the Byron Community Centre for drumming from 10.30a, 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 September 2 through to December 18. Covering such topics as getting to know your device, using it for entertainment and connection, and staying safe online. Phone us on 66842992 to book a 40 minute session and learn how we can help you interact in this digital world.

6684 1286, check our website www.mdn.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.

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AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE 000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay 131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510
Mullumbimby 6629 7570
Byron Bay 6685 9499
Bangalow 6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding... 132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue..... 6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER..... 6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL..... 6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS 6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby) 6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line..... 1800 656 463
LIFELINE 131 114
MENSLINE..... 1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours 1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics 1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily 6680 7280
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HIV/AIDS – ACON Confidential testing & information..... 6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS) 6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS..... 6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE 6622 1233
WIRES – NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service... 6628 1898

The Echo's Market Guide

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

MONTHLY MARKETS:
1st SATURDAY:
Brunswick Heads Markets – 8am-2pm
1st SUNDAY:
Byron Community Market – 8am-3pm
Pottsville Beach Markets – 7am-1pm
2nd SUNDAY:
The Channon Craft Market – 9am-3pm
Chillingham Markets – 8am-1pm
Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets – 8am-2pm
Tabulam Community Market – 9am-1pm
3rd SATURDAY:
Mullumbimby Community Market – 8am-2pm
Murwillumbah Makers & Finders – 9am-2pm
Salt Beach Markets, 5th Kingscliff/Casuarina – 8am-1pm
3rd SUNDAY:
Federal Village Market – 8am-2pm
Uki Buttery Bazaar Market – 8am-2pm
Pottsville Beach Markets – 7am-1pm
Lismore City Bowlo Markets – 9am-1pm
4th SATURDAY:
Kyogle Bazaar – 9am-2pm
Last SATURDAY:
Evans Head Rotary Market – 8am-1pm
4th SUNDAY:
Bangalow Market – 8am-2.30pm
Nimbin Markets – 9am-3pm
Murwillumbah Showground Market – 8am-1pm
4th SUNDAY (in a 5-Sunday month):
Coolangatta Arts & Crafts Markets – 8am-2pm
5th SUNDAY:
Nimbin Markets – 8.30am-3pm

SEASONAL MARKETS:
Quarterly:
Byron Beachside Market – Jan, Easter, July and Sept

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:
Each TUESDAY:
New Brighton Farmers Market – 7am-11am
Lismore Organic Market – 7.30am-10.30am
Each WEDNESDAY:
Murwillumbah Farmers Market – 7am-11am
Nimbin Farmers Market – 3pm-6pm
Newrybar Hall Twilight Market – 3pm-7.30pm
Each THURSDAY:
Byron Bay Farmers Market – 7am-11am
Lismore Produce Market – 3pm-6pm
Each FRIDAY:
Mullumbimby Farmers Market – 7am-11am
Evans Head Farmers Market – 2.30pm-6.30pm
Each SATURDAY:
Bangalow Farmers Market – 7am-11am
Durabah Rd Farmers Mkt (Tropical Fruit World) 8am-11am
Uki Farmers Market – 8am-1pm
Lismore Farmers Market – 7.30am-11.30am
Byron Twilight Market (Oct to Apr) 4pm-9pm
Each SUNDAY:
Ballina Farmers & Producers Mkt – 7am-11am

Markets may change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch to advise us of any changes.

Service Directory

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RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is 12pm Friday

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

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

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

Echo

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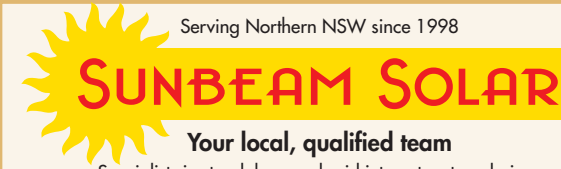
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Inside Byron CoLab on Arakwal Country

Byron Bay has never been short on inspiration – but for organisations searching for quality office space from the heart of Byron, finding a workplace that delivers on flexible leasing options, professional amenities and alignment with their organisational values can be a challenge. At 2 Wordsworth Street, on the site of the former Byron Hospital, Byron CoLab on Arakwal Country is changing that.

