

Wildlife road warnings falling short

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council has acknowledged that some of its current measures to protect wildlife from vehicle strikes have limited effectiveness, while funding has yet to be secured for seasonal electronic warning signs on several key koala routes.

A report to Council's Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Committee says wildlife-strike data is reviewed annually and used to update a GIS mapping layer identifying road-kill hotspots across the Shire.

The mapping is then used to inform road design and wildlife mitigation measures at higher-risk locations.

But the report also says monitoring of existing measures has found that warning signs can have only a short-term influence on driver behaviour.

Vehicle-activated signs have also shown limited effectiveness on roads with higher speed limits, while the regional Koala Vehicle Strike Working Group has concluded that signage on its own is not enough to significantly change driver behaviour.

Council has previously installed seven solar-powered, speed-activated koala warning signs, along with 'Koala Zone' road markings, on Coorabell Road, Coolamon Scenic Drive near Federal, and Broken Head Road.

It also ran a temporary lighting

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Coming to you at Byron's Wellness Festival this November are: Christine Innis, artist and gallery curator; Troy Abraham and Heidi Lampard on tea and sound; Alessandro Antonucci on handpan; Anna Doble expounding on the root of wellness; Jera Faerie from Hoodlum Ballet; and the Festival Director Dani Djoki. ► Read more on page 4. Photo Jeff, 'I'm very well, thank you' Dawson

Greens councillor Elia Hauge elected Byron's deputy mayor

Aslan Shand

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) sought to have the election of the deputy mayor position be voted on at the latest Byron Shire Council meeting on Thursday, 17 September. Ndiaye told the meeting that while councillor Jack Dods (independent) had done a good job as deputy mayor over the last two

years, she felt it was 'fair to share this role around and to give the opportunity to somebody else who may be a bit more available.'

Councillor Dods has become a father in the last year and Cr Ndiaye said she had felt she was unable to reach out for support because of his parental commitments. She also said she had suggested the role to new Cr Peter Doherty (who

was absent from the meeting) but he'd said it was too soon.

Cr Dods and Cr Elia Hauge (Greens) both put up their hands for the role, with Cr Dods pushing back against the mayor's assertion that he'd been unavailable.

'Over the last six months, since my lovely wife and I welcomed twins, I haven't had as much time to commit to my other

commitments in life outside of family,' said Dods.

'I've still had a reasonable amount of time to work in my personal employment, and to work on Council business. I haven't missed a single Council meeting or committee meeting since then. I only took one month off when the twins were born.

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Birth Without Trauma launches



Lealah with baby Nyah (centre), Fiona O'Shaughnessy (far left) and Sally Cusack (far right). Photo Jeff Dawson

Mums, bubs and advocates for maternity care reform gathered at The Farm last Friday to launch the Birth Without Trauma campaign, demanding action on issues around birthing.

A coalition of NSW maternity care organisations are calling on all political parties, candidates and MPs to commit to implementing the recommendations of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Birth Trauma during the next term of government.

The campaign aims to

secure action on six priority reforms designed to improve maternity care and reduce the number of women and babies experiencing avoidable trauma before, during and after childbirth – they are: ensure all women have access to continuity of midwifery care; increase access to home birth services across NSW; invest in midwife-led birth centres in rural and regional NSW; invest in Birthing on Country for First Nations families; embed trauma-informed care across

all maternity health services; and strengthen support for women's decision-making and autonomy.

Director of Hygieia Health, Fiona O'Shaughnessy, said the impact of birth trauma is intergenerational and respect must be at the centre of care. 'The most formative experience of life has, for many, become something to recover from. This isn't isolated, it's happening every day, in hospitals across this country, it's happening again and again.'

Council explores future of Bruns temporary flood-housing village

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council is exploring options to keep the 58-home temporary housing village at Brunswick Heads operating after the NSW Government's flood-housing program ends.

Council has opened an Expression of Interest (EOI) process seeking registered Community Housing Providers interested in leasing and managing the Tweed Street site from July 2027.

But the process is exploratory and does not guarantee the village will remain open.

Any future arrangement would depend on a suitable provider being found, the housing assets being transferred to Council ownership, the necessary planning approvals being secured, and a financially sustainable operating model being developed.

The village, at 125 Tweed Street behind the Brunswick Heads sports fields, was established after the 2022 floods and has been operating since early 2023.

It contains 58 dwellings

and is currently managed by Uniting NSW ACT.

Temporary housing program due to end

The NSW Government's temporary housing program is due to end, leaving uncertainty over the future of a number of pod villages across the Northern Rivers.

The *Echo* reported in July that residents and housing advocates were concerned about what would happen to the sites once the program wound down.

At that stage, the future of the Brunswick Heads village remained unresolved.

Council's new EOI is the first concrete step towards testing whether the site could continue to provide housing beyond the end of the state program.

'The Byron Shire housing crisis is not letting up and our vision is for this site to continue delivering the vital housing our community needs,' Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said.

The EOI, which opened on 11 September, is for a

five-year lease of the site from 1 July, 2027.

Mayor Ndiaye said Council was looking for community housing providers able to develop a viable model for the village.

'We're looking for Community Housing Providers who can think outside the box and help us find a financially self-sustaining housing model that is suitable for this Brunswick Heads location,' she said.

Proven track record

Council says prospective providers must also have a proven track record of delivering quality housing outcomes.

The EOI does not guarantee that all 58 dwellings will remain in their current form, nor does it determine who any future residents would be.

The first stage of the process closes on 24 September.

Eligible providers will then be invited to submit detailed proposals by 26 October before Council determines whether a longer-term housing model for the site is viable.

\$80,000 upgrade for Mullum Tennis Club

The Mullumbimby Tennis Club is about to undergo an \$80,000 upgrade after becoming beneficiaries of a Tennis NSW grant.

Mullumbimby was one of 26 clubs awarded funding from the \$500,000 available this year.

The funding will cover three upgrades at the six-court venue: new fencing to replace the old, deteriorating fencing; a new accessible ramp, plus some deck upgrades; and new LED light poles.

The full project will cost roughly \$160,000. The rest of the money will come from club revenue, donations, and savings held over from the former committee.

Infrastructure

NRTF's Damian Kassabgi said the funding lets the club fix exactly the kind of infrastructure that's important for the future, with a focus on safety and accessibility, with users knowing the courts are properly maintained.

'Mullumbimby has six

courts and should be the centre of tennis in this region. This is a big step to help that happen on top of the tournaments, socials and coaching available at the courts. It also paves the way for future expansion.'

NRTF Secretary, Philip Wallace, is overseeing the works which are expected to start in late 2026, when the funding agreement with Tennis NSW is finalised.

Once the new fences are up, the club will be looking for new sponsors.

Byron's wildlife road warnings falling short

► Continued from page 1 and variable-message-sign campaign on Hinterland Way during the 2025 koala breeding season.

Local wildlife advocates have previously pushed for stronger road-safety measures for koalas in the Shire. Friends of the Koala area coordinator Dale Viola was among those who backed calls for traffic calming at The Pass last year, while Council records also show it met with Friends of the Koala over temporary koala warning signs at Ocean Shores.

However, there is currently no confirmed funding for variable-message signs at Hinterland Way, Lismore

Road at Bangalow and Broken Head Road at Suffolk Park for this year's breeding season.

That funding gap comes as Council is dealing with broader financial pressures.

Its current long-term financial planning includes a proposed Special Rate Variation aimed partly at reducing the General Fund operating deficit and improving financial sustainability.

The report also notes that Transport for NSW does not reduce speed limits solely for wildlife protection, although Council can raise wildlife safety concerns during speed-zone reviews.

For state roads, Transport

for NSW generally considers standard static or seasonal warning signs, rather than permanent flashing signs, vehicle-activated signs or wildlife-specific road markings.

More sophisticated approaches are being trialled elsewhere, including AI-assisted thermal and optical animal-detection systems linked to roadside warning signs, lighter road surfaces designed to improve wildlife visibility and high-contrast 'koala + SLOW' road markings.

The report says those trials are still underway and no conclusive results have yet been published.

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Climate 200 wants YOU!

Eve Jeffery

Climate 200 is putting its money where its independents are, and last Friday its latest ‘kitchen table’ event included hundreds of supporters at the A&I Hall in Bangalow.

Climate 200 provides political funding for community-backed independents to stand for election to advance climate policy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the country and limit climate change in Australia.

Climate 200’s MC for the event was Kate Hook.

Hook went from climate activist in Orange to independent candidate for Calare in 2022 and 2025. She was driven by water shortages, bushfire smoke that ruined the wine grapes, and flooding that left homes uninsurable.

‘The experts assumed that I’d get about 8 per cent of the vote, but I won 20 per cent of the primary vote,’ she said ‘This shows what community listening and Climate 200 support can do.’

The three pillars

Founded by Simon Holmes à Court, Climate 200 stands on three pillars: climate, integrity and safety for women, and has grown from 34 donors to 34,800.

Holmes à Court and his team were on a mission in Bangalow: find a candidate who can win in the Tweed.

Former Paris Agreement negotiator Byron Fay set out a four-part strategy: reelect sitting independents, back proven challengers, help new community groups grow.

Four-part strategy

‘Firstly, we want to help the incumbent independents who are in parliament get reelected; we need to help proven independent challengers break through; then we need to help new communities to scale their efforts,’ said Mr Fay.

‘We believe strong community groups lead to very strong candidates and



Climate 200 founder Simon Holmes à Court, filmmaker Damon Gameau, Member for Bradfield, Nicolette Boele, and Climate 200’s Byron Fay and Kate Hook. Photo Tree Faerie

campaigns – the stronger the community movement around an electorate, the better the community campaign is going to be; and we want to learn by competing in politics. It is a competition, and you need to learn by actually competing. If you don’t compete, you get stale, and you don’t understand how the dynamics are shifting.

‘That’s why we are very clear-minded about wanting to support as many independent races as we can.’

The Climate 200 team were joined by independent MP Nicolette Boele and local filmmaker, author and activist, Damon Gameau.

A success story

Climate 200 success story Nicolette Boele MP (Bradfield) says she was an unlikely candidate. ‘Voices of Bradfield began with 12 people in a Turrumurra bar. They were angry about their MP’s weak answer on climate.’

Their ‘audacity’ pulled her into running in one of Australia’s safest Liberal seats.

‘My 26 vote win is because of the 1,500 volunteers, many of whom joined through the Voice referendum campaign.

‘Community support also helped me to get through

attacks funded by fossil fuel groups during the campaign.’

Her advice for this area: ‘Run a candidate so people who feel shut out have somewhere to put their vote.’

Lack of shared story

Damon Gameau said progressives lack a shared story. ‘In a political context, I think the populist movement has worked around the world because it says “we see you and these group of elites don’t see you”’.

‘What’s our collective story? We spend a lot of our resources, time, and energy counteracting and fact-checking the misinformation.

‘We haven’t spent the energy saying “here’s this brilliant vision of a better future where your community benefits”’.

The ‘trim tab’ theory

Simon Holmes à Court likened supporting independents to Buckminster Fuller’s theory about a trim tab on an ocean liner. ‘The Queen Mary was the biggest

passenger liner at the time, at 400 yards. At the very end of the boat, there’s this 14 foot rudder, and when the boat and the ship is going full steam ahead, the wall of water on either side of that rudder is immense, moving at speed, and it is almost impossible to move that rudder to steer the ship, but at the very end of the rudder, there is a four-inch strip of metal called a trim tab, and you put a tiny bit of force on, it doesn’t take much at all, and it kinks the rudder around. It might take 15 or 20 minutes, but the whole ship can do a full, complete turn, thanks to the trim tab.

‘We need to put the right pressure in the right place at the right time, and we can turn the ship around.’

The message of the forum was that if you want an independent to win in the elections, you need to have a candidate, and if you have a candidate, Climate 200 is willing to support them.

To find out more, visit: www.climate200.com.au.



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Cash had it all figured out, with a little helping hand from Barry Donnelly and Harper, at the Billinudgel and Ocean Shores Rural Fire Brigade's Emergency Services Expo on Saturday, 19 September. Photo Jeff Dawson

Inaugural Byron Wellness Festival lands in November

The inaugural Byron Wellness Festival is coming to Byron Bay this November.

The event is a weekend designed to recharge your body, spark your spirit, and lift your vibe. Byron Wellness Festival is three days of music, movement and meaning, running at Red Devils Park, from Friday, November 27 to Sunday, November 29 at Red Devil Park, Byron Bay.

Offering daytime dives into a lineup of healing, movement and ceremony

practitioners, and workshops, all crafted to ground, energise, and bring you back to true balance. When the sun goes down, the festival ignites as festivalgoers get to experience live music from Australia's biggest artists.

Music and practitioners

Headlining the 2026 music lineup are Boy & Bear, YAIMA, and Kim Churchill; joined by Samuel J, Finojet, Kyle

Lionhart, Cinnamon Sun and more.

But music is only half the story. Byron Wellness Festival's program brings together a lineup of respected practitioners and speakers, including Dr John Surie, Tanya Alijani, and Medicine Room founder Dominique Livkamal ND.

It's this music and wellness blend that sets Byron Wellness Festival apart.

To find out more visit byronwellnessfestival.com.

Public meeting over controversial Suffolk DA

The controversial Suffolk Park development application (DA) for 9-13 Clifford Street, Suffolk Park by Denwol Suffolk Pty Ltd is once again on public exhibition after previous DAs were rejected by Byron Shire Council (BSC) on 17 grounds and then the Land and Environment Court (L&EC).

A public meeting is being

held at the Suffolk Park Hotel at 4pm on Tuesday, 6 October to give residents the opportunity to be better informed about the DA.

'With 38 documents and over 1,350 pages, we are aiming to provide accurate information so that residents can make informed submissions,' said organisers.

'Informed submissions are best achieved by robust community consultation, with residents able to listen to a range of views, and generally engage in a more transparent community consultation process. The meeting is not intended to address technical questions, but provide basic information.'

Help clean the beach for turtle nesting season

November is when turtles start nesting on Byron Shire beaches, and to make things a little easier for them TurtleWatch are having a community clean-up day at Brunswick Heads on Saturday, 3 October from 10am to 12pm.

'This will be our second year holding the clean-up at Brunswick Heads and it is a great opportunity to bring the community together to remove marine debris from the coastline ahead of the upcoming marine turtle nesting season,' TurtleWatch's Merryyn Dunleavy told *The Echo*.

Prizes

'There will also be some fantastic prizes on the day, kindly donated by Out of the Blue Adventures, including a whale-watching voucher



Turtle hatchlings form a nest in South Golden Beach making their way to freedom. Photo supplied

and a Julian Rocks snorkelling voucher.'

Join in

So get your hat and sunscreen and head to the TurtleWatch stall at Banner

Park in Brunswick Heads to help to make sure these tiny turtles have a better chance of making it back into the sea.

For more info visit [Austral-ianSeabird & Turtle Rescue at: www.seabirdrescue.org.au](http://Austral-ianSeabird&TurtleRescue.org.au).

Time for a bit of bowling fun at Mullum Bowling Club

Thought of trying your hand at bowls? Mullumbimby Bowling Club are inviting local businesses to create their own team of between three to six players and come down and join in the fun.

There will be four consecutive Friday evening games from 9 October onwards. With daylight savings having just started they will be starting at 5.30pm and have a 12

team maximum.

'Teams will play triples, three bowlers per team (rotation of additional participants is OK), three bowls each, two games per night each consisting of eight ends,' explained organiser Tony Hampton.

'The bar will be open and Pocket Curries will be rink-side serving delicious warm food. There will be weekly

prizes plus scores will be recorded to find our champion team after the conclusion of the four weeks.'

Barefoot Fridays

Following the four week event they are then looking to keep going with Barefoot Fridays bowling.

Contact the Mullumbimby Bowling Club for more information on 6684 2533.

Cr Elia Hauge new deputy mayor of Byron Shire

► Continued from page 1

'I find it a bit disappointing that throughout the last six months, it hasn't been me saying I'm not available. It's been you [Mayor Ndiaye] saying you don't feel comfortable reaching out to me.'

Cr Dods continued, saying that he wanted to continue in the role and had the capacity and commitment to do so.

Addressing councillors, Cr Hauge thanked Cr Dods for his work and said that it was less about Cr Dods and more about what she had to offer the role, and that she wanted to step up.

'Over the last two years



Cr Elia Hauge has been elected as deputy mayor of Byron Shire Council. Photo Tree Faerie

I've had the opportunity to build increasingly strong connections across our community,' she said.

'I'm really excited at the opportunity to participate more fully in that relationship between Council and what happens day-to-day within Council and form that bridge between Council, laws, and what happens on the ground.'

'I'm really committed to the opportunity to participate more fully in the conversations around those key programs, key policies, key projects,' she said.

The election was by secret ballot with Cr Hauge elected as deputy mayor by five votes to four.

The position of deputy mayor is for 12 months.

