

Echo

DOING THE 'UNSEXY WORK OF MAKING LIBERALISM SEXY AGAIN' (TIM DEAN) SINCE 1986

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 41 #20 • October 28, 2026 • www.echo.net.au

Wiping out sexism in surf culture



Surfing World Champions Pauline Menczer and Lauren Hill, with Mandy Nolan (centre), are calling on the community to join them in a paddle out, and shore action, to call for an end to gendered violence in surfing culture. Photo Jeff Dawson

Support action against violence and sexual assault

Aslan Shand

Sexual assault and violence against women has reached an intolerable point and the surfing community is now calling for a change in behaviour and culture that breaks the silence, stigma, and risk that comes from speaking out.

This Sunday, 1 November people are gathering for a paddle out, and shore action, gathering at Clarkes Beach carpark in Byron Bay at 11am to show they are committed to ending gendered violence.

Surfer, Ruby Southwell, said that it is time for the surfing community of Byron and surf culture to show they are committed to changing the surf culture that stops women and girls from speaking up.

'We are gathering as a community to discuss the issue, the solutions, and to define a way forward that demands accountability for the safety and equality of women, men, and marginalised groups in the surfing community,' she told *The Echo*.

'We demand a change in culture

that no longer allows people or systems to benefit from violence against women. A reckoning takes place in the community, not online.

'We need to understand that the issue of gendered violence is real, it is real life. And we all live through gendered violence every day as if it is normal. I have stepped up because every single woman in my life has several stories of violence at the hands of men. Stories that are brushed aside with excuses. We are done with accepting these

► Continued on page 4

57 Station Street approved

Aslan Shand

Last Thursday, 22 October, the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) unanimously approved the amended 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby development application (DA) by Landcom on the Byron Shire Council (BSC) owned site.

The development will see the demolition of Mullumbimby's only 24-hour toilet, which is heritage-listed, and see 28 apartments, a shop, and a ground-floor boarding house built on the

town's current central carpark.

The key question of access for shops that use their rear access via the carpark, which is legally required for gas deliveries and grease trap removal, has still not been resolved. A Council officer told the NRPP meeting that so far there was no agreement on access or 'who would be responsible for those works'. The landowner told the NRPP that Council had stopped responding to their lawyers over the issue.

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Mullum Chamber says no to Scout Hall demolition ► p5

Great Koala National Park approved ► p8

Rejecting the politics of hate ► p10

Our beach-nesting birds are on the brink ► p15

Local home improvement maestros ► p17

Arts and industry Byron style ► p20

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Bruns Brekky looking for a home

Aslan Shand

The Bruns Brekky, for homeless people, is looking for a place to set up twice a week with water, electricity and a bit of storage space, said organiser Jon Dale.

The Bruns Brekky has been operating for over ten years, providing breakfast to homeless people two days a week in conjunction with the Orange Sky van that provides mobile showers and washing facilities. The service has around 30 people using it at each session.

They were previously operating out of the Catholic Church but that space is no longer available.

'We are just a few nice people who get up early and make some toasties and share a bit of love around,' said Jon of himself and the other volunteers who run the program.

The Orange Sky van needs water, electricity, and drainage while the Bruns Brekky crew need a place to store their tables, coffee machine, cups and toastie machines that is easily accessible.

'We don't need to be inside, we just need a place



Patricia Warren gets delicious breakfasts ready for the Bruns Brekky before it lost its home. Photo Jeff Dawson

to set up and store equipment between breakfasts,' said Jon.

'We'd love a permanent place, but we'd also be happy with a temporary spot while we keep looking for a

permanent home.'

If you have a spot that you can make available to Jon and the crew to help make life a little easier for many then give Jon a call on 0402 259 209.

Oh Byron Shire, the pipes, the pipes are calling...

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council largely does not know the condition of its \$114 million underground stormwater network, with a draft infrastructure plan warning that limited inspections are creating a risk of pipe failure.

The finding concerns 131 kilometres of drainage pipes and 5,623 pits and inlets that form part of the Shire's stormwater and flood mitigation system.

Council's draft Stormwater Asset Management Plan 2026-2035 says minimal camera inspections have left it without reliable information about the network's condition and future repair needs.

'Minimal underground stormwater pipe CCTV data is available and is creating a risk of potential pipe failure through Council not knowing the overall condition of the underground network,' the plan states.

'This has primarily been a result of challenges in operations and maintenance funding availability to date.'