Delivered by Social Futures in partnership with Byron Shire Council, the precinct brings together health and community services, allied health practitioners, professional services, and cultural organisations under one roof. And with the precinct just metres from the centre of Byron Bay, getting there is easy, for clients and staff.

Byron CoLab on Arakwal Country combines professional facilities with amenities designed to make the working day easier and more enjoyable. On-site management and shared reception services are provided, along with bookable meeting spaces equipped with video conferencing facilities. There is a five-star rated cafe on site, providing a convenient option for coffee or lunch.

Additional facilities include plenty of on street parking available for tenants and a dedicated visitor car park for two-hour appointments.

These shared resources provide a professional front-of-house experience, while reducing the need for every business to maintain its own reception or meeting room infrastructure.

More than a lease

For Caitlyn Feldman, a NSW Cancer Council staff member, and one of Byron CoLab’s tenants, the decision to locate there was straightforward. “The precinct delivers on the practical front: shared meeting rooms, a professional reception, reliable end-of-trip facilities, and an onsite cafe that makes client meetings and team catch-ups easy. But it also offers something harder to find: a working environment where the organisations around you share your values.”

“Cancer Council was one of the first tenancies to sign on the dotted line, and we’re really proud to be here. The fact that it’s a community space, so we really wanted to be part of a bigger picture rather than just our standalone office. So it was really appealing to be with other charities, and like-minded organisations, increase our stakeholders, and just have a good vibe around it.

“It’s the kind of professional community that’s difficult to manufacture in a standard office block. At Byron CoLab, it’s built into the fabric of the place.”

That dynamic plays out across the precinct every day. Organisations delivering NDIS services, allied health, education, and employment support, work alongside professional services firms and cultural groups, creating a network where referral pathways, collaboration, and community connection develop organically. For purpose-driven organisations, that alignment offers a genuine competitive advantage. It’s not just where you work – it’s who you work alongside.



Office space for rent just metres from the heart of Byron Bay

Byron CoLab currently has a range of tenancies available, with flexible sizing to suit solo practitioners, small teams, and larger multidisciplinary organisations:

Tenancy 11 (119.68m²) – a standalone building, well-suited to larger health, wellbeing, and businesses seeking a prominent, self-contained presence.

Tenancy 12 (89.22m²) – a generous, light-filled open-plan space ideal for established teams.

Tenancy 3 (78.01m²) – available now, with an open-plan layout suited to professional services and wellbeing practitioners.

Tenancy 6B (36.61m²) – a medium space, well-matched to allied health providers and small teams.

Tenancy 7A (16.6m²) – a compact, cost-effective option for consultants and solo practitioners looking to get established in Byron Bay.

Getting started

Tenancies are available now, with the Social Futures team ready to work with prospective tenants to find the right fit within the precinct. Organisations are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) outlining their services and workspace requirements.

To discuss availability, book a personal tour or begin the EOI process, contact:
■ Mikaela Hicks, Centre Manager, Byron CoLab on Arakwal Country
Phone: 0407 787 595 (available Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays). Email: byroncolab@socialfutures.org.au