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Coercive control incidents rise across Northern Rivers

Paul Bibby

Recorded incidents of coercive control have increased across the Northern Rivers in the second year of NSW's new coercive control laws, with 30 incidents recorded in the Richmond-Tweed region since the offence came into effect.

New figures from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) show the region recorded 13 incidents in the first 12 months of the laws and 17 in the second.

Across the two years to June 2026, Richmond-Tweed recorded a coercive control rate of 11.4 incidents per 100,000 people, compared with a NSW rate of 8.0.

However, the local rate remained below the regional NSW average of 15.2 incidents per 100,000.

The figures cover the broader Richmond-Tweed statistical region, which

'A framework that criminalises something that we've all known is wrong'

includes Byron, Ballina, Lismore and Tweed.

Across NSW, police recorded 682 coercive control incidents in the two years since the offence was introduced on 1 July, 2024.

On average, each incident involved four distinct controlling behaviours.

The most commonly recorded were harassment, monitoring or tracking, which occurred in 59 per cent of incidents, followed by threats or intimidation at 55 per cent, financial abuse at 54 per cent, and shaming, degrading or humiliating behaviour at 47 per cent.

Women accounted for 95 per cent of victims, while 93 per cent of incidents involved a female victim and

male alleged offender.

Almost half of victims had previously been recorded by police as victims of domestic and family violence, including 31 per cent who had previously experienced domestic violence involving the same alleged offender.

Sixty per cent of coercive control incidents were accompanied by at least one other offence, most commonly domestic assault or intimidation and stalking.

The local figures come against a backdrop of persistently high domestic violence offending across the Northern Rivers, with domestic violence offences regularly accounting for around a quarter or more of weekly arrests in the Tweed-Byron and Richmond police districts.

When the coercive control laws were introduced, former local magistrate David Heilpern described them as 'a framework that criminalises something that

we've all known is wrong and is a precursor to physical violence'.

'From a legal perspective, emails, texts, and comments on social media are ways to prove coercive control,' Professor Heilpern said.

'But in the absence of that it is very difficult to prove.'

Despite the number of incidents recorded state-wide, relatively few coercive control charges have reached court.

Forty-two charges were laid in the two years to June, with 32 still pending. Four had been proven after guilty pleas, while six were withdrawn by the prosecution.

BOCSAR Executive Director Jackie Fitzgerald said last year that 'the small number of charges highlights the complexity of investigating and prosecuting this form of abuse'.

The median time between a coercive control event being recorded and a charge being laid is now 187 days.

Wallum heathland slashed



Clarence Property have now slashed the Brunswick Heads Wallum site. Photo Jeff Dawson

As Stage 1 works proceed at the Wallum site, and the sounds of slashers and mulchers ring out across Bay-side, local activists who have been fighting to save the site from development are raising questions about compliance with the approved plans, and say discrepancies around consent conditions remain unanswered.

'This is important on many levels, but primarily because in the federal case, Justice Perry placed weight on the approved management plans, describing them as an "adaptive and enforceable management regime" whose compliance requirements are "not merely aspirational". Those plans formed a significant part of the court's assessment,' explained a spokesperson for Save Wallum.

'But what happens when the community identifies discrepancies between the approval conditions and later plans, and cannot get a clear explanation from Council or state agencies? Who is responsible for checking that the conditions are met and the plans the court relied on are actually followed?'

One issue concerns the stormwater, and a creek that runs through the middle of the site. Condition B4 required the existing north-south creek (which has been straightened to be used as a drain) to be retained with a Wallum froglet habitat and a riparian buffer generally 20 metres wide on each side. Stormwater facilities were generally to be kept out of that buffer. Condition B5 said the buffer (40m total), existing creek (approx 8m wide), and new stormwater drain were to become a public reserve.

'Later engineering drawings show the existing north-south creek (drain) alongside the proposed new stormwater drainline and associated stormwater works. They do not mark the B4 buffer,' explained

the spokesperson.

Save Wallum has repeatedly asked Byron Shire Council to show where the mandatory buffer lies on the plans governing construction and how the proposed works comply.

'Council sought legal advice about this B4 issue but has declined to release it, citing legal professional privilege. Save Wallum has seen an incomplete excerpt of that legal advice stating that "condition B4 and objective (b) of condition B9 were not satisfied". What now?'

Wallum's creekside public reserve disappears

'Another anomaly needing explanation is the loss of a significant public reserve. The 2013 approved concept plan described a 10.24 hectares public reserve in the eastern part of the site, the part connected to Simpson Creek and Cape Byron Marine Park. Yet the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) brought to Council by staff on 9 February 2023, shows that commitment is removed,' say Save Wallum.

'Getting answers has proved difficult. The NSW environment department directed a question about the reserve to the Planning Department's Development Coordination Authority. That authority replied that land dedication was outside its role. The environment department also says it was last consulted on the vegetation and frog habitat plans in 2016 and has no record of being asked to comment on updated versions.

'Works are underway. Council, state agencies and Clarence Property need to answer the questions the community has been asking including who is ensuring that the approval conditions and management plans the court placed weight on are actually followed?' said Save Wallum

Exploring trust, identity and human connection

This October, Mental Health month, audiences are invited to step into the world of *All of Us* and discover what happens when twelve strangers are forced to look beyond their differences and question what they think they know.

Byron Youth Theatre (BYT) is bringing *All of Us* to Mulumbimby's Drill Hall Theatre on 15 and 16 October.

'Twelve strangers. One space. No way out. What happens when a group of young people are brought together under extraordinary circumstances and forced to confront questions about trust, identity and human connection?,' asks director Lisa Apostolides.

All of Us follows 12 young



Evie Rintala, Maya Nolden-Webster, Jasper Cornelius, and Jali Lyne in rehearsal for *All of Us*.

Photo Jeff 'Totally Youthless' Dawson

strangers who arrive expecting very different events, only to find themselves unexpectedly trapped together. As they try to understand

what has happened and why they are there, relationships are tested and unexpected connections begin to form.

'These are some of the

questions explored in *All of Us*, a compelling new psychological drama from Byron Youth Theatre,' explains Lisa.

'With its themes of identity, prejudice, vulnerability, trust, and the pressures of being watched, the play offers audiences an engaging and thought-provoking experience that asks us to consider how we see ourselves – and how quickly our perceptions of others can change.'

For BYT, creating original theatre that reflects the experiences and concerns of young people has been central to its work since 2010.

Over the past 16 years, BYT has created youth-led theatre exploring significant social issues including mental health, sexual health, bullying, consent, domestic and family violence, identity, ecological anxiety and community resilience.

The organisation has delivered 420 performances and 345 workshops across the Northern Rivers, reaching approximately 9,000 young people, teachers, parents and community members.

Tickets

Tickets for the public performances are available through the Drill Hall Theatre website or Humanitix at <https://events.humanitix.com/all-of-us>.

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Ron and Liz exhibition coming to Mur'bah



Liz Friend and Ron Curran are have been enjoying their retirement and the chance to bring together an exhibition of their work. Photo Jeff Dawson

Aslan Shand

Ron Curran and Liz Friend have been a fixture of the Northern Rivers art scene since they started Dynamic Drawing classes in 1999 in Byron Bay, Mullumbimby, and Lismore.

The success of Dynamic Drawing saw it expand to Melbourne during 2008 to 2010 with classes based at the Brunswick Street Gallery in Fitzroy with three full classes a week, as well as conducting numerous workshops, schools and

corporate groups, etc. Dynamic Drawing returned to the Byron Shire in 2010, recommenced classes and gathered a renewed momentum, during which time it attracted people locally, from interstate and overseas.

Ron and Liz believe that art is about inspiration, recovering and nurturing your spirit. 'We all have our language. For most of us the language is already there; it's just a question of good strategy, accessing those structures and

effectively overcoming our resident fears. The language isn't always just sitting there in our hand; we have to work at it to uncover and to meet ourselves,' explained Ron.

Exhibition

Retiring from teaching in 2024 Ron and Liz have had the chance to work on their own exhibition which is taking place at the Raft Gallery at M-Arts in Murwillumbah. The opening will be on Saturday, 3 October from 2pm to 4pm and the exhibition will run until 14 October.

Surf Life Saving patrol season begins



Nippers captain, Dean Lorenzo, Patrol Captain Simon Ceglinski, Mayor and keen ocean swimmer Sarah Ndiaye, and long-serving club President Craig Reid. Photo Jeff Dawson

Surf Life Saving Far North Coast (SLSFNC) started the new season with its annual Raising of the Flags ceremony at Brunswick Heads Surf Life Saving Club on Saturday, 26 September.

SLSFNC has been supported by Newcastle Permanent for almost 20 years. Newcastle Permanent Lismore Branch Manager David Parker was proud to continue the partnership as the iconic red and yellow flags return to beaches for

another season. 'The warmer months bring communities together at our beaches and surf life savers are essential in helping to keep locals and visitors safe along our coastlines,' Mr Parker said.

SLSFNC Director of Lifesaving David Rope highlighted the importance of community vigilance. 'Last season, almost 1,500 volunteers from across the Far North Coast provided first aid on over

300 occasions, made more than 120 rescues, and completed over 9,300 preventative actions, together clocking up more than 47,000 patrol hours,' Mr Rope said. 'Our Nippers program plays an exciting role for young people starting their lifesaving journey, who are essential to ensuring everyone's safety, with approximately 300,000 visitors last summer and even more expected this season.'

DINGO FESTIVAL

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KOKOROKO

MISS KANINNA

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Celebrating what makes Byron unique

Golf 365 tees up a new way to improve – rain, hail or shine

Paul Bibby

There are few things more frustrating for a golfer than watching the rain ruin a planned round or practice session. Except, perhaps, putting in hours of practise and discovering that your swing is no better than when you started.

A new golf development studio in Billinudgel is offering local golfers a solution to both challenges.

Golf 365 is a private, membership-only facility where golfers can practise around the clock, regardless of the weather, while sophisticated TrackMan technology provides detailed feedback on what the ball, club and swing are doing.

For co-founder and long-time local PGA golf professional Chris Graham, the idea grew naturally out of over two decades of coaching golfers in the Northern Rivers.

‘I’ve always wanted to have some kind of facility where you can practise and improve your golf where you’re actually using the data,’ Chris says.

‘When you’re improving

your golf swing, what you think you’re doing and what you’re actually doing are never the same.’

Practise with purpose

At the heart of the studio are TrackMan simulators, technology regularly seen beside professional golfers on the PGA Tour.

The system measures what is happening through each shot, allowing players to move beyond feel and guesswork, and see what their swing is actually producing.

‘You can track every session,’ Chris says. ‘You can see what you’re doing. It’s huge.’

There is even an AI coaching tool, Tracy, which analyses a player’s shots and highlights the areas most in need of attention.

For Chris and wife Evie Graham, who co-own the business, that is the point of difference.

‘It’s a private indoor golf studio for golf development, with our objective of seeing the results on the course,’ Evie says.

Golf 365 is not designed



Chris and Evie Graham at Golf 365 have the tech and know-how to help perfect your swing. Photo Jeff ‘Still Swinging’ Dawson

primarily as a social indoor-golf venue. The emphasis is on purposeful practice and taking improvements back onto the course.

‘It’s very much about performance and enjoying improving your golf,’ Chris says.

‘The goal isn’t to replace the golf course, it’s to help golfers get more out of their time on it.’

And for Chris, the payoff is seeing members take that work outside.

‘I’ve had a few members who’ve joined down there and are using it, and then they come into the shop after playing at Ocean and they’re like, “Oh my God, my golf’s improving so much!”’ he says.

Golf whenever it suits you

The other key ingredient is access.

Members book online and use remote entry to access

the studio 24/7.

Chris says that might mean a tradie practising before work, a shift worker dropping in late at night or a parent squeezing in an hour when family life allows.

‘It’s so convenient to be able to go when you want to go, at any time and in any weather,’ he says.

The studio is also family friendly, with members able to bring children along, while juniors attend with an adult.

At the other end of the age spectrum, some older golfers who struggle to walk wet courses have found another way to stay connected with the game.

Growing the game

Chris began playing at Mullumbimby Golf Club as a junior, later worked at Byron and has been based at Ocean Shores since 2006.

Evie says growing golf locally has been a constant thread through his career.

‘Golf 365 is really an extension of what Chris has always been trying to do, help more people play better golf and stay engaged with the game,’ she says.

For the Grahams, Golf 365 is another way of making golf more accessible while complementing, rather than replacing, the traditional club experience.

‘It’s about offering something that allows people to keep improving their golf and then get them back on the golf course,’ Chris says.

Anyone interested in seeing the studio and learning more can book a free walkthrough at www.golf365.com.au.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 41 #16 • September 30, 2026

What’s wrong with this picture?

David Lowe

Anthony Albanese’s recent performance on the world stage in New York was a breathtaking piece of rhetorical acrobatics.

Even while lecturing other world leaders, he was somehow able to separate Australia’s renewable progress at home from our role as one of the great global atmospheric polluters, via fossil fuel exports, which have remained at near record levels under his government’s watch. It is the most cynical of accounting tricks.

Speaking at Climate Week, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Australia’s PM praised firefighters in our warming world and said that ‘as leaders, we must match their bravery’. He noted that Australia’s domestic emissions were slowing, with renewables and home battery uptake rapidly expanding.

Our Pacific neighbours

Australia’s internal transformation in the direction of renewables, while laudable, is of no consolation to our Pacific neighbours, who are in the firing line of increasingly powerful storms and rising seas. We are also feeling the sting of the climate crisis here, with much more extreme impacts on the horizon.

Since Albo’s election in May 2022, 37 new, expanded or extended coal, oil and gas projects have been approved, leading to estimated lifetime emissions of 6.5 billion tonnes of CO². This trend is showing no sign of slowing.

If gas is the transition fuel, why are new coal mines opening and others expanding, such as BHP’s Saraji Mine last week? If solar and wind is the future, why is more fracked gas being exported from Australia than ever before?

In his second speech of the week, to the UN General Assembly, Mr Albanese described climate change as one of three massive challenges facing the world, which was threatening the ‘very existence’ of Australia’s island neighbours, arguing that we deserved a temporary seat on the non-permanent UN Security Council to amplify the voices of smaller states.

Posing for smiling selfies with that man

Between his speeches, Albo posed for smiling selfies with a man who’s made no secret of his disdain for the UN, or for climate science, and is currently doing more than any other to destroy life on Earth, in pursuit of short-term profit for him and his cronies.

At the same time, a tropical storm near Mexico was developing into a category 5 hurricane (faster than any recorded), while another headed for Hawaii, both driven by a rapidly heating ocean. A monsoon depression over the Bay of Bengal caused floods that killed many people in India and Nepal, with nine times the usual amount of rain for the period.

In New York, soon after the heads of state went home, flooding and high winds caused a state of emergency, with 119,000 homes losing power and 400 flights cancelled.

Think about a dozen Hiroshima bombs worth of man-made energy going into the world’s atmosphere and oceans every second, and then think about the pathetic response of our political ‘leaders’.

■ David Lowe is a filmmaker, *Echo* journalist and political commentator. You can catch his weekly politics piece every Monday in *The Echo* online.

Beware the Thucydides Trap

Richard Jones

President Xi Jinping gave a sinister warning to President Trump that would have gone way over his head and baffled his dwindling band of MAGA fanatics.

Xi mused whether the USA and China would avoid the Thucydides Trap, referring to the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta, where a rising power challenged the existing hegemon and war ensued.

The last time this happened was the rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union. War was avoided when the Soviet Union collapsed suddenly, liberating countries imprisoned behind the Iron Curtain.

Putin’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 was an attempt to reclaim lost pieces of the old Soviet Union. It still grinds on.

Was Xi warning Trump that he had better not interfere if China decides to take over Taiwan?

Trump fawned over Xi, breaking with protocol to meet him upon his arrival. He humiliated himself and the US and elevated China to an equal partner.

China still supplies vital support to Iran despite the disapproval of Trump and there is nothing he can do about it. The American Empire is dying before our eyes, as China waits in the wings.

The upcoming American midterms, if they occur, should prove a bloodbath for Republicans, according to polls, and they may lose control of the Senate too.

Trump will remain a flailing but highly dangerous leader. For example, Trump told the UN General Assembly (UNGA) ‘...do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again? Do I drive them into hell?’

The world knows the only way he could do that is to unleash the nuclear arsenal, starting World War III.

Some shrug their shoulders and declare ‘TACO is at it again’, with his fake threats, but cornered



Seventy-seven countries walked out or were absent from Netanyahu’s address.

– Richard Jones

demented narcissists are capable of anything.

Hitler, desperate at losing the war, threw almost the entire German army into what became known as the Battle of the Bulge, a few months before committing suicide in his bunker.

Hitler’s generals meekly obeyed his disastrous orders. Would Trump’s generals obey his?

They have already consented to committing shocking war crimes- invading Iran, killing schoolchildren, assassinating ‘drug smugglers’ in their boats, invading Venezuela, blockading Cuba.