The document will go before Council's Transport and Infrastructure Advisory

Committee on 29 October for comment. It is a draft, with the agenda item seeking feedback rather than adoption.

The pipes have a replacement value of \$92.1 million, while pits and inlets account for another \$21.8 million, based on Council's July 2025 valuations.

Camera inspections undertaken on an ad hoc basis have already identified deteriorated pipes requiring repairs. The document anticipates that more extensive inspections could reveal greater renewal needs.

The accompanying staff report says an external consultant is currently inspecting a sample of stormwater pipes, pits and inlets.

The results will inform a future amendment to the plan, including updated condition information and funding allocations.

Poor condition

Excluding the underground pipes and pits, it rates approximately \$30 million, or 42 per cent by replacement value, of the remaining stormwater assets as being in poor condition.

For major culvert components, including the structures that carry water beneath roads, the proportion classified as 'poor' rises to 63 per cent by replacement value, or \$21.6 million.

Those figures do not represent the percentage of individual culverts that are unsafe. Council's assessment system assigns an asset's overall condition according to its poorest component, rather than the condition of the entire structure.

The plan says culverts with poor components will be progressively addressed through capital works and flood recovery programs.

'Rural table drain maintenance is essential in retaining the condition of adjoining road pavements,' the plan states.

'Inadequate maintenance of these drains (primarily due to current budget limitations) is continuing to cause a risk to Council of early road pavement failure.'

Ongoing funding for underground camera inspections is needed to establish the network's condition and determine what money is required to rectify defects, the plan says.



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Super Halloween fun returns to Brunswick Heads Primary

There will be lots of fright-fully fun times at Brunswick Heads Primary School's Fairtastic for Halloween this Saturday, 31 October.

This always popular community event is filled with thrills, chills, and family-friendly excitement from 2pm to 7pm, and entry is free.

There will be food, rides, captivating performances by talented Mullum High School students, an exciting arcade alley, and a spooky cake stall, where you can indulge in delicious treats, all while supporting a great cause.

Dress to impress

Each year everyone has lots of fun getting dressed up for the event with the chance to win the coveted title of Best Costume at the fair!

'Fairtastic is our school's most important fundraiser, but it's also a really fun afternoon out for the kids and a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together,' said a spokesperson for the Brunswick Heads Primary School P&C.

'The funds raised last year enabled the school to purchase valuable reading



It is time to get spooky, and perhaps a little bit kooky, for this year's Best Costume title at the Brunswick Heads Primary School Halloween Fairtastic event on Saturday, 31 October. Photo Jeff 'Ghoul's Just Want To Have Fun' Dawson

resources, new classroom furniture, and a much-loved water bubbler for students to enjoy. We're incredibly grateful for the support

of our families, sponsors and volunteers, and we're looking forward to another fantastic Fairtastic this year.' There will also be a raffle,

and ticketed rides from 2.30pm to 6.30pm for kids of all ages to enjoy. For those who like scary spills and thrills, make sure

you get your unlimited-ride wristband tickets early. at: <https://bhpsparents.square.site/fairtastic-2026>. You can purchase your

raffle tickets online prior to the Halloween fun at: <https://tickets.rafflelink.com/brunswick-heads-ps/fairtastic-2026-raffle>.

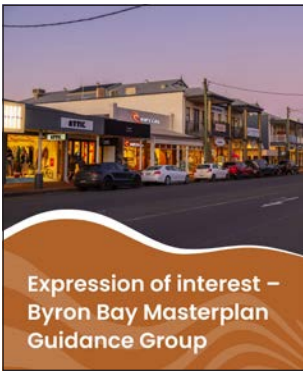
Are you interested in guiding the future of Byron Bay?

Many members of the Byron Bay community are questioning what the future of Byron is with potential 16m to 21m high state significant housing (SSD) developments being submitted to the state government, and constant development applications for buildings that many feel are out of character for the town.

Byron Shire Council (BSC) are currently looking for new members for the Byron Bay Masterplan Guidance Group who will have the opportunity to 'work alongside Council to guide the future form, look and feel of the Byron Bay town centre,' say BSC.

The guidance group includes up to 25 community members and gives members an 'opportunity to contribute to what Byron Bay looks like five, 10 and 20 years from now,' said BSC's Place Manager Byron Bay, Claire McGarry.

'This group is very "hands on", providing direct input into the design of projects happening on the ground, from the very early concept stages.