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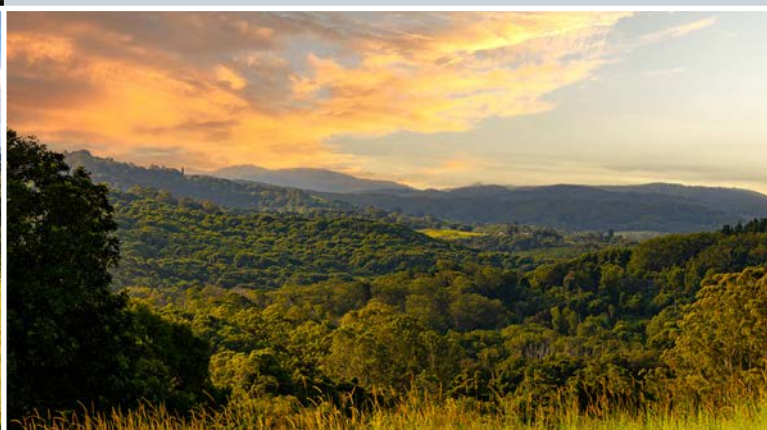
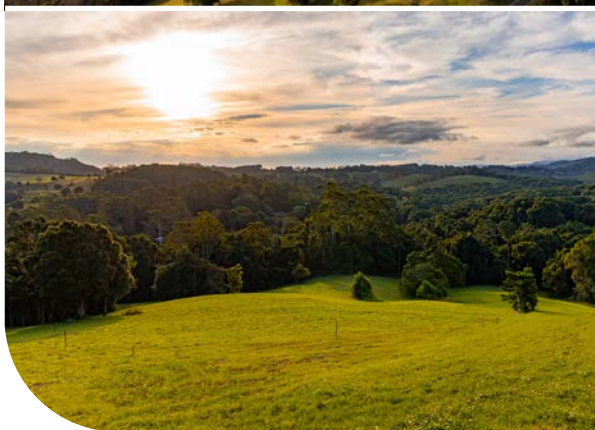
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4/14 Seaview Street, Byron Bay. Thursday 11–11.30am
2A Gaggin Street, New Brighton. Friday 4–4.30pm
101 Catherine Crescent, Ballina. Saturday 9–9.30am
185 Tamar Street, Ballina. Saturday 9–9.30am
2/5A Dress Circle Drive, Lennox Head. Saturday 9.30–10am
64 Weis Lane, Rous. Saturday 9.30–10am
13 Catherine Crescent, Ballina. Saturday 9.45–10.15am
5a Moonlight Close, Mullumbimby. Saturday 10–10.30am
3 Tomki Place, East Ballina. Saturday 10–10.30am
2/58 Martin Street, Ballina. Saturday 10–10.30am
2/62 Stewart Street, Lennox Head. Saturday 10.10–10.40am
2/8 Bolding Street, Ballina. Saturday 10.30–11am
4/14 Seaview Street, Byron Bay. Saturday 11–11.30am
14 Coral Court, Brunswick Heads. Saturday 11–11.30am
80 Dalwood Road, Dalwood. Saturday 11.10–11.40am
12 Trilby Avenue, East Ballina. Saturday 11.10–11.40am
35 Rainforest Way, Lennox Head. Saturday 11.10–11.40am
482 Pimlico Road, Pimlico. Saturday 11.30am–12.30pm
11 Peppercorne Place, East Ballina. Saturday 12.10–12.40pm
57 Reedy Creek Road, Empire Vale. Saturday 1–1.30pm

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9/198 Kennedy Dr, Tweed Heads West. Sat 11–11.30am
6/241 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga. Sat 12–12.30pm
65/955 Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach. Sat 1–1.30pm

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13 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Wed 1–1.30pm
47–49 Woodburn Street, Evans Head. Thurs 11–11.30am
160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 12–12.30pm
1 / 34 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Thurs 1–1.30pm
39 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 10–10.30am

17 McAuleys Lane, Myocum. Fri 10.45–11.15am
103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11.30am–12pm
10 Lorikeet Lane, Mullumbimby. Fri 12.30–1pm
134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 1.15–1.45pm
16C Azalea Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 2–2.30pm
39 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9–9.30am
53 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
2 / 36 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
440 Corndale Road, Corndale. Sat 9–9.30am
25 / 88 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30–10am
16C Azalea Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.45–10.15am
71 Broken Head Road, Newrybar. Sat 10–10.30am
15 Gardenia Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
1675 Dunoon Road, Dunoon. Sat 10–10.30am
28 Pacific Vista Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.15–10.45am
17 McAuleys Lane, Myocum. Sat 10.30–11am
6 Muli Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
106 Arkinstall Road, Tuntable Creek. Sat 11–11.30am
13 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
68B Teak Circuit, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
10 / 1–2 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
17 Corella Crescent, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.15–11.45am
92 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
6 / 1–5 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
10 Lorikeet Lane, Mullumbimby. Sat 12–12.30pm
2/21 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 12–12.30pm
3 Cudgerie Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30–1pm
28/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm
18 Heritage Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 1–1.30pm
13A Byron Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 1–1.30pm
1 / 7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1.15–1.45pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