ICE agents commit crimes daily on the streets of America, killing and jailing innocent people and deporting them to countries they have never been to.

The American administration has supplied endless weapons and support to the extremist Netanyahu regime facilitating genocide and destruction of Gaza and done nothing to prevent further illegal occupation of Palestinian land on the West Bank.

Netanyahu was welcomed to the UNGA while the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, and top Palestinian officials were denied visas for the second consecutive year. Abbas had to address the assembly remotely.

77 countries walked out or were absent from Netanyahu’s address, including Spain and Ireland, but not Australia.

A coalition of 12 countries has implemented sanctions and other measures targeting goods from illegal West Bank settlements and freezing assets. These include the UK, Canada and France, but not Australia. Why?

Whilst Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was welcomed on the world stage and his initiative on saving young people from social media harm is being taken up by other countries, his image at home was further damaged by that awful selfie he took with Donald Trump.

For many it reinforced the view that he is far too close to the rogue Trump administration. His kid glove treatment of war criminal Netanyahu also shows he is not reading the room back home. He needs to have a closer look at the polls to find out what average Australians are thinking and what they are concerned about.

His lack of adequate attention to bread-and-butter issues is also driving longtime Labor voters into the arms of the appalling Hanson.

The irony is she would make life so much worse for average Australians. Her naïve supporters seem oblivious to this. She would ape Trump’s cruel destructive policies, take us back to the coal age and introduce the Australian equivalent of ICE, seizing people off the street.

Out in the real world, away from the global stage of New York, people are fretting about rising fuel prices, another interest rate rise, sky-high rents and simply making ends meet.

Locally, in our Shire, deeply caring people are despairing about the failure of the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act* to protect threatened species at Wallum. It’s likely that several coastal planigales, tiny marsupials vulnerable to extinction, were killed when the heathland was slashed the other day, as well as Wallum sedge frogs and Wallum froglets and many other creatures.

Wealthy developers win, nature loses, as usual. No wonder people are disillusioned with governments that don’t truly represent them and what they believe in.

■ Richard Jones is a former NSW MLC, and is now a ceramist.

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Phone: 02 6684 1777
Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au
Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
Office: 64 McGoughans Lane, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager: Simon Haslam
Editor: Aslan Shand
Photographer: Jeff Dawson
Advertising Manager: Anna Coelho
Production Manager: Ziggi Browning

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Not a hoax

Spot on, Mike Balson (Letters, 16 September). Many of us know 'increasing carbon dioxide levels... turbocharges the global climate'.
Next time you are tempted to 'drop the subject and talk about something else', throw this line in first: 'it's now a climate crisis'!
Roger Seccombe
Ballina

Golden egg

Maxine Hawker's letter, (Echo, 16 September) is to be applauded and the exhibited development application (DA) for 3-5 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads is evidence that her warning is currently in play.
Subsequent to my letter of the same date, Council have advised that the option of paying parking contributions on the Fingal Street DA is \$85,000/space. Critical to the DA, with a stated cost of \$11,734,592.00 is its leveraging on the affordable housing concessions for 41 on-site car parking spaces. This would represent an upfront 'savings' of \$3,485,000. In exchange, the 'loss' in rent over 15 years for providing two affordable units grandfathered for 15 years at current market rent, and assuming rents constant over that period would be \$312,000.
Now the real 'magic' for the developer begins:
The future real value of the 'cost' of reducing the rent can be analysed at different discounted interest rates to take into account the impact of inflation over the grandfathered period. Using the enabling tool of AI, I have crunched the numbers for varying interest rates from three per cent, to ten per cent. At the low end of three per cent, the future real value to the developer in today's money is a 'cost' of \$200,260.32, and \$74,690.32 at the high end of ten per cent.
The same interest rates were applied to parking contributions over the grandfathered period. The increase in value in today's money to the developer of circumventing parking contributions varies from \$5.45m at the low end of three per cent, rising to \$15.62m at the high end.
Summed, the developer's



Tricia Shantz and Clyde at Sparrow Coffee after their regular walk and swim. Photo Susanne Love (Clyde's human)

net gain is \$5.26m at the low end and \$15.54m at the high end. That is the incentive for developers to 'use' the affordable housing legislation to get the height concession and by so doing 'abuse' not only what the community fought for being a low-rise development of an overall height of 9m but the legislation itself.
Worse, this DA sets a precedent in Brunswick Heads for future development.
Patricia Warren
Brunswick Heads

Most corrupt of all!
Thanks John Scrivener for his letter on Trump corruption. Hitler spoke of 'Globe luge', the 'big lie' being a colossal distortion or misrepresentation so vast and outrageous that ordinary people believe it.
Trump is using the same tactic. Starting wars and rabble raising while busy lining his own and his family's pockets. Future generations will wonder how Trump's colossal corruption was allowed to happen virtually unnoticed. Trump will go down in history as one of the most corrupt leaders of all time.

Simon Alderton
Byron Bay

China: not a threat?
Your letter writer Trevor Syme needs to be brought up to speed re China's intentions and associated activity in the Pacific. Unfortunately many of these, mostly Third World, economies are easily bought with promises of prosperity.

The respective governments cannot see beyond a road upgrade, port improvements, a new Toyota here, or a school bus there, etc. Then add endemic corruption of officials and you have a dream scenario for the CCP to get a foothold in this strategically important part of the world.
I'm just back from Kiritimati (Christmas Island) in the Republic of Kiribati where I've been going annually for 20 years and I've witnessed firsthand how China conquers by economic stealth. Now, while you talk about the decline of western hegemony and disparage the USA, who do you think will come to Australia's aid when the excreta hits the revolving blade?
While in power the previous Liberal government neglected China's creeping influence in the Pacific and the current Labor government, to its credit, has played catch-up ever since, securing allegiances with Fiji and some other island nations. Finally, Kiritimati is the largest coral atoll in the world, and as it's just over 2,000km below Hawaii, the Americans are keeping a close eye on things.
Peter Prideaux
Skennars Head

Special Rate Variation

Why are we on a fiscal cliff and looking at a second 30+ per cent Special Rate Variation (SRV) since the last one reached its climax in 2021?
The last Council acted on a study examining the best solutions for the future of Lavertys Gap and Mullumbimby's water supply, economically, environmentally and for long-term supply of future demand. They voted to consolidate the already existing emergency line to Rous, building a permanent connection to obviate the considerable expense of rehabilitating the Lavertys Gap system and water treatment plant (WTP).
One of the first acts of the new Council was to rescind this motion, embark upon further investigation with a cost to date of over \$600,000. In this time a vote was narrowly lost to preemptively purchase land for a 'dam', before the 'investigation' was completed! Phew!
A recent staff report set out the facts in stark, practically pleading terms. The old WTP was failing so often as to present a health hazard (as the Hydrosphere report predicted) – let's just use the Rous connection we've already since completed? No, some in Mullumbimby must have some semblance of their own water supply. Another 9:4 [sic] vote opted to keep investigating a 'hybrid scheme' to see about the 'biggest little town' having duplicate infrastructure – cost: up to \$300,000 to find out about a new WTP with figures in debate ranging from \$9m to \$11m.
Does anyone think that in this economic climate, state, or federal money will stump up for a town that is already getting an ample water supply? Do we need to keep 'investigating' right now? Especially when advice is usually ignored if unpalatable?
Liz Levy
Suffolk Park

The con job
What will the sales pitch be to sell off new subdivisions within the Byron Shire? The beaches, tree-lined avenues? Close to Gold Coast airport?
The reality truly is decades of neglect to upgrade or maintain essential infrastructure. Threat of the highest rate base in Australia. Uninsurable property. Lack of necessary facilities such as shopping centres, schools, footpaths, no surgery in hospital, lack of public transportation. Collapsing
► Continued on page 15



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Calls for Council to pull out of 57 Station Street development

■ So, Cr Swain was embarrassed about a conversation that shouldn't be had in public. Well, shoot, councillor – as it concerns a topic which has created considerable community opposition, where should the discussion take place?

Why are ratepayers being treated like the feared and hated enemy? I'm heartened that Cr Dods thinks it's a reasonable project 'despite the hysterics'. There's a massive amount of concern about this DA and all I'm getting from these councillors is 'leave it with us, don't worry about a thing'. Straight out of the Bjelke-Petersen hymn book.

I have admiration for anybody who puts their hand up for a seat on Council, which is increased if they actually represent the community who put them there.

Neil Bryant
Myocum

■ What does it take? Councillors: be brave regarding 57 Station Street.

At Byron Shire Council's meeting Cr Lyon put a motion for Council to withdraw support from the 57 Station Street car park development application (DA).

Supported by three other

councillors, the motion was defeated by the mayoral casting vote.

But the kicker was that some councillors (including one who voted to push on with the DA) believe that this development won't be built as it will be unaffordable.

So why is the DA still 'live'? Why all the stress for everyone, especially surrounding businesses, for these past years?

Looks to be a case of councillors either not reading or not being made aware of key information, much of it unearthed by residents' persistence, and a series of missteps in the studies and in consultation, now acknowledged by councillors.

The DA documents and the DA process itself are a shambles. What started out as a moderate housing development idea on top of a public car park with 24-hour-accessible toilets was allowed to morph into a Landcom monster gobbling up every square metre of the people's car park. Ignoring significant impacts on local businesses, obvious traffic chaos, heritage items, giving away a land asset worth \$1.5m for \$1, and requiring ratepayers to fork out a few more million for

replacement car parks, accessible toilets, road crossings, etc... on it went.

The community spoke and spoke and spoke, but until Thursday, 17 September councillors were resolute; the DA must proceed. Even as community confidence in our Council evaporated. Now they are split.

Armed with masses of information evidencing the development was both inappropriate and problematic at that site, and given credible alternatives for better locations, many people agree with those councillors now pondering the wisdom of this choice of site.

But why has it taken so long? Perhaps some councillors desire to not rock the boat, some eye off higher office, some did not read or weren't given accurate information, some have belated concern about the poor community consultation and 'closed door' agreements and processes on this DA.

Have the courage of your convictions and withdraw support for this site in favour of the known better alternatives. Council owns the site. It's not realistic that the Northern Regional Planning Panel would approve the DA

without Council's support.

No shame in pulling out; courage is just that – doing something for good despite your fears, or mistakes.

Peter Ryan
Mullumbimby

■ The Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) asked a question at Byron Shire Council's (BSC) meeting on 17 September: 'Where are the studies that Landcom refers to, showing that 57 Station Street was the best site for Council's affordable housing over its car parks?'

Councillor Lyon took it on himself to answer the question but did not answer the question. He deflected to other things and then later that day moved an 'urgency motion' to shift the 57 Station Street project to another site.

The MRA has been asking for this for almost two years.

The question now is: 'Will Council still answer MRA's original question and produce the studies?'

If not, then read between the lines – there were no studies and 57 Station Street was a captain's pick, by then-mayor Cr Lyon.

In that case, thanks captain, for all the anguish and the five years wasted to

produce no housing. How many \$100,000s of staff and Landcom time has been wasted? Plus the public's time. An apology is overdue.

Duncan Dey
Ex-councillor, Main Arm

■ It is really disheartening to hear our mayor still promoting the fake news that the people opposing Council's plan to put a block of housing units on the town car park (57 Station Street) are home owners who don't understand the plight of those without a home.

Mullumbimby residents have been clear in all the public meetings, and in the petition (that over 2,400 of them signed), that they are absolutely in favour of more affordable housing being built in town. Which is one of the reasons they question it being built on the town car park, because it is by far the smallest of the many sites available to Council.

Council's own car park is more than double the size. If you are really serious about providing more homes, why aren't you using that site? Mayor Ndiaye has stated that the library may need to expand there – are you really suggesting that a library

expansion is more important than affordable housing?

The site north of Woollies is also more than double the size of the town car park, but Council has suggested that the car park be torn up and relocated there, at ratepayers' expense.

We are frustrated because we really can't see the logic. You have a small but fully-used car park and public toilet where you could build 28 housing units and a small boarding house (four rooms).

Just 200 metres away you have your own car park, which was on your original list of car parks proposed for this project, where you could build over 60 units without negatively affecting town businesses or traffic.

And 350 metres away you have access to state-owned land where you could also build a minimum of 60 housing units.

Yet you want to raze the public toilet and car park and relocate them further from the town centre (at public expense) and build the smaller number of housing units, at the same time as you are saying we are desperate for more affordable housing?

R Macmillan
Mullumbimby

See you at our Council Expo on 13 October Mullumbimby Civic Hall 3pm to 6pm

Councillors and staff will be at the Mullum Civic Hall to listen to your views about the proposed Special Rate Variation. Come along and have your say and learn about the services Council provides to the community.

From roads and bridges, to garbage collection, parks and sports fields, water and sewer, libraries, environment, planning and childcare...and that's just the start.

Other dates in the listening tour:

Tuesday 6 October, 5 to 7pm
Ocean Shores Community Centre

Thursday 8 October, 5 to 7pm
Marvell Hall Byron Bay

Tuesday 20 October, 5 to 7pm
Bangalow A&I Hall

Thursday 22 October, 5 to 7pm
Federal Hall

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► **Continued from page 11**
stormwater systems undermining roads you access to your home. Honestly there needs to be a warning sign.

My ongoing appeal to Council is to get Bayside Brunswick Heads stormwater system, that has been allowed to literally collapse, fixed. I've received no answer about when it may be fixed, which has turned out to be just the beginning of discovery that shire-wide there is disintegration of our most essential infrastructures.

Ignoring the fact that to follow legislation would prevent this disastrous, catastrophic situation. Leaving existing ratepayers high and dry – bled dry. Developers need a conscience. Council needs a conscience. How is this safety and health issue ever going to be addressed? Government departments send it back to Council and Council somehow gets to ignore it. On and on it goes whilst real estate agents sell it off to the next unsuspecting buyers. This has to stop, it's not our fault Council has passed subdivisions with existing substandard infrastructure.

Council has not maintained or upgraded essential infrastructure for decades. Council just ignores the ongoing failures but continues to pass more development when the underlying issues just won't improve but exacerbate the problem.

Asking existing residents to fund an infrastructure nightmare is not going to happen. We just don't have the money. To continue to suck more unsuspecting people into becoming part of this mess is unconscionable. Wrong on every level.

Annie Radermacher
Brunswick Heads

New dad 'turfed'

Mayor turfs new dad from job because of his caring responsibilities. So, we have a new deputy mayor of Byron Council. It's going to have little impact on most ratepayers' lives, but it is absolutely extraordinary that Mayor Ndiaye explicitly cited Councillor Dods taking parental leave to look after his newborns, as well as his ongoing caring responsibilities, as the reason to turf him from the job. We should be celebrating and supporting new dads that take on their fair share of parenting, not discriminating against them and sacking them.

In her own words, Councillor Dods was doing an 'excellent' job as the deputy, and he stated explicitly that

he was able to undertake all the required duties, while still being a dad.

Imagine if these comments were made about a new mum. If this were an employment situation, the mayor would be in front of Fair Work in a heartbeat. Maybe our new Deputy Mayor Elia Hauge wants to consider if this is really how she wanted to get the job.

Asren Pugh
Bangalow

We have fallen

The fundamental precepts of international law are reflected in the preamble to the UN Charter, which calls upon nations to practise tolerance and live together as good neighbours, to unite in maintaining peace and security, to refrain from threats and ensure that armed force shall not be used. The character of a democratic society is reflected in its elected representatives, those individuals who hold office to serve the people.

Our elected representatives have a responsibility to set an example of respectful and dignified conduct on the world stage. Yet in today's world, we see the elected leaders of Western nations, like Trump and Netanyahu, behaving in ways that betray the spirit and the letter of international law, with barely any opposition or condemnation from their colleagues or the masses that elect them.

We have fallen a long way short of the hopes and aspirations of the generation that survived the last great war and it looks like we're headed for another lesson in the cost of unbridled hubris and contempt for the other. Saddled as we are with hopelessly inadequate leadership in the West, let's hope their impending defeat will be swift, certain and complete.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Fuel prices

I have just driven the return trip to Sydney on the motorway in my diesel-fuelled Toyota. A few things to report to anyone who needs to make this trip during a fuel crisis.

The new bypass of Raymond Terrace includes a new bridge over the Hunter River and is a brilliant enhancement to the M1 Pacific Motorway. It completely cuts out the New England Highway section and takes you straight into the Sydney motorway that used to end at Beresford. No more turns,

roundabouts, traffic lights or speed limit changes. The distance and time savings means it's a 7.5-hour trip (in 2000 it took me 9 hours.)

The catch is you need to pay \$30 worth of tollways into Sydney CBD starting with Northconnex at \$10. Using Google Maps I set 'no tolls' and paid \$2 for the Harbour tunnel adding only 14 minutes to the trip.

My biggest cost saver was setting my speed to 98-100 km/h. This was a ten per cent reduction but saved over 20 per cent in fuel consumption. Using the NSW government's Fuel Check app I located diesel at \$2.75 in the Hunter, so by travelling more slowly and making my fuel take me further I effectively saved around 55 cents per litre – a \$70 saving for the return trip. It all added an hour to trip time. I was however surprised by how much I saved. For anyone who can afford to take a bit longer, this experiment in how you can reduce costs will hopefully assist. Once you go over 100 km/h your car becomes a fuel pig. More than you might imagine.

I once travelled to Sydney with my learner driver son behind the wheel and we made it with one tank of fuel – but I don't recommend crawling down the motorway at 80 km/h. Truly painful albeit another good insight to how much you can save by simply slowing down.

Catherine Cusack
Lennox Head

Lyon responds

With respect to the letter from Julia Allen last week, in relation to short-term letting, I can assure your readers that I did not call anyone an ignorant shit, and am hoping *The Echo* corrects the record here.

Having reviewed the post, I can confirm that the arguments being made against capping holiday letting were 'typical ignorant shit' from self-interested advocates wanting to convert residential housing into commercial accommodation at the expense of housing opportunities for locals. I always try to play the ball, and not the man/woman, when it comes to political argument.

The same is true of 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Our current mayor accused me in the debate last week of calling its opponents 'ridiculous'. I have never done that, and it wasn't me who asked a room full of people to put their hands up if they owned their own house, implying that they were all privileged.

Many of the concerns around 57 Station Street are valid and have not been addressed by the development application. Landcom seem to have forgotten who owns the land and Council should not have been shut out of the process.

Cr Michael Lyon
The Pocket

■ **Correction:** Cr Lyon has contacted *The Echo* regarding Julia Allen's letter last week, saying that what he wrote 'clearly indicates I was talking about her points, not calling her an ignorant shit' when he replied to her Facebook post with, '...whatever, typical ignorant shit. Can't manage potholes, Jesus.'

Misunderstood?

■ In reply to Cr Lyon, who said his comment was misunderstood, Ms Allen has responded:

I'm happy for the screenshot to speak for itself.

More importantly, the reason I raised the issue three years ago was my concern about how a cap on holiday letting would actually be monitored and enforced.

The 60-day cap has now been in operation for two years, yet I am still asking the

same basic question: how is compliance being monitored, and what enforcement action has actually been taken against properties exceeding the limit?

Rather than debating a Facebook comment from three years ago, I would much rather see Council provide residents with clear figures showing how many properties have been investigated, how many breaches have been identified and what action has been taken.

That was my concern then, and it remains my concern today.

Julia Allen
Byron Bay

Law vs 'True Lore'

In reply to your comments at the end of my letter (*Echo* 16 September) I will repeat the words of my father: 'The law is an ass.'

The Native Title Act does not sit comfortably over the True Lore of Country.

While certain groups have been formally recognised as Native Title Holders, other clan groups in the area of the caldera surrounding Wollumbin also hold rights, interests and responsibilities as traditional custodians. It is important that they are also included in consultation and decision making.

In the case of Wallum it is clearly ludicrous that decisions are made by justices who have never set foot on the place they are judging on. This is clearly absurd.

As I said last week, if we are to come to a place of listening to Country; to people who belong to Country, we need to allow for these words to have meaning.

The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

This may take some further time, patience and humility to sort out.

To come together, sit on the ground and listen to each other.

So help me God.

'Truth is supreme and nothing in the universe is more important than truth' – Shri Mahavatar Babaji.

Josephine Beams
Byron Bay

Plug in, pay up?

If you drive a 15-year-old ute, or don't drive at all, would you expect to pay for public electric vehicle (EV) chargers?

The Australian Energy Market Commission has given preliminary backing to a plan that would let electricity network providers build public EV charging infrastructure and spread the

► **Continued on page 16**

BAR HEATHER BLUE ARROW COFFEE
LIGHT YEARS RESTAURANT PIXIE ITALIAN
STRONG PILATES HERTZ CAR RENTAL
NAGNATA DEIJI STUDIOS
BASSIKE VENROY



JONSONLANE.COM.AU

Wildlife hospitals need help to prepare for bird flu



Wildlife veterinarian Dr Chantal Whitten, Greens candidate for Ballina Mandy Nolan, and wildlife rescuer and carer Deb Pearse. Photo supplied

H5 avian influenza is already present in NSW and has been detected as far north as the Coffs Harbour region. The number of dead birds is increasing with 55 reported dead in NSW.

Mandy Nolan, Greens candidate for Ballina, met with wildlife veterinarian Dr Chantal Whitten at Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital to learn about the potential impact of H5 avian influenza (also known as H5N1 or pathogenic avian influenza) on our native wildlife – and the preparations needed for when the virus reaches the region.

‘What I heard today is that our wildlife hospitals are taking this threat seriously and doing everything they can to prepare – but

preparation costs money and it’s just not there,’ said Ms Nolan.

‘Our wildlife hospitals and wildlife carers need to be funded now to scale up, so we are H5 ready, not scrambling to meet the need when the virus hits. The wellbeing of our wildlife and their carers is dependent on being properly resourced. The NSW Labor government needs to step up.’

Chantal Whitten, wildlife veterinarian, Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital, said ‘I am actually dreading the arrival of H5 into the area.

Dr Stephen Van Mil, CEO, Byron Wildlife Hospital said ‘Wildlife Recovery Australia has been very frustrated by responses from government.’

Lavertys Gap water supply assessment to go ahead

Aslan Shand

Byron Shire councillors Janet Swain (Labor) and Jack Dods (independent) brought a motion ‘to stop a further report on Mullumbimby’s Lavertys Gap water supply, to cease all further work on the Mullumbimby water supply from Lavertys Gap, and shut down the treatment plant,’ to the last Council meeting on Thursday, 17 September.

Swain made it clear that she feels the project is a waste of money and that Byron Shire Council (BSC) should move away from the risk of ‘running our own aging plant’.

Though she argued that ‘every dollar of that [spent on the report] is a dollar we didn’t spend on roads, on services, on the things the community actually is asking for’ it was later pointed out that the money for the study is coming from the water fund and therefore could not be spent on roads and potholes regardless of the whether the report was commissioned or not.

Cr Elia Hauge (Greens), who is also a hydrologist by training, responded

explaining ‘economic value’ and telling the councillors that in previous studies ‘Council used a climate change projection that said there would be one degree of global warming in 2030, and that global warming was happening in a linear fashion. Neither of those things are true. We have already blown plus one degree of climate change, and it is definitely happening in linear fashion.’

Cr Hauge said that Council did not have the information to make a ‘yes or no’ decision at this point and that this report would supply that.

Crs Michael Lyon (independent) and Dods both supported Swain saying that the water supply from Rocky Creek Dam via Ruos County Council (RCC) was reliable, tasted good, and was the best economic decision considering the limited funds available to Council.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) clarified that the RCC would be increasing water charges by seven per cent year-on-year for the next five years and that would also impact people’s rates and that they didn’t

have enough future water available. She also pointed out that waste infrastructure had been woefully underfunded in NSW and that by going ahead with the report Council would be in a position to seek grants when future government investment come online.

Cr Michelle Lowe (Greens) highlighted that ‘the scientific climate predictions are dire, and Australia is one of the worst countries to live in, and our area is one of the worst areas to live in. This is the science. This is the ICCP reports.’

She also pointed out the significant impacts of the Dunoon Dam proposal on the Widjabul Wia-bal people’s sacred lands, and on wildlife, if it went ahead.

Nonetheless Cr Dods said ‘the Dunoon Dam will probably happen because of the demands on the water supply from growth in other parts of the RCC network’.

Independent Cr David Warth weighed in saying, ‘I’m seeing a real lack of long-term vision here... when we’re talking about finances, over 100 years, if you amortize the cost of maybe \$12 million or something like

that, you’ll start to find that this is an absolute bargain that Mullumbimby would be getting the beautiful water, fully reticulated, no pumping, going into at least 100 years.’

‘When I ran for Council, one of the biggest priorities was Lavertys Gap. We want a water supply. We want to keep our water supply. So I went in to bat for that.

‘Whereas with RCC it [water] is going to get more and more expensive. And you’re talking about rates that will reflect that. Whereas once you’ve got your own water treatment plant, the cost will start coming down.’

The motion was lost with councillors Hauge, Kay, Ndiaye, Lowe and Warth against, and Swain, Lyon and Dods in favour.

Cr Ndiaye then moved the staff motion to go ahead with the ‘strategic planning assessment of water supply options for Mullumbimby,’ this will cost a minimum of \$322,000.

This was won with councillors Hauge, Kay, Ndiaye, Lowe and Warth in favour and Swain, Lyon and Dods against.

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BECOME A MEMBER!

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

annual Shop Local campaign before Christmas.

The Chamber also supports Brunswick Valley Historical Society, Mullumbimby Community Gardens, GateWay Landcare, Spaghetti Circus and many other community organisations.

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

An initiative of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce

www.mullumbimby.org.au



► Continued from page 15 cost across every electricity customer. That includes households who don’t own an electric vehicle and may never do so.

Faster charger rollouts and lower emissions are very worthy goals, and in regional areas like ours we stand to benefit. But how we pay matters. Electricity network charges already make up a big part of our bills, and this proposal would add to them. Pensioners, renters, and families already feeling the cost-of-living squeeze could end up helping to fund a service that’s mostly used by those who can afford an EV.

The commission believes the benefits outweigh the costs. It’s also worth asking who benefits most. Networks are monopolies with guaranteed returns, so they build, ratepayers foot the bill, and the risk lands on us.

There’s a simple, fairer way forward: let the people using the chargers pay for them. If the wider community is asked to contribute, let’s cap it and publish it, and show it as its own line on our bills so we can see exactly what we’re funding.

Consultation is open until 5 November 2026, with the decision by the end of the

year. I encourage every reader to make a submission. If we’re all being asked to pay, we should all have a say.

Dr Anne Stuart
Zero Emissions Byron

End of the world

Trump’s recent statement that he may invade Iran and capture the oil raises the distinct possibility, that the Strait of Hormuz may remain closed for another year or two: everything is at stake here.

Our civilization is completely dependent upon diesel fuel. In the wars with Russia and Iran, pipelines and refineries are being targeted; strategic reserves have been largely depleted.

Commercial food production and transport require diesel fuel, if we don’t have enough of it then our cities won’t have enough food.

If our cities don’t have enough food, what do you expect? First one would see rioting, eventually their could be a complete loss or law and order, even a massive out-migration.

There needs to be a committee set up immediately, to solve the following problem: ‘how to produce and transport large quantities of fresh food in Australia, without

using diesel fuel’. Electric prime movers, designed to tow semi-trailers, are now being sold in Australia, but large farm tractors still require diesel. Every politician should be demanding the immediate, fast-tracked construction of fuel refineries in Australia: failure to do so could result in Australia becoming a failed state.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

Boycott bloody insurance

Those of us who strive for a just and peaceful world are shocked to learn that insurance companies like Allianz and Zurich are complicit in supporting Israel’s genocide and back weapons companies like Lockheed Martin, BAe, Raytheon and Elbit. New Internationalist’s Boycott Bloody Insurance campaign identifies \$1.7 billion of investments in military equipment used by Israel.

‘Insurance giants claim to protect communities, but they’re funnelling our money into war, exploitation, and violence,’ says Monika Nielsen, lead researcher at Boycott Bloody Insurance.

Gareth W R Smith
Byron Bay

Coming out of retirement to have a crack at fourth world title

Eve Jeffery

Local wingsuit athlete Chris Geiler is coming out of a post-three-World-Championship retirement to compete at the 2026 World Championships in the US in two weeks.

Geiler, who won the title in 2016, 2020 and 2022, still has several world records under a belt that hangs quietly in New Brighton. ‘I retired after the 2022 Worlds, as my second son Ari was due and I wanted to focus on being more present for my boys. I stopped BASE jumping just before my first son Odin was born.

‘Also, without financial support from somewhere, I find it very hard to keep competing. It costs me over \$300 for every day I want to train in the sky, around six jumps per day. I would normally want to do a minimum of 200 training jumps per year to remain competitive.’

Geiler says that in the gym he’s doing a lot of fairly specific training that works on functional strength for his chest, shoulders, back and core. ‘It’s been a huge help to work with Social Remedy this year to train more in the gym to minimise the deficit of not being able to train much in the sky due to work and family life. Other gym members have probably seen me doing things in a slightly different way to normal or some multi-line exercises that help with the full body strength requirements of wingsuiting.’

Retired in 2022

‘After winning the World Championships in 2022 I retired from competition. This year I’ve decided to make a comeback and have qualified to compete at the 2026 FAI World Wingsuit Flying Championships held at Lake Elsinore, California. I leave Australia on 2 October and the competition begins on ‘October 8. I’ll be in the States for two weeks and we’ll do nine jumps in that time and will have some extra time allocated for weather.’

Geiler had been competing in wingsuit performance for over ten years. Driven by hard work, sacrifice and passion, he welcomes the pressure of competition, embracing the feeling of knowing that everything counts on nailing the next jump. Back on home soil after a long stint in the US, he is looking forward to repping the green and gold at this year’s event.

‘The journey back has been quite different this time around. Since moving back to Australia, I’m now balancing training with a full-time role in sports development for Skydiving Australia, family life with two young kids, and the financial challenges of preparing for a World Championships while maintaining normal work and family commitments. And I had to qualify by competing at Australian Nationals.’

Why come out of retirement?

It was a big decision to come out of retirement.

‘With Ari getting a bit older I wanted him to have the memory of me doing something cool. Odin has already been on podiums with me but this year has been the first time that Ari has seen me doing cool stuff.

‘I was also Wingsuiting in the Pacific Airshow this year, that was the first time he got to see me like that.’

Teammates and friends Jason Dodunski and Luke Rogers are the other two competitors representing Australia. ‘I coached both of them after retiring. We’re all good mates and the Australian team should definitely win the combined team event. Luke won Worlds after I retired and Jason is in prime condition at the moment, he won the last Australian Nationals.

‘Our aim is to secure all three podium spots.’



Chris Geiler’s new wingsuit – ready for the World Championships. Photo Tree Faerie

Broken Head surfer Leihani Zoric ISA U18 World Junior Champ

Paul Bibby

Most 13-year-olds would be happy just to make an under-18 world final. Two weeks ago Broken Head surfer Leihani Zoric took out the whole thing.

Zoric has become the youngest-ever ISA Under-18 World Junior Champion after winning gold at the World Junior Surfing Championships in El Salvador, despite competing three age divisions above her own.

She saved some of her best surfing for the final at La Bocana, posting the highest heat total of the entire girls’ under-18 division with a score of 16.00.

‘I’m only 13 and I wouldn’t have ever dreamt of winning an ISA in under-18s at this age,’ Zoric said after the event.

The victory also made her the first Indigenous Australian surfer to win a world title at any level.

Zoric, who proudly represents her Yued heritage,

said she was grateful for the chance to represent both her culture and her country.

‘I’m really proud to have represented my Yued mob over in Western Australia,’ she told the ABC.

Her connection with the ocean began early. According to the ABC, Zoric was put on a surfboard at Broken Head by her father when she was just two days old.

The world title caps an extraordinary year for the young surfer, who also won the Junior Girls and Open Women’s divisions at the 2026 Indigenous Surfing Titles.

Zoric was one of three Australians to win individual gold in El Salvador, helping the Irukandjis claim a third consecutive team title and Australia’s 10th ISA World Junior team championship overall.

She now joins a formidable list of Australian women to have won ISA junior world titles, including Stephanie Gilmore, Tyler Wright and Sally Fitzgibbons.



A fairytale end of year for Northern Rivers FC U14 girls

In an absolute fairytale ending to an unbelievable season, the Northern Rivers Football Club U14 girls team was put in a higher age group as a development opportunity, and they ended up not only winning the Premiership (against U15 teams in a Queensland comp) but they also won the grand final and were awarded Junior Team of the Year by Football Queensland.

The team went toe-to-toe with Kingscliff Wolves Football Club in the grand final, taking it all the way to a high-drama penalty shootout after a 0-0 thriller at full time.

The girls kept their cool under maximum pressure to seal a 6 to 4 win on penalties.

With this win, the squad officially completes the clean sweep: Minor Premiers, Juniors Team of the Year and Major Premiers.

Congratulations go to the stellar Charlotte Ashdown for taking out Player of the Match with a relentless, giant-killing performance, and to every single player and coach in the side.

Undefeated heart, zero fear, and three trophies to show for it. History made, girls!

We can’t wait to see what next year brings.

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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
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BYRON BAY

ROCA BYRON BAY

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Open: every day except Wednesday 6.30am to late

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Open: Wednesday to Sunday

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Dinner 5.30pm–8.30pm

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Contact: 0493 565 508
[@bayside_yakiniku_club](https://www.instagram.com/bayside_yakiniku_club)

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



www.echo.net.au/good-taste



The Good Life

Discover Nonnie's: wine, deli and a little something different

Tucked into the heart of Mullumbimby, Nonnie's Wine Store is not your typical bottle shop. It's a place for people who love good wine, good food and discovering something a little different.