23/136 Cherry Street, Ballina. Sat 9–9.30am
2 Sovereign Place, Goonellabah. Sat 9.30–10am
199 Fox Street, Ballina. Sat 9.45–10.15am
18B Hartigan Street, Cumbalum. Sat 10–10.30am
43 Bentinck Street, Ballina. Sat 10.30–11am
73 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 10.30–11am

98 Diadem Street, Lismore. Sat 11.30am–12pm
33 River Street, Woodburn. Sat 11.30am–12pm
4 Seaward Street, Lennox Head. Sat 12.45–1.15pm
8 Seaward Street, Lennox Head. Sat 12.45–1.15pm

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16 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 9–9.30am
2/420 Kyogle Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30–10am
3A Langi Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
4 Badoo Avenue, Murwillumbah. Sat 10.30–11am
33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
19 Oakbank Terrace, Murwillumbah. Sat 11.30am–12pm
11 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12–12.30pm
7 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm
10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm
45 Cooloon Street, Kunghur. Sun 11–11.30am

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837 Nobbys Creek Road, Nobbys Creek. Sat 9–10am
149 River Street, South Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30–10am
63 Tyalgum Road, Byangum. Sat 10.30–11am
16 George Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 10.30–11am
34 Chevelle Place, Smiths Creek. Sat 11.30am–12pm
8 Hemlock Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 11.30am–12pm
88 Rous River Way, Murwillumbah. Sat 12.30–1pm
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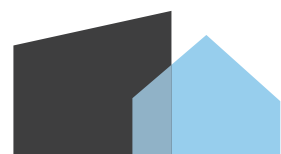
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‘One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman.’
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Desperation is now the key element of Trump’s presidency and his campaign to stay in power. One of the principles of a free democratic vote is that you can’t buy them. Apparently Trump is unaware of this minor issue and has now promised that he will send \$5,000 to every adult American citizen if the Republicans hold onto control of both houses of parliament. Estimates are that this would cost around \$1.3 trillion.

This is not the first time Trump has promised cheques to Americans but so far they have all been empty promises with no money materialising in anyone’s bank accounts but his own and his direct family and friends. If he ever actually paid up, exactly where the money will come from is anyone’s guess considering what a failure the Musk-run DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) and the tariff debacle have been!

The NSW government is looking to reduce the time that public school students can access laptops, tablets, or desktop computers in classrooms from next year. It is an attempt to reverse the record low student scores in reading and maths in Australia, recorded in the international school ranking program PISA. Next year public schools will limit Kindergarten to Year 2 students to 15 minutes a day increasing slowly up to a maximum of half the time per subject for senior high school students.

Thinking that you would like to participate in the Byron Writers Festival Residential



Janelle, Bec and Emily rocked a gold bling theme at Billinudgel Hotel’s slightly damp 120th anniversary bash last Saturday. Jeff ‘You Call That Old’ Dawson

Mentorship program? The deadline has been extended to Tuesday, 22 September for writers living in a regional part of the country, Australia-wide. Apply here: www.byronwritersfestival.com/writers-centre.

Backlash was recently contacted by one employer who had a worker start waving an axe around at their work gym. ‘Turns out he was practising mediaeval role play as it is his hobby,’ they told us. Unfortunately for the role-playing, axe-wielding worker, them boring ‘upper ups’ decided that taking the axe home might be the better part of valour.

‘I’m so incredibly tired of giving respect to a lot of delusions and crazy ideas just because they are regarded as religions.’
– Bjorn Ulvaeus

According to science your stomach acid is strong enough to dissolve razor blades – your stomach just

grows a new lining every 3-4 days so it doesn’t digest itself (nerdsip.com). Obviously, don’t be the idiot that tries it. Swallowing a razor blade is a critical medical emergency that carries a high risk of severe, life-threatening injuries.



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