Founded by locals Arnhem Bickley and Ryan Bettles, Nonnie's was created with a simple idea: to bring together great wines from small, independent producers alongside the things you want to eat and share with them.

Wine is at the heart of Nonnie's, with a strong focus on natural, organic and biodynamic producers. You'll find wild fermented, minimal intervention, unfiltered and unfiltered wines, including plenty of wines with little or no added sulphur. The focus is on wines made with care, character and a real sense of place, often from small producers who are farming thoughtfully and doing things their own way.



But Nonnie's is much more than wine.

The store also has a carefully selected deli range, with European and Australian cheeses, dried meats, chips, chocolates, preserves and all the little bits and pieces that make putting together a great platter easy. There's an extensive collection of mezcal and tequila, along



with whisky, craft beer and plenty of other interesting finds.

Supporting small producers, independent makers and local businesses is a big part of what Nonnie's is about. You won't find a

store dominated by the big corporate brands. Instead, the shelves are filled with bottles and products the team genuinely love and believe are worth sharing.

And while natural wine is a big passion, you certainly

don't need to be a natural wine expert to walk through the door. Whether you're looking for an easy drinking bottle for dinner, something chilled and juicy for the weekend, a special bottle to celebrate, or a \$300 bottle for a very special occasion, there's something here for everyone. Wines start from around \$25, making the store accessible whether

you're discovering natural wine for the first time or adding something serious to your collection.

The team are always happy to have a chat, make recommendations and help you find something that suits your taste and your budget, without the wine snobbery.

Nonnie's is about drinking differently, supporting the people who make things with passion and bringing good wine and good food back to the centre of the table.

So next time you're in Mullumbimby, drop in, have a look around and discover something you didn't know you were looking for.

■ Nonnies Wine Store
78 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby. Open Monday-Tuesday: 10am to 7pm, Wednesday-Saturday: 10am to 8pm, Sunday 12pm to 6pm. nonnieswinestore.com

Made for a good time: Light Years

Whether you're pulling up to the terrazzo bar for a quick drink or settling in for a full-scale feast, Light Years is ready for both. Located within Byron Bay's Jonson Lane, the 95-seat modern Asian diner has room for the whole crew, complete with an intimate private dining space and a handful of bar seats for those last-minute dinner plans.

Any intention of ordering 'just a few things' tends to unravel as soon as the menu lands, starting with the bao buns. Choose from spicy Korean fried chicken, chilli caramel pork belly, panko-crumbed fish, and eggplant katsu, or order a few for the table and avoid choosing altogether. Save the big decisions for the

larger plates. The crispy masterstock pork belly with charred pineapple, and the turmeric and coconut curry with market fish are hard to go past; ordering a pickled papaya salad on the side is a must. You'll be tempted to try one of everything. If you'd rather leave it to the pros, hand the reins to the chefs with the Feed Me menu. And for whatever you miss, consider the rest an excellent reason to come back.

Punchy cocktails and a well-travelled wine list are built to keep pace with the bold, salty, spicy, and sweet flavours coming out of the kitchen. The Margarita lineup: coconut, spicy, or on the rocks. And the Netflix & Chill with spiced Bacardi, macadamia, passionfruit,

lemon, and a foam finish is a local favourite.

There's a seat for sun-soaked lunches, dinner under the laneway's fairy lights, and spontaneous drinks with plenty of indoor and outdoor tables. For birthdays, celebrations, or long-overdue catch-ups, the tucked-away ten-seat private dining room keeps things intimate while staying close to the buzz.

Regulars will know the Jonson Lane location as Light Years' second chapter in Byron. The interiors



mark a departure from the lush, tropical look synonymous with their first venue; in its place is a more grown-up palette of warm textures, earthy tones,

and sunbaked clay hues. True to Light Years' signature sense of fun, it's made for a good time.



■ Book at lightyearsasiandiner.com.au

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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Activities in the Byron Shire

Whether you are local or a visitor, school holidays are the perfect time to slow down, get outside and discover exciting places on our own doorstep, places close to home.

In the Byron Shire, families are spoilt for choice, with beaches, swimming pools, walking and cycling trails, playgrounds, skateparks, markets and plenty of opportunities to explore the region's creative side.

For those who love a walk, there are trails to suit different ages and abilities, from the spectacular surrounds of Cape Byron Lighthouse to Minyon Falls, Killeen Falls, Arakwal National Park and the trails around Googengerry National Park. For families who prefer two wheels, the Northern Rivers Rail Trail and local bike paths provide another way to get outdoors and see the landscape. The Byron Shire Council website has a listing of all the local cycle tracks.

Naturally, there is always the beach. Byron Shire's coastline offers plenty of opportunities for safe swimming, paddling and playing in the sand, while the public pools in Byron Bay and Mullumbimby provide another option for cooling off and enjoying a family swim.

Younger children can burn off some energy at the region's many playgrounds, while older kids can grab their boards and head to skateparks in Byron Bay, Suffolk Park, Brunswick Heads, Bangalow, Mullumbimby, Lennox Head and Ballina.

The holidays are also a great time to discover the Northern Rivers' local creativity and community spirit. Weekend markets are a wonderful way to experience local colours, flavours and talent, with farmers and artisan markets held throughout the region. Check the *Echo* Market Guide at echo.net.au/market-guide for what's happening.

For something a little different, explore the region's self-guided art trails, including the Mullumbimby Sculpture Walk, enrol the kids in a circus workshop, or what about a family hot air balloon ride? The surrounding shires have offerings too. Lismore is hosting the Richmond RiverFest which has some great activities for kids.

Whether the plan is an energetic day outdoors, a lazy afternoon by the water, a wander through a market or a dose of local art and culture, the Byron Shire offers plenty of ways to make the school holidays a memory-making experience.

BEYOND BYRON E BIKES

Looking for your next adventure?

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

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

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

Easy online booking at
www.beyondbyronebikes.com.au.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ON THE RIVER

Spend the spring school holidays on the river. Richmond RiverFest runs until Saturday, 24 October, with events across the Richmond catchment.

Bring the kids to the Rainforest to Rivers tree-planting at South Lismore Duckpond on Saturday, 3 October from 9am to 12pm. The holes are dug and the trees laid out, so all you need to do is plant.

Or join the Richmond Catchment BioBlitz: download the free iNaturalist app, visit your local creek or riverbank, and log the plants, animals and fungi you find.

Program: richmondriverfest.com

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Fest
2026**

**27 SEP
-24 OCT**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
ON THE RIVER**

Plant a tree, find a water bug, meet your river.

- **Sat 3 Oct** Duckpond Planting, South Lismore, 9am-12pm
- **Sat 3 Oct** Bugs and BRUV water bug workshop, Nimbin
- **All month** Catchment BioBlitz on the free iNaturalist app

On the unceded lands and waters of the Bundjalung and Githabul Nations. Supported by the Australian Government and North Coast Regional Landcare Network through the Caring for Catchments project.



richmondriverfest.com



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BALLOON ALOFT

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Happy holidays - spring has sprung and balloons are rising with the sun!

Come aboard a friendly flight with balloon aloft these school holidays and enjoy the Northern Rivers scenery at its best!

Every flight includes a beautiful breakfast at Three Blue Ducks, The Farm.

Book online at www.balloonaloft.com

CIRCUS THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Mullumbimby Showground turns into a circus playground these October school holidays, and Spaghetti Circus wants your kids in on it. More than 100 kids take part each holidays.

Holiday Workshops run Tuesday 6, Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8, October. Come for one day, two, or all three.

Kids aged 4-6 do half-days (9.30am-12.30pm, \$55), while 7-14 year olds go full-day (9.30am-3.30pm, \$85). Three-day passes and early drop-off from 8.30am are available.

Skills on offer include tightrope, trapeze, tissu, German wheel, big tramp, acro balance, juggling and hula hoops - taught by the same coaches who run Spaghetti's term program.

Active and Creative Kids vouchers are accepted, reducing the cost by \$50 per child.

Bookings and full details at spaghetticircus.com

BETTER BY BIKE

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

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

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SUNDAY
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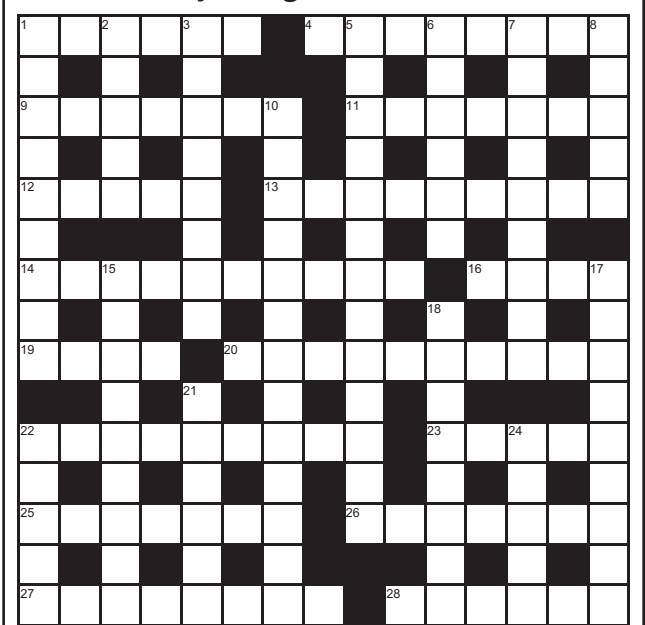
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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. My life as a dog (6)

4. Strong man sick in the guts, pains all over (8)

9. Worker and war god at the heart of the scorpion! (7)

11. 9 across, perhaps, or a sick Cate Blanchett – bad luck! (3,4)

12. Smashes statues (5)

13. It's final; in debt about a thousand to the territory, get a source of income (9)

14. So: after stove dish for a Nile lily? (10)

16. Perform, or entrance (4)

19. Silly drug (4)

20. Painful withdrawal from freezing country (4,6)

22. Rest disturbed, vomit in side the victim's bed (9)

23. Fib, for example, taken back to lord (5)

25. Ease the load – we hear fib number 10! (7)

26. This bit of machinery sounds like vermin droppings (7)

27. Try out the container – it may set a precedent (4,4)

28. Crazy earl grabs holy books and gets a horn! (6)

DOWN

1. Prominent directors right for a ship (9)

2. Reportedly mean as an emperor (5)

3. Cretans take turn to reconstruct another ancient culture (8)

5. Dim lurch erred, sinfully: infanticide! (5,8)

6. Bewitched swain embraces first love; these are the result! (2-4)

7. French article and English article operate successfully; turned product (9)

8. Support show off (5)

10. Confectionery contains zilch; that's what you whisper to your loved one (5,8)

15. Snake, a Demerara-back in the long thick grass (9)

17. Merry Seth, crazy poet (9)

18. In the centre, I report back to the magazine, regrettable defunct (8)

21. Still radio interference (6)

22. Divided city (5)

24. Merman calls for alcohol (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Breed of dog, Irish or Red (6)

4. Great Greek warrior at siege of Troy (8)

9. Red supergiant star, Alpha Scorpius (7)

11. To be born under this is bad luck (3,4)

12. Smashes, destroys (5)

13. Official gift of money (9)

14. Flowering perennial, Lily of the Nile (10)

16. Entrance, or barrier to it (4)

19. Stupid person (4)

20. Withdrawal from addiction by immediate total abstinence (4,6)

22. Temporary bed used by paramedics for accident victims (9)

23. Feudal lord (5)

25. Make less heavy (7)

26. Mechanism consisting of toothed bar or wheel with pawl (7)

27. Legal hearing designed to set a precedent (4,4)

28. Soft horn of a deer (6)

DOWN

1. Right side of boat, opposite to port (9)

2. ... *Andronicus*, play by Shakespeare (5)

3. Member of a central Italian tribe overwhelmed by the Romans (8)

5. One who commits infanticide (5,8)

6. Relations by marriage (2-4)

7. Product of a turning machine (9)

8. Arrogant walk (5)

10. What a lover might whisper (5,8)

15. Type of spring grass, eaten as a delicacy (9)

17. Disparaging term for poet (9)

18. New report; defunct Australian weekly (8)

21. Stationary, unmoving (6)

22. Tear, rent, division (5)

24. Woman's name; Barrymore or Merman (5)

Last week's solution #27

S	P	E	E	C	H	L	E	S	S	J	A	C	K			
A	T	U	X	U	A	O										
E	S	C	A	R	G	O	T	P	U	N	I	S	H			
S				E	R	E	I	T								
B	E	G	G	A	R	E	U	R	A	S	I	A	N			
R							M	H	J	R						
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Y				U	N			R	P	D						
				C	O	L	D	S	H	O	U	L	D	E	R	
				C	H	E	U		I	F						
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■ Crossword circa 2009

The Joy of Boredom

Are we at risk of losing our ability to experience boredom? Will boredom soon be extinct? There's just so much content floating around. So many platforms. So many issues. So many things to go to. So many people to text back.

TV used to be boring. If you were hooked on a show, you had to wait until next week to see the next ep. Now you can binge an entire season overnight. There's so much instant gratification. So little waiting. So much expectation that we get what we want when we want it, and whole algorithms are busy monitoring us to tell us what we want and how to get it.

How do we stop? How do we just unplug and deprogram? Stop the yelling and the outrage. Stop scrolling. Window shopping the lives of people we barely know? How do we sit with discomfort? I forgot my phone last week, and sat in a public space on my own without looking at my phone. I was surprised how awkward I felt. How I had to tell myself to look around. Relax. Just be in my own company without distraction. I realised how strange it feels to just be. I felt self-conscious. Then agitated. Then bored. I realised I hadn't been bored in a long time.

Boredom is nostalgic for me. It reminds me of being a child. Of being at my grandmother's house listening to her clock. The one that shook the house with every tick or tock. Every second reverberated – so you knew how long you'd been there. How long you'd have to wait to go home.

I remember the length of a country town Sunday. That was when the shops were shut. Nothing was open. Maybe the newsagency for a few hours to sell the morning paper but that was it. No cafes. No shops. Nothing. You'd go to church. Well, our family did. At least something was happening. I used to think of it as a one-man-show. Needed a bit of work. As a kid we were regulars. I knew all the words to the hymns. I can't imagine my kids tolerating sitting in a scratchy new dress on a hard wood pew, cut narrow



How do we stop? How do we just unplug and deprogram? Stop the yelling and the outrage. Stop scrolling. Window shopping the lives of people we barely know? How do we sit with discomfort?

to avoid comfort. It was eye wateringly boring. We'd stand after church and my mother would talk to everyone. And I'd just wait. It went on forever. We were always the last to leave. Home to my boring Sunday. Chores. Homework. Sitting on the back steps. Lying on a towel in the sun. Weaving long grass into bracelets. Just waiting for Sunday to end. Sunday went for a week. I miss those long, long Sundays.

Boredom always made time feel stretched out. Now it feels compressed. Smashed to smithereens. Sundays go for ten minutes. Mondays go for five.

Are we losing the ability to just turn off? Not meditate. Be uncomfortable. Sit with it. Endure. Collapse. Sulk. Withdraw. Nap. Feel sad. Feel lost. Cry. Think of something weird. Make up your own crazy biscuit recipe. Paint a wall. Plant a garden. Do something you

would only do because the boredom had set upon you?

I notice children sitting in prams clutch iPads watching *Bluey*, for fear they might become discontent and scream. This may keep a child quiet on a trip to Kmart or a coffee catch up, but touchscreens are known to trigger intense dopamine spikes. The pathway to addiction, behavioural tantrums and delayed social development. Maybe experiencing boredom isn't so bad after all. Be brave. Be bored. It won't kill you. It will just feel like it might.

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

STARS BY LILITH

While Mercury moves into the sign of saying less, late week chatty moon wants to talk about feelings. Sun in Libra helps find an elegant balance...

LIBRA THE SCALES

ARIES: Aries is the zodiac's number one sign, but during October twosomes rule, helping your independent nature to find a more workable balance in partnerships. And right on cue Saturn retrograde in Aries serves up a reality check on other imbalances, like where you might be under- or over-extending yourself.

TAURUS: For the past seven years Uranus provided the shakeups necessary for your evolution, so now if you feel pulled between clinging to what's familiar and stepping into new territory, experiment with different approaches. Taurus rules the throat and the lesson of Uranus is that all voices are important, including yours.

GEMINI: October's complex celestial scenario, with its shifting oppositions and unpredictable flare-ups between Mercury, Venus, Mars and Pluto needs delicate handling. Be wary of oversharing confidential information. Not every thought needs to go public, so remember to pause before venting and check before pressing send.

CANCER: As energetic Mars finally leaves its long visit to your sign, the upcoming weekend's moon in Cancer shines on the ideal time to take a break from recent busyness and soothe your senses with nurturing creature comforts, pottering around the home zone, chilling with nearest and dearest.

LEO: With Mars and Jupiter in your royal corner all October, your majesty's ready to roar! And as flamboyant Mars charges into your sign for the first time in two years, too much is just enough – although it's worth observing that sometimes the quietest presence in the room makes the biggest impact.

VIRGO: Virgos are the zodiac's premier preppers, so you'll want to plan ahead of your mentor planet Mercury spinning retrograde in late October by getting everything up to date and in order beforehand. And perhaps asking yourself: What am I ready to release, and what do I want to welcome in?

LIBRA: With your prima planet Venus in Scorpio, themes of give and take come into focus, as in who's doing what, who's giving more and who's keeping score. This week's star-map suggests taking a look at where the balance of your exchanges with others may benefit from a tweak or reframe.

SCORPIO: This week's celestial energetics in the sign of twosomes favours teaming up, whether on a business venture, pooling funds or combining lives. And because Scorpio rules transformation, take care to direct that laser focus intentionally, because with Venus in your sign your manifesting ability will be supercharged.

SAGITTARIUS: With October's conflicting Mars/Pluto energetics, your greatest strength, and biggest challenge, will be staying calm and not being drawn into reacting. So read the mood of the room and don't waste energy on what you can't control. Lean into this week's gift of grace and diplomacy in tricky conversations.

CAPRICORN: As this week continues its spring cleaning of old identities from the Pluto in Capricorn era, relationships come under scrutiny. Your planet ruler Saturn suggests reflecting on what you do, and don't, want in partnerships. Whether the roles you and others play still feel supportive, and what might need adjusting.

AQUARIUS: For five months Pluto's deep recalibration in your sign pushed you to examine the systems, networks and alliances in your life most in need of an overhaul. Now Libra season offers Aquarians the ideal astral climate for strengthening community ties and multiplying effectiveness by linking with allies.

PISCES: As the zodiac's season of balance issues its annual invitation to spread your Piscean brand of joy far and wide, call someone, send a thoughtful text, share a song, poem, smile or warm hello to strangers, because these acts of kindness are a spiritual service which uplift the giver as much as the recipients.



The Shed is calling!

Since 2015, Cunning Stunts has donated more than \$460,352 to 42 local charities, continuing its long-standing ethos as a true 'party with a conscience'.

With a string of hugely successful Ministry of Sound mix compilations, more than a million CD sales, and a national Saturday night radio show behind him, Goodwill knows exactly how to move a room. 'We cannot wait to welcome him to The Shed!' say Cunning Stunts.

Nudge favourite Snow Monkey has loved house music since he was a cub. After building his vinyl collection in England and playing London gigs including Ministry of Sound, he moved to Australia, where his career took off from Canberra to Sydney and Byron Bay.

Making her Shed debut, Northern Rivers DJ, singer, songwriter, and producer **Lila Swain** brings fresh local energy to the line-up along with Cunning Stunts' resident **DJ Lord Sut** who knows every curve of this dancefloor. As co-founder and resident from the beginning, he knows when to tease it, when to stretch it out and when to let The Shed fly. His genre-roaming sets create the musical thread that makes a Nudge night unmistakable.

Brunswick Picture House bring their signature 'Surprises and Delights' to the evening, adding colour, theatrical flair, playfulness and unexpected joy. Delights await.

Proceeds from the event will support **The Returning**, an Aboriginal and women-led charity founded by Ella Noah Bancroft on Bundjalung Country in the Northern Rivers.

This event is expected to sell out. If so, you can still support The Returning by making a donation via bit.ly/Tickets Nudge Oct3.

Saturday from 4pm at The Shed behind the The Billinudgel Hotel.

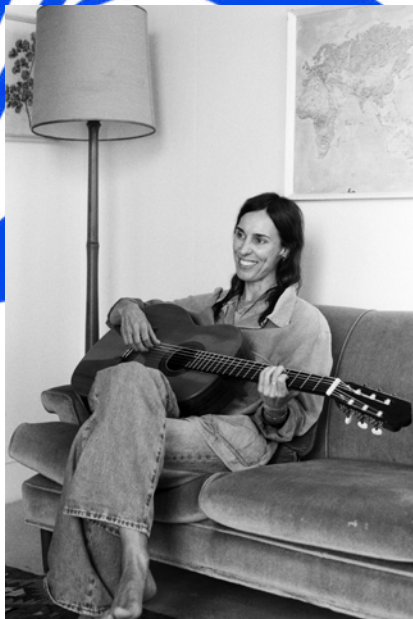
Missed out? Check Tixel for the only safe resale options – no scalpers here!

**The next event will be on Saturday, 7 November.
For updates subscribe at www.cunningstunts.com.au/subscribe.**

  @thenorthernbyronbay

THUR 1 OCT	Hayley Grace 6pm DJ Quendo 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
FRI 2 OCT	Kane Muir Trio 7pm DJ Oren Selecta Duelling Piano Bar 8pm DZ Deathrays 7.30pm
SAT 3 OCT	Bulletproof 7pm Donny Shades 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm Almost Famous 8pm
SUN 4 OCT	Dizzy J 4pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
MON 5 OCT	Lachy Dwyer 6pm DJ Renee Simone 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
TUES 6 OCT	Marshall Okell 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
WED 7 OCT	Felectiy Lawless 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm





A fox with very bad relationship advice

A talking fox, a magic hole. and some spectacularly bad relationship advice launch the 20th **Byron Bay International Film Festival** this **October**.

The Fox, winner of the Sydney Film Festival Audience Award for Best Australian Feature, stars Jai Courtney and Emily Browning, with Olivia Colman voicing the decidedly untrustworthy Fox, and the late Sam Neill as a magpie. Director Dario Russo says foxes are a big problem in the Adelaide Hills, where he's from. 'They keep offering people terrible relationship advice and for some reason people continue to listen to them. So honestly, the story is mostly an autobiography.'

Russo says he felt there needed to be an Australian talking-animal movie for adults – a fable-like cautionary tale about the dangers of trying to change your partner into something they are not. 'I'm also driven by making comedy, so I've had a crack at making a really funny Australian movie people actually want to see at the cinema.'

Olivia Colman is the talking fox in this film. 'We sent Olivia the script and, by some miracle, she thought it was great and agreed,' says Russo. 'Olivia has deep comedy roots, so I think the humour resonated with her. Hearing her voice married with the fox puppet for the first time had a magical effect.'

The fox puppet is a physical creation. Russo says his favourite childhood movies and TV were full of puppets and practical effects, from *The Ferals* to *Jurassic Park*. 'Practical effects have more soul. Odd Studio built incredibly sophisticated animatronic puppets. *The Fox* took four people to operate, controlling everything from the eyes and ears, to the cheeks and mouth. It meant the actors were performing with a real "performer", rather than a tennis ball on a stick.'

Sam Neill voices the magpie in one of his final film roles. Russo says she was a major *Jurassic Park* fan growing up, so working with Sam was a big deal. 'He was as lovely as everyone says – humble, funny and full of great stories. He came to support the film at Sydney Film Festival only weeks before he passed away.'

'Working with Sam was already incredibly special and now I feel extraordinarily lucky. They say don't meet your heroes. Sam Neill smashed that saying to pieces.'

The Fox opens BBFF2026 at Palace Byron Bay – opening night is Friday, 16 October.

Tickets are now on sale and the full program can be found at: www.bbff.com.au.

It's normal and magic

Holly Throsby has just released her sixth studio album *Normal Magic* – her first in nine years.

Holly says the concept for *Normal Magic* stemmed from a conversation about what is normal and what is magic. 'Art making, for example, is quite magical and quite normal at the same time, and the concept expanded as the songs were written, to be a kind of a celebration of the magic of normal life – little moments of beauty and wonder which can be so sustaining. A sunbeam or a bird or a moment of synchrony.'

Normal Magic marks a new direction for Throsby: a self-produced ten-song record, synth-heavy, with programmed beats, electric guitars, saxophone, and banjo. This is a far more electronic and mesmeric sound, but the songs remain finely crafted: lyrically ambitious; playful and hypnotic.

Holly Throsby is one of Australia's most beloved and enduring songwriters. Her debut album arrived in 2004, establishing her as a singular folk voice with a remarkable gift for lyrical detail. Four acclaimed solo albums followed, an album of original children's songs, and her work as one third of the band, Seeker Lover Keeper.

Holly play the Brunswick Picture House on Friday, 6 November. Tickets available from brunswickpicturehouse.com.

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WITH WILLIAM CRIGHTON (BAND)

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The changing face of fun

Few contemporary bands have reshaped the language of modern music like **Hiatus Kaiyote**. Formed in Melbourne in 2011, the quartet of **Nai Palm** (vocals, guitar), **Paul Bender** (bass), **Simon Mavin** (keys) and **Perrin Moss** (drums) has become one of Australia's most celebrated musical exports, earning global acclaim for a sound that seamlessly bridges jazz, soul, funk, hip hop, electronic music and progressive composition.

The last time Hiatus Kaiyote played in Byron was 2016 – this year they are playing the closing party for **Dingo Festival** at the Beach Hotel, building a custom stage to fit the band in the courtyard and bringing in a huge LED wall with their psychedelic visuals, which has been touring the world.

On the weekend Seven spoke to **Paul Bender**, who will also be playing bass with an improvisational project called **Uncomfortable Science**. Wherein the music is composed on the fly, on a whiteboard, with a veritable who's who of the Melbourne soul-jazz scene.

You've got a lot going on at the moment.

It's a mix of things. There are a few different festivals and other gigs spread around – a few different pots on the boil.

Is there new music on the way?

We're always writing new stuff, but, don't hold your breath (laughs). The creative process takes as long as it takes. For now, we're looking at a new album.

Tell me about Uncomfortable Science

It's a super fun improv-based project with an ever-changing lineup. It's more of a concept than a band.

Does improv ever go terribly wrong?

Not terribly, because the players are always good musicians. Sometimes, though, you end up in places that you might prefer not to be, and then you've got to figure out a way to get out of that. There is a risk of going sideways... and I think that's enjoyable from an audience perspective, because it's surprising. Every time is different, depending on the lineup.

You decided to become a musician at age 12. Has life matched what you imagined back then?

I'm not sure what 12-year-old me actually pictured, but I'm happy with where he's ended up. I get to do creative work with really cool people, and I run an amazing studio in Preston, I get to play lots of styles and I get to travel. I think 12-year-old me would be pretty pleased with the outcome.

Have you got a current earworm?

Well I'm a dad now, so it's mostly the *Bluey* soundtrack. It could be worse. My daughter caught 'Baby Shark' fever against my will – (doo doo, doo doo, doo doo), but The Wiggles are okay. They've got some bangers!

What inspires you? What gets you out of bed each day?

I'm a dad – there's no choice! But with less time, there's no waiting for inspiration. You just start doing stuff. It pushes me into a good practice. I value this time, and engage with creativity differently.

So 'Baby Shark' is making you a better musician?

It's forcing my hand in a certain way.

Why do festivals still matter?

Seeing things happen in the real world is essential as people get increasingly siloed into little online realms. Much of what we're sold is perfect and curated. Live performance brings real risk: the potential for failure, and then the actual success of pulling it off. That's becoming more valuable on a real human and spiritual level, and anything that gets people out of the house to experience something real is profoundly important.

Paul, are you having enough fun?

Yes, though it's different fun to previous versions of fun. Much of it comes from my studio: I love recording people doing their thing, and helping turn things from people's imaginations into something tangible. To me, that's super fun.

Paul Bender plays Dingo Festival with Hiatus Kaiyote, and with Uncomfortable Science.

For more details, times and tickets visit dingofestival.com.

CINEMA



Heart of the Beast

From acclaimed director **David Ayer** (*Fury*) comes *Heart of the Beast*, a sweeping and visceral survival thriller that sends Academy Award-winner **Brad Pitt** (*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*) into the beautiful, but merciless Alaskan wilderness, where survival will depend on the companion at his side.

Retired Special Forces Command Sergeant Major James Belmont and his combat dog Odin land their plane on a remote Alaskan lake and make camp for the night. Both veterans suffer from PTSD and nightmares.

The next morning Belmont and Odin pack up and depart, but the aircraft soon crashes leaving them in the middle of who-knows-where?

Stranded deep in the wilderness, injured and isolated, the pair set out on foot to hike back to civilisation which is about 56 miles away.

This battle-hardened duo must rely on the skills and unbreakable trust forged through years of service as they face brutal conditions, dangerous wildlife and an increasingly desperate journey back to civilisation.

Breathtaking in scale yet intimate at heart, *Heart of the Beast*, is an intense adventure of courage, resilience and companionship, paying tribute to the remarkable bond between handlers and working dogs, and the fearless animals who dedicate their lives to protecting others.

See *Heart of The Beast* at Palace Byron Bay and Ballina Cinemas.

Seven days of entertainment

GIG GUIDE

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

WEDNESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LACHLAN JACQUES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM NOAH ROBINSON**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM HAYLEY GRACE + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **OPEN MIC WITH SLIM PICKENS**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM JAM AND CURRY OPEN MIC**
- OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM MONDO HUM JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
- PEARCES CREEK HALL **6PM THOSE FOLK & KRIS MIZZI**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS **6.30PM KINGY COMEDY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **5.30PM SALI BRACEWELL DUO, 9PM HEARTBREAKER**
- BYRON THEATRE **7.30PM WOMEN OVER 40 – THE CABARET**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **ROOTS RECYCLED SOUND SYSTEM**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL **2PM LACHIE DWYER + DJ NAT WHITE**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON **5PM LUKE BENNETT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **8PM DZ DEATHRAYS + VOID + OFF JUDY + OPEN MODULE**
- BALLINA RSL **7.30PM BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM THE WHITLAMs**

THURSDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PHIL & TILLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM MARSHALL HAMBURGER BAND**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **OPEN DECKS VINYL NIGHT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM HAYLEY GRACE + DJ QUENDO + DUELING PIANO BAR**
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, **7.30PM TEMPLE OF FIRE**
- FOXY LUU'S @ COORABELL HALL **5.30PM DJ ANDREA**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM TODD KEM**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **7PM CHEEKY CABARET**
- ELTHAM HOTEL **7PM ELLA HOOPER + SPECIAL GUEST RUBY MAE**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO **7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- THE JOINERY, LISMORE, **7PM NORPA – POV**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, **6PM INDEPENDENT MOVIE NIGHT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **5.30PM SALI BRACEWELL DUO, 9PM HEARTBREAKER**
- BYRON THEATRE **7.30PM WOMEN OVER 40 – THE CABARET**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **ROOTS RECYCLED SOUND SYSTEM**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL **2PM LACHIE DWYER + DJ NAT WHITE**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON **5PM LUKE BENNETT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **8PM DZ DEATHRAYS + VOID + OFF JUDY + OPEN MODULE**
- BALLINA RSL **7.30PM BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM THE WHITLAMs**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **7PM CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM DJ SALVE JORGE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **5.30PM BALCONY BEATS + KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, **7.30PM ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ PUMAH**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN **7.30PM COMEDY NIGHT FEAT. ELLEN BRIGGS & PETER JAMES**
- THE JOINERY, LISMORE, **7PM NORPA – POV**
- HILLTOP HOTEL, GOONELLABAH, **8.30PM DJ MISS RENEE SIMONE**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, **5PM MARK CHAPMAN**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB **6PM PHIL GUEST**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, **5.30PM LACHIE DWYER**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **7.30PM ERIN SHAY DUO**
- CLUB TWEED **7.30PM RIVERSHED**

SATURDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HAYLEY GRACE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **3PM ERIN SHAY + NANAS PIE + BELLA VITA**

- BYRON THEATRE **7.30PM WOMEN OVER 40 – THE CABARET**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **BUNKER PROJECT**
- STONE & WOOD, BYRON BAY, **STONE & WOOD'S OKTOBERFEST**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL **5.30PM DEEP PEPA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **7PM BULLETPROOF + DONNY SHADES + DUELING PIANO BAR + ALMOST FAMOUS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **4.30PM CONTINENTAL CHILL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **4PM CHEEKY CABARET, 7PM CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM DJ WAYAN**

- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM PIANO BAR WITH JOHN HILL**
- EMBODY, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM MOTHER NATURES ORCHESTRA**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL **4PM NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK, GOODWILL, LILA SWAIN, SNOW MONKEY & LORD SUT + BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE**
- THE JOINERY, LISMORE, **2PM NORPA – POV, 7PM NORPA – POV**

- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB **6PM LEIGH JAMES**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL **5PM THE DREGGS**
- CLUB TWEED **7.30PM RUMOURS**

SUNDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **4.30PM LATE FOR WOODSTOCK + DJ LONGTIME**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- STONE & WOOD, BYRON BAY, **STONE & WOOD'S OKTOBERFEST**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **4PM DIZZY J + DUELING PIANOS**

- SHAWs BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, **3PM LISA HUNT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **4.30PM DEVU**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **6PM CHEEKY CABARET**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB **3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL **1PM CHEV WILSON**
- ELTHAM HOTEL **4PM ELTHAM VALLEY DRIFTERS**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN **1.30PM TIM STOKES AND THE HOT COALS**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **3PM ROUND MOUNTAIN GIRLS**
- CLUB TWEED **1PM DAVID BARRY + ANGUS HOLMES**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, **2.30PM THE ORIGINAL 60S TV STARS SHOW**

MONDAY 5

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM DAVE MCCREDIE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- CASA LUNA, BYRON BAY, **6PM HUSH POETRY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM LACHY DWYER + DJ RENEE SIMONE + DUELING PIANOS**

TUESDAY 6

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM JOSH LOVEGROVE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM MARSHALL O'KELL + DUELING PIANOS**

WEDNESDAY 7

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM BEN WHITING DUO**
- BYRON THEATRE **1PM NT LIVE: THE MISANTHROPE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **6PM FELICITY LAWLESS + DUELING PIANOS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL **6.30PM NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

It's Free!
to post your gig in the
Echo Gig Guide

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

email gigs@echo.net.au with the details

PALACE CINEMAS
BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY OCTOBER 1
TO WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7

COMING SOON

NOW SHOWING

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

NT LIVE: THE MISANTHROPE (CTC)
Thurs, Fri: 6:00PM. Sat, Sun: 3:00PM

QUEEN BUDAPEST (CTC)
Wed: 8:00PM

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (CTC)
Sat: 6:30PM – Fine Wine Preview

THIEF (R18+)
Mon: 6:30PM – Cult Vault

FAMILY FILMS

COYOTE VS. ACME (PG)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Mon: 10:40AM, 12:40PM. Sun, Tues, Wed: 10:40AM, 12:40PM, 6:00PM

FORGOTTEN ISLAND (PG)
Daily: 10:40AM, 1:00PM

PAW PATROL - THE DINO MOVIE (G)
Daily: 10:30AM

SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM (G)
Daily: 10:50AM

THE LAST WHALE SINGER (PG)
Daily: 10:30AM

ALL FILMS

BEWARE BOIÚNA (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:30PM, 8:30PM. Sat, Sun: 12:50PM, 8:30PM

DIGGER (MA15+) NFT
Thurs: 11:20AM, 1:00PM, 3:20PM, 6:30PM, 7:15PM. Fri, Tues, Wed: 11:20AM, 1:00PM, 3:20PM, 7:15PM, 8:15PM. Sat, Sun, Mon: 11:20AM, 1:00PM, 3:20PM, 7:15PM, 8:20PM

HEART OF THE BEAST (M)
Thurs: 11:10AM, 3:10PM, 5:20PM, 8:30PM. Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:10AM, 3:10PM, 5:20PM, 8:20PM. Sat, Sun: 10:30AM, 3:10PM, 5:20PM, 8:20PM

PRACTICAL MAGIC 2 (M)
Daily except Thurs: 12:30PM, 2:50PM, 5:50PM. Thurs: 12:30PM, 2:50PM, 8:15PM

RESIDENT EVIL (MA15+)
Daily: 3:45PM, 8:30PM

SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (M)
Daily: 12:40PM, 5:30PM

THE GREAT ARCH (PG) NFT
Daily: 11:10AM, 1:30PM, 3:50PM, 6:10PM

THE INVITE (MA15+)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:45PM

THE ODYSSEY (M)
Daily except Wed: 3:45PM, 7:30PM. Wed: 3:45PM

TONY (MA15+)
Fri, Tues, Wed: 8:20PM

VERITY (CTC) NFT
Daily: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

COYOTE VS. ACME (PG)
Daily: 9:30AM, 11:30AM

DIGGER (MA15+) NFT
Daily: 1:45PM, 4:00PM, 6:40PM

FORGOTTEN ISLAND (PG)
Daily: 11:30AM, 1:40PM

HEART OF THE BEAST (M)
Daily except Sat: 6:50PM. Sat: 2:15PM

PAW PATROL - THE DINO MOVIE (G)
Daily: 9:30AM

PRACTICAL MAGIC 2 (M)
Daily except Sat: 2:00PM

RESIDENT EVIL (MA15+)
Daily except Sat: 4:45PM. Sat: 4:30PM

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (CTC)
Sat: 6:30PM – Fine Wine Preview

SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM (G)
Daily: 9:40AM

VERITY (CTC) NFT
Daily: 11:40AM, 4:20PM, 6:45PM

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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

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WANTED TO RENT
BED IN SMALL ROOM, Tweed Heads or Coolangatta after losing accom of 20yrs. Close walk to Twin Towns. Male, 80yrs, DBA, RSL. Active push biker. References. Non smoker, non drinker. No use of kitchen, phone, lounge, tv, garage. No friends arrive. \$120pw, month in advance, month bond. No animals. Mike 0432187105

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Upstairs, Billinudgel \$402pw Ph Lifestyle Group 66851206

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POSITIONS VACANT
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We're looking for a casual team member with wine experience, great customer service skills and a genuine interest in wine. If you're friendly, reliable and enjoy working with people, we'd love to hear from you.
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BIRTHDAYS

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Kedi is a sweet girl who can't decide if she loves or hates being shown affection. She can give little hisses whilst being petted yet she keeps coming back for more love! She has the cutest little legs which just adds to her overall quirkiness.
To meet Kedi & our other cats & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm
Sat 10am-12 noon.
Call AWL 0436 845 542
Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000222


Who gives a Cluck?
Adopt a Rooster.
Ralph is a big boy, timid boy, friendly too. Rescued Mid August in northern rivers near the QLD border. He is twice the size of ISA Brown hen. He's number 85. Lots of other boys to consider too!
whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/
[@whogivesacluck](http://whogivesacluck.org)

STORMY

Meet Stormy, a delightful six-month-old Shar Pei cross with a small to medium build and a big love of play and adventure. Sweet, affectionate and sociable, she gets along well with children and other dogs. Stormy is quick to learn and will flourish with ongoing obedience training. If you're looking for a bright, loving companion who'll bring fun and affection to your family, Stormy could be your girl!
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T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au W: www.nras.org.au

SHADY

Darling Shady is getting quite depressed in the shelter now...he desperately wants a steady and loving home. He's a very sweet, easy-going and sedentary young lad, who loves a cuddle. Ok with dogs, cats, and children.
Ragdoll breeding, sealpoint colour (beautiful coat!) Blue eyes, and a perfect age of just 4 1/2 years old. Book an appointment now to see your potential new family member!
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Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)
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Every minute of your time helps towards re-homing dogs, desexing dogs, and helping people in desperate situations with housing and difficult home lives.
Please call Astro (shop manager) at **0492 861 905** or visit the shop to chat about helping us to help dogs in need

www.byrondogrescue.org

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LOST: F-35 stealth fighter jet components
A box containing a cockpit canopy and a weapons-bay door. Coated in special radar-absorbing materials that give the F-35 its stealth capabilities
If found call *The Pentagon* or Defence Dept.

FUNERAL NOTICES
Noelene Emily-Ann Laverty (née Walker)
25 September 1939 – 18 September 2026

Late of Mullumbimby, formerly of The Pocket.
It is with great sadness that Noelene's family announce her sudden passing on Friday, September 18th, 2026.
Family meant everything to Noelene. Dearly beloved Wife of Bill for 65 years. Loving Mother of Kim, Simone (dec) and Kylie. Adored Nan of Jessica, Liam and Caolán. Cherished Sister of Kerry and much loved member of her extended family and friends.
All are warmly invited to attend a celebration of Noelene's life with a Requiem Mass to be held at St John's Catholic Church, 11 Murwillumbah Road, Mullumbimby NSW 2482 on Thursday, October 1st, 2026, at 11:00am, followed by her burial at Mullumbimby Cemetery.
Then afterwards at the family home for light refreshments.


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SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR THIS WEEK					
DATE Sept / Oct	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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
1	TH	5:25 17:46	22:47 8:03	11:27 1.62 23:28 1.08	04:30 0.23 17:53 0.43
2	F	5:24 17:47	23:52 8:59	12:25 1.58	05:15 0.32 19:13 0.49
3	SA	5:22 17:47	10:02	00:34 0.98 13:36 1.53	06:16 0.40 20:40 0.49
4	SU	6:21 18:48	1:51 12:09	03:07 0.93 15:57 1.53	08:40 0.46 23:00 0.44
5	M	6:20 18:48	2:42 13:18	04:41 0.99 17:10 1.56	10:09 0.44
6	TU	6:19 18:49	3:25 14:25	05:50 1.10 18:11 1.60	00:00 0.36 11:24 0.38
7	W	6:18 18:49	4:03 15:29	06:45 1.24 19:02 1.62	00:47 0.28 12:26 0.31
Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.					

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
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
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE.....	6687 2520
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 SAT: Brunswick Heads Markets – 8am–2pm

1st SUN: Byron Community Market – 8am–3pm
Pottsville Beach Markets – 7am–1pm

2nd SUN: The Channon Craft Market – 9am–3pm
Chillingham Markets – 8am–1pm
Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets – 8am–2pm
Tabulam Community Market – 9am–1pm

3rd SAT: Mullumbimby Community Market – 8am–2pm
Murwillumbah Makers & Finders Market – 9am–2pm
Salt Beach Markets, South Kingscliff/Casuarina – 8am–1pm

3rd SUN: Federal Village Market – 8am–2pm
Uki Buttery Bazaar Market – 8am–2pm
Pottsville Beach Markets – 7am–1pm
Lismore City Bowlo Markets – 9am–1pm

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

4th SAT: Kyogle Bazaar – 9am–2pm

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

4th SUN: Bangalow Market – 8am–2.30pm
Nimbin Markets – 9am–3pm
Murwillumbah Showground Market – 8am–1pm

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

5th SUN: Nimbin Markets – 8.30am–3pm

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

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:

Each TUE: New Brighton Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Lismore Organic Market – 7.30am–10.30am

Each WED: Murwillumbah Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Nimbin Farmers Market – 3pm–6pm
Newrybar Hall Twilight Market – 3pm–7.30pm

Each THU: Byron Bay Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Lismore Produce Market – 3pm–6pm

Each FRI: Mullumbimby Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Evans Head Farmers Market – 2.30pm–6.30pm

Each SAT: Bangalow Farmers Market – 7am–11am
Duranbah Road Farmers Market (Tropical Fruit World) 8am–11am
Uki Farmers Market – 8am–1pm
Lismore Farmers Market – 7.30am–11.30am
Byron Twilight Market (October to April) 4pm–9pm

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

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



On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

BV Probus

Join Brunswick Valley Probus on Tuesday, 6 October at 10am at Ocean Shores Country Club for good vibes, great company, and interesting guest speakers. Whether you’re keen for a laugh, a chat, or just getting out and about come along and see what the fun’s all about. New faces are a always welcome.

Bruns U3A

Lifelong learning for retired folk in their 3rd age. Our 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. Table tennis (needs new players, ring Jane 0403 170 315), chess, debating group, ukelele. For info Denise 0423 778 573 or info@bvu3a.org.

SES Ballina

Three iconic local bands Fossil Rock, Kitchen Table Band, and the One 2 Many Band are all re-forming for this one-off mega fundraising concert for the Ballina SES at Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina on Saturday, 14 November. All 18 band musicians donating their time and effort for free. Tickets \$10 at: www.trybooking.com/DOOTJ and all proceeds from the concert will go directly to SES Ballina unit.

October Adoption Day

The NRAS’s next scheduled monthly Adoption Day is on Saturday, 3 October at its rescue Shelter at 61 Piper Drive, Ballina from 10am to 1pm. Dogs and cats that will suit all sorts of humans, their households and lifestyles are available to adopt. For further information, or to see the animals currently in NRAS’ care go to: www.nras.org.au, or call the office weekdays 10am to 4pm on 6681 1860, or email: shelter@nras.org.au

Amitayus Home Hospice Service

For over 30 years, Amitayus Home Hospice Service has provided free support and non-medical assistance to people who are palliative, at the end of their lives, or are living with life limiting conditions to remain at home as long as possible. We offer respite to primary carers and families free of charge. We aim to uphold and enhance people’s independence and freedom of choice in challenging circumstances. We are a non-sectarian, not-for-profit organisation serving the Byron Shire and surrounds. Find out more at: www.amitayus.org.au, email: info@amitayus.org.au, or phone 0468 483 857.

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–Thursday 9am–4pm and offers a range of services and activities. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy art, music, games, great food and more. Call reception on 6684 1286 and discover what is on offer. MDNC services that are running include: **Community support/emergency relief:** Food parcels, meals, assistance with electricity and Telstra bills. **Listening Space:** free counselling. **Staying Home, Leaving Violence program.** **Integrated Domestic & Family Violence program.** **Financial Counselling:** outreach available Thursdays & Fridays **Financial Counselling:** free service funded by the government, offering advocacy & assistance to find options to address debts. **Information, referral and advocacy.** To enquire about accessing any of these services call 6684 1286 or fill out an online enquiry form.

Byron Community Centre

Homeless Breakfast: 7.30–9am Wednesday. **Homeless Showers:** Monday and Wednesday 10am–12pm (book in at breakfasts). **Women’s Support and Counselling:** Friday 1–3pm, Community Cabin Carlyle St. **Free Phone Counselling:** Call 0415 322 064 10am–2pm. **Seniors Computer Club:** Friday 9am–11am, Community Cabin Carlyle St. **Seniors drumming, yoga, ukulele, art, nourishing arts and drama:** 66856807 for booking and time details. **Volunteer Hub referral service:** Call 66856807.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. If you have any sort of Centrelink card you may purchase cheap food, obtain free

veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **Free Food Relief Bags** for anyone doing it tough, every Wednesday 10–12noon at The Hub Ocean Shores, cnr Rajah Rd and Bindaree Way. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details.

Respite Service

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

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5–6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8–16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert’s Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au

ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents and/or Dysfunctional Families (ACA) help & recovery group meets in Lismore every Friday 10–11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom - meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 – 30 meetings a week in the Shire – www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text

BV VIEW Club

The next meeting of Brunswick Valley VIEW Club is a luncheon with a guest speaker on 8 October at the Brunswick Heads Bowling Club. Enjoy a cuppa and browse the trading table from 10.30am before the meeting starts at 11am. Our club supports eight students in The Smith Family’s Learning for Life program. Info: Rita Strong 0424 852 679.

NR prostate cancer support groups

The next meeting of Northern Rivers evening and day prostate cancer support group will be a combined meeting for both evening and day groups. It will be held at the Lismore Workers Club, Keen Street, Lismore, on 7 October at 2pm. Special guest speaker will be Jason Castle of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. All welcome and please feel free to bring a friend or someone you know who may be in need of support. Enquiries Bob Johnson on (02) 6622 5792 (Evening Group) and Bob Corney on 0400 747 630 or 0493 075 612 (Day Group).

Devonshire tea

Come along to the Crowley Show Day and treat yourself to a traditional Devonshire tea hosted by Crowley Care Auxiliary. Enjoy fresh-baked scones whilst supporting initiatives for our elderly on Thursday, 8 October at the Crowley activity centre, 154 Cherry Street, Ballina from 10am to 2pm.

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 through to 18 December. Covering such topics as getting to know your device, using it for entertainment and connection, and staying safe online. Phone (02) 6684 2992 to book a 40-minute session and learn how we can help you interact in this digital world.

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.

Contact Improvisation

Contact Improvisation Saturdays 11am–1pm at Gondwana, 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah. All levels of dancers welcome. Enquiries 0402 059 564.

End-of-life choices

Voluntary euthanasia options are discussed at quarterly meetings, currently online. Attendees must be Exit members. More information on www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443.

Carers’ support

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

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30 for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzerati2010@gmail.com.

Museums

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc Museum corner of Myocum and Stuart Sts Mullumbimby, open Tuesdays and Fridays 10–12 and market Saturdays 9–1. Discover your local history, join our team – 6684 4367 or email: admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au. **Bangalow Heritage House Museum & Cafe** is open Wednesday to Friday 10am–2:30pm, Saturday 8:30am–12:30pm. Enjoy home style cooking, fresh baked scones and more. Monthly meeting 9:30am on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Heritage House Bangalow. Info: 0429 882 525.

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6:15 for 6.30pm at Byron Bay Services Club, Byron Bay. Online attendance allowed. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters** meet every 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday Presbyterian Church Hall, 101 Stuart Street Mullumbimby 7–9 pm. Contact Shona 0457356567 or Bronte 0451567996.

www.echo.net.au

28 The Byron Shire Echo September 30, 2026

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



www.echo.net.au/service-directory

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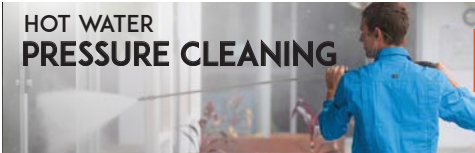
 

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Relaxed coastal living with space, flexibility and village convenience in the heart of Lennox

Perfectly positioned to embrace the laid-back Lennox Head lifestyle, 2/10 Barrett Drive presents a beautifully maintained, move-in-ready coastal residence offering an appealing combination of comfort, flexibility and convenience. Set on approximately 300sqm with a generous secure yard, the three-bedroom home is positioned within easy walking distance of Lake Ainsworth, Seven Mile Beach and the vibrant Lennox Head village.

Designed for effortless everyday living, the home combines light-filled interiors with generous outdoor entertaining and a practical single-level layout. The open-plan living and dining area provides a welcoming central space, while the adjoining kitchen offers excellent functionality and a seamless connection to the covered outdoor entertaining area. 'Barrett Drive is one of those locations that really captures what people love about Lennox Head,' Brad Rogan, from Sotheby's International Realty, says. 'You



Laid-back Lennox Head, open plan coastal living at 2/10 Barrett Drive in the heart of this beachside town.

have the lake, the beach, the village and the coastal lifestyle all within walking distance, while still having a genuine backyard and the space to enjoy the home.' Three well-proportioned bedrooms with built-in robes provide comfortable accommodation, complemented by a central bathroom, and dedicated laundry which could be converted to a second

bathroom (STCA). Adding further versatility is a generous separate office or gym, providing an adaptable space for working from home, exercising or creating a private retreat away from the main living areas. The home's outdoor spaces are equally appealing, with a large, fully fenced yard providing room for children and pets, along with a covered deck designed for relaxed

entertaining throughout the year. There is also scope to add a pool (STCA), while an additional covered deck and garden shed add further practicality. Brad adds, 'We're seeing strong interest from buyers who want the Lennox Head lifestyle without necessarily wanting a large or high-maintenance property. This home offers that really well. It's comfortable and easy to



accessible, with Byron Bay approximately 15 minutes away by car. 'Location continues to be one of the biggest drivers for buyers in Lennox Head,' Brad notes. 'When you can walk to the beach, Lake Ainsworth and the village, it changes the way you experience the property. You can leave the car at home and genuinely enjoy the lifestyle that Lennox Head is known for.' 'We're seeing strong enquiry from buyers outside the local area who are actively looking for property in a lifestyle position that Lennox Head offers, and I expect there will be significant interest and don't anticipate it sitting on the market for long,' Brad says. For those waiting for the right opportunity to make their move to Lennox Head, this could be it! For more information on this incredible home contact Brad Rogan, Sotheby's International Realty. ■ Brad Rogan, Associate Principal 0420 529 112 brad@sirbyronbay.com.au

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85 STATION STREET, MULLUMBIMBY



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3 2 2 1

562M²

- Original 1940s timber cottage with polished floors, high ceilings and period detailing
- Generous kitchen and dining area with luxe cabinetry, ILVE appliances and seamless garden connection
- Lush established gardens with fruit trees, covered entertaining deck and private outdoor spaces
- Versatile 9m x 3.5m plumbed garage/studio with rear lane access, ideal for work, hobbies or storage

PRICE | \$1.35M - \$1.485M

OPEN | Sat 3rd October 10 - 10:30am



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0423 248 813



2/21 BEECH DRIVE, SUFFOLK PARK



Stunning Coastal Home in a Prime Suffolk Park Setting

3 2 2 2

- Light-filled interiors with soaring raked ceilings, warm timber finishes and expansive glass doors
- Private tropical surrounds with a north-facing deck, magnesium pool and bush reserve backdrop
- Sought-after location moments from Tallow Beach and minutes to Suffolk Park and Byron Bay
- Flexible downstairs living with a huge third bedroom, ensuite and potential to convert to a studio (STCA)

PRICE | \$1.895M - \$1.995M

OPEN | Sat 3rd October 10 - 10:30am



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0428 888 660



Anna Gilham
0402 128 355



6 BANKSIA PLACE, MULLUMBIMBY



Effortless Style, North-Facing Family Home, Walk to Town

4 1 1 2

652M²

- Recently renovated solid brick home with timber flooring, arched doorways and a designer kitchen
- A north-facing orientation provides ample natural light
- Established gardens surround the home, with raised vegetable beds and plenty of lawn for children to play
- Peaceful cul-de-sac setting, walk to Mullumbimby town centre and farmers' market, and a short drive to Byron

PRICE | \$1.15M - \$1.25M

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24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 11.30am–12pm
2 / 49 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Thurs 12–12.30pm
440 Corndale Road, Corndale. Thurs 12–12.30pm
106 Arkinstall Road, Tunttable Creek. Thurs 1–1.30pm
10 / 1-2 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Thurs 1–1.30pm
6 Hakea Crescent, Suffolk Park. Thurs 2–2.30pm
5 Bower Street, Brunswick Heads. Fri 9–9.30am
17 McAuleys Lane, Myocum. Fri 10–10.30am
103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11–11.30am
28/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Fri 12–12.30pm
10 Loriqueet Lane, Mullumbimby. Fri 1.30–2pm
1 / 34 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Fri 2–2.30pm
28 Pacific Vista Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
440 Corndale Road, Corndale. Sat 9–9.30am
6 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 9–9.30am
37 Tristran Parade, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 10–10.30am
6 Muli Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
92 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
71 Broken Head Road, Newrybar. Sat 10–10.30am
2 / 21 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
127 James Street, Dunoon. Sat 10–10.30am
85 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
68B Teak Circuit, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
1675 Dunoon Road, Dunoon. Sat 11–11.30am
242 Woodford Lane, Ewingsdale. Sat 11–11.30am
734 Tamarind Drive, Cumbalum. Sat 11–11.30am
17 Corella Crescent, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.30am–12pm
6 / 1-5 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
13 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
252 New Brighton Road, Billinudgel. Sat 12–12.30pm
81 Alcorn Road, Tintenbar. Sat 12–12.30pm
10 Loriqueet Lane, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.15–12.45pm
58 Pacific Heights Drive, Cumbalum. Sat 12.30–1pm
1 / 7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm
5 / 7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm
17 McAuleys Lane, Myocum. Sat 1–1.30pm
13A Byron Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 1–1.30pm
3 / 40 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1.15–1.45pm
9 / 27 Kalemajere Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 2–2.30pm

34 The Byron Shire Echo September 30, 2026

Lifestyle Byron Bay

12 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Wed 12–12.30pm
12/5-7 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Wed 2–2.30pm
4/14 Seaview Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 11–11.30am
12/5-7 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
51B Shirley Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
4/14 Seaview Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
40 Kingsvale Road, Myocum. Sat 11–11.30am
43 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
12 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
426 Coopers Shoot Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 12.30–1pm

Lifestyle Brunswick Heads

5a Moonlight Close, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am

Lifestyle Ballina

185 Tamar Street, Ballina. Sat 9–9.30am
21 Leach Crescent, West Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am
35 Rainforest Way, Lennox Head. Sat 10.10–10.40am
83 Carrs Lane, Keith Hall. Sat 10.15–10.45am
31 Compton Drive, East Ballina. Sat 11–11.45am
12 Trilby Avenue, East Ballina. Sat 11.10–11.40am
53 The Ridgeway, Cumbalum. Sat 12.10–12.40pm
80 Dalwood Road, Dalwood. Sat 1–1.30pm

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4 Badoo Avenue, Murwillumbah. Thurs 3–3.30pm
19 Oakbank Terrace, Murwillumbah. Thurs 4–4.30pm
32 Kolora Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
4 Badoo Crescent, Murwillumbah. Sat 9–9.30am
19 Oakbank Crescent, Murwillumbah. Sat 10–10.30am
11 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.30am
146 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
6 Hope Street, Bray Park. Sat 11–11.30am
3A Langi Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30–1pm
7 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 1–1.30pm
33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 2–2.30pm

Raine & Horne Jet

63A Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 9:30–10am
16 George Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 9:30–10am
45 Fernvale Road, Fernvale. Sat 10:30–11am
8 Hemlock Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 10:30–11am
28 Tombonda Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 11:30–12pm
34 Chevell Place, Smiths Creek. Sat 11:30–12pm
88 Rous River Way, Murwillumbah. Sat 12:30–1pm
3 Panorama View, Kunghur. Sat 12:30–2:30pm
20 Panorama View, Kunghur. Sat 12:30–2:30pm
2981 Kyogle Road, Kunghur. Sat 12:30–2:30pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

41 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10.15–10.45am
43 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10.45–11.15am
45 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 11.15–11.45am
1-3 Walker Street, Clunes. Sat 12.45–1.15pm

DJ Stringer Property Services

1/52 Tweed St, Coolangatta. Sat 9–9:30am
65/955 Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach. Sat 9–9:30am
25/22 Binya Ave, Tweed Heads. Sat 9:30–10am
9/198 Kennedy Dr, Tweed Heads West. Sat 10–10:30am
6/241 Golden Four Dr, Billinga. Sat 10–10:30am
1035/20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10:30–11am
2034/20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 11–11:30am
33/5 Island Dr, Tweed Heads. Sat 11–11:30am
10 Owenia Circuit, Bilambil Heights. Sat 11:15–12pm
1&2/8 Triton St, Tweed Heads South. Sat 12–12:30pm
2/14 Warrawong St, Coolangatta. Sat 12–12:30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

75 Swift Street, Ballina. Sat 9:30–10am
23/136 Cherry Street, Ballina. Sat 9:30–10am
18B Hartigan Street, Cumbalum. Sat 10–10:30am
18/12 Norvell Grove, Alstonville. Sat 10–10:30am
73 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 10:15–10:45am
43 Bentinck Street, Ballina. Sat 10:30– 11am
33 River Street, Woodburn. Sat 11:15– 11:45am
98 Diadem Street, Lismore. Sat 11:30am–12pm
2 Sovereign Place, Goonellabah. Sat 12:30–1pm

New Listings

First National Byron

85 Station Street, Mullumbimby
5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay
6 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby
4/45 Pacific Parade, Lennox Head
252 New Brighton Road, Billinudgel
Lot 11 Pacific Highway, Billinidgel

Lifestyle Byron Bay

40 Kingsvale Road, Myocum

Mana RE

14 Goolara Court, Ocean Shores
2/73 Orana Road, Ocean Shores
3/87 North Creek Road, Ballina

Auctions

Lifestyle Byron Bay

426 Coopers Shoot Road, Coopers Shoot. 10 Oct 10am
51B Shirley Lane, Byron Bay. 17 Oct 10am



This week's open homes

Real estate open homes, auctions and new
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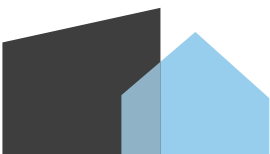
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Festivals are still alive and well in Byron. Check out our pages for news about next week's Dingo Festival and November's Wellness Festival – two great ways to have fun and support your local community.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Soon Lismore hospital will have access to the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood donated pasteurised human milk program, to support premmy babies. The program has facilitated the collection and supply of pasteurised donor human milk since 2018. To learn more about donated human milk visit: www.lifeblood.com.au/milk.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The Northern Rivers Animal Services (NRAS) next adoption day is at its rescue shelter, 61 Piper Drive, Ballina from 10am on Saturday. There are many gorgeous animals waiting for their forever home, and there will be a chai stall and BBQ to keep visitors fed and hydrated. The NRAS groomer will be on site for \$15 hydro bathing or nail clipping and discounted microchipping.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

In a shock announcement, Queensland Senator Larissa Waters has announced she is stepping down as Leader of the Australian Greens. In a statement Waters said, 'For some time now I've been quietly managing chronic kidney disease alongside doing the work I love. But recently it's taken a downturn, and I need to be honest with myself about not being invincible.'

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Up to 25 million farming households, largely in developing countries, produce around 80 per cent of the world's coffee,



Lola the chihuahua (centre, where she should always be) and her human mum, songstress Lucy Gallant, spent Sunday morning at The Paddock in Mullumbimby with a tribe of other chi chis and assorted fashionably-dressed little dogs vying for best-dressed furbaby. Photo Jeff 'Mi amigo el fotógrafo' Dawson

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Echo Publications publishes *The Byron Shire Echo* (a well-established and popular free weekly community newspaper), a daily news website (echo.net.au) and multiple subsidiary magazines throughout the year.

The role involves selling advertising and creating multi-channel marketing campaigns for clients across the website, newspaper and individual magazines. Work in a friendly and supportive sales team of six, in our Mullumbimby office, handling advertising and publicity for our large local and small interstate client base.

Key requirements:

- Experience in marketing and/or sales, including digital marketing and advertising
- Computer literacy
- Experience with databases and CRM systems
- Friendly telephone manner

- People person
- High level of organisation and time management
- Ability to multitask
- Must own a vehicle and maintain a current driver's licence.

Start date: Immediate

To apply for this role please email a cover letter and resume to the Sales Manager: positions@echo.net.au. For any questions call 6684 1777.

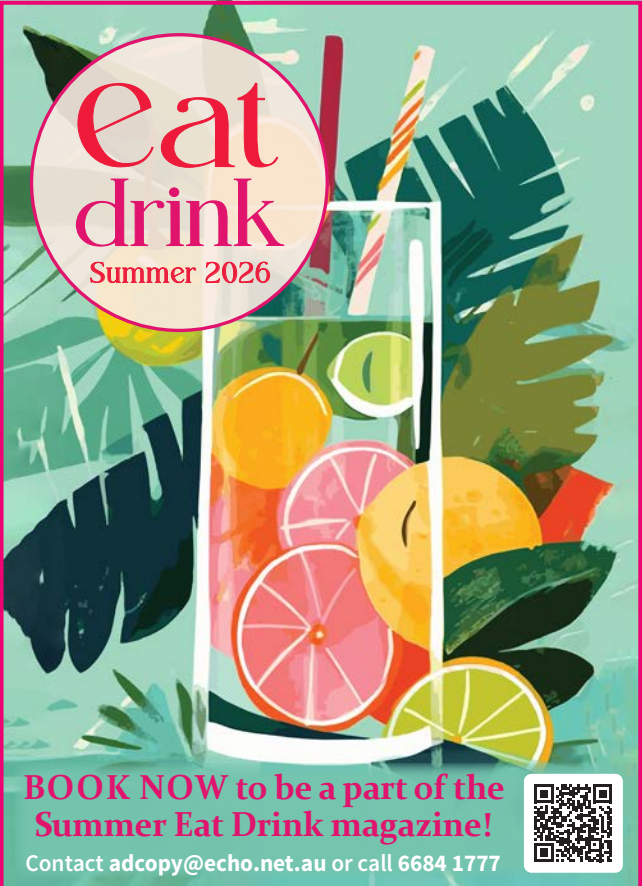
but prosperity is not shared equally. Market instability, rising costs and the uneven distribution of income across the value chain can leave millions of smallholder producers carrying the greatest risks while receiving only a limited share of the value their work creates. The United Nations have designated 1 October as International Coffee Day, to recognise coffee's global importance and the people behind it.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Fun fact: When you're reading – even silently – (like, right now) the muscles of your mouth, tongue and larynx activate. This process is called 'subvocalisation'. We're essentially still sounding out the words in our heads to decode them, even when we're not speaking them out loud.

eat drink

Summer 2026

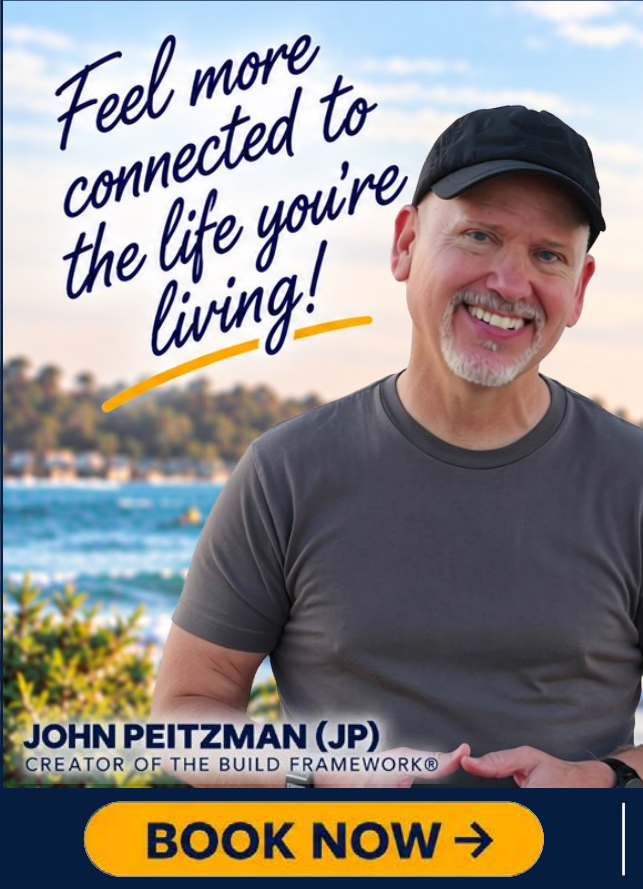


BOOK NOW to be a part of the Summer Eat Drink magazine!

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



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