'The group has been heavily involved in the design of Railway Park and the rail corridor, the new Byron skate park and Sandhills Wetlands, the redevelopment of the old hospital site, and the flood and drainage upgrades in the town centre.

'The guidance group's input is critical to shaping a town centre that can be truly celebrated as the heart of our community.

'For councillors and staff, this group is used as a sounding board to test whether our concepts, designs and ideas accurately reflect what the community wants to see in its town,' Ms McGarry said.

Looking ahead

Key projects for the guidance group over the next 12 months are:

- New playgrounds and amenities at the Byron foreshore
- The next stage of flood mitigation works in the town centre
- Safety upgrades including CCTV and creative lighting and art projects
- Lighthouse Rd pedestrian safety upgrades
- Street beautification, traffic calming and town entry improvement projects.

How to get involved

Expressions of interest close on Friday, 30 November 2026.

People can find out more about the Byron Masterplan Guidance Group or submit an expression of interest at: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Report-Requests-Feedback/Public-Notices/Byron-Bay-Masterplan-Guidance-Group-looking-for-new-members.

mullum
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Make Byron merry with some Christmas cheer

It is time to make Byron cheerful for Christmas and members of the Uniting Church sewing group, together with friends and volunteers, have been busy creating handmade bunting to encourage local retailers to decorate their windows and help make Byron shine this Christmas.

‘Our message is simple: Tidy up, decorate up and cheer up! We would love Byron’s retailers, businesses and wider community to join us,’ said the group.

‘Can we come together and make Byron shine this Christmas?’

If you would like to help, or would like handmade



Back row (L-R): Tilly Hale, Stephanie Rake, Liz Marshall, and Linda Theaker. Front row: Roz Bradbury, Robyn Armstrong, Cate Bailey. Photo supplied

bunting for your shop window, contact Stephanie Rake on 0427 640 647.

Donations to the Byron Bay Christmas Collective

are also gratefully received: account name: Stephanie Rake, BSB: 084115, Acc No: 271323637.

Taking action against gendered violence

► Continued from page 1
excuses, they aren’t ours, and they have no place in surfing. It is time to be unified, to normalise a culture that never excuses harm to women and girls,’ she says.

High profile surfers including world champions Pauline Menczer and Lauren Hill will lead the event.

‘We’re paddling out as a community concerned about

the safety of women and girls in surfing. Equal prize money was a step toward closing the gender gap. But women and girls still face assault, intimidation, and discrimination. We’re here to say what was tolerated in the past is no longer acceptable. No more excuses. We want safe and inclusive surfing spaces for the next generations,’ Lauren told *The Echo*.

All communities are encouraged to attend. If you are a confident water person, bring your wettie and your board, if you are a supporter from the shore there is a shoreline action in unison with the paddle out.

Join the surf community at Clarkes Beach to demand an end to excusing, or being silent about, violence against women and children.

Byron Council weighs smart glasses ban

Zakai Sparkes

Byron Shire council-lors have voted unanimously in support of a motion investigating the ban of camera-equipped smart glasses from Council’s pools, libraries, childcare centres, and workplaces.

Greens Councillor Michelle Lowe proposed the motion, concerned about individuals being recorded inconspicuously without wearers needing to ‘signal clearly’ that they are recording.

‘People should not have to determine whether an apparently ordinary pair of glasses is actually recording them’, she said in her supporting notes.

Cr Lowe said she was particularly concerned about Council-operated swimming pools that are ‘used extensively by children and families’.

‘The possibility of covert or inconspicuous recording creates a foreseeable risk that images or video of children could be captured without the knowledge or consent of their parents or



Ray Ban Meta Gen 1 smart glasses. Photo CCadio / wikimedia.org

carers,’ she said.

Smart glasses bans have been rolled out across a number of councils in Australia with both Brisbane and Yarra City among those implementing policy against their use in public facilities.

Yarra City Council Mayor, Stephen Jolly recognised smart glasses are a rapidly evolving technology, and the community’s privacy should be a priority in all council-run spaces.

‘Our spaces need to be safe and respectful – especially for the more vulnerable members of our community,’ he says.

Unlawful discrimination?

However, Senior Law Lecturer at Adelaide University, Mark Giancaspro,

said an outright ban could ‘violate anti-discrimination laws’.

‘Smart glasses – including the best-known Ray Ban Meta glasses – can be fitted with prescription lenses. Alternatively, someone might simply require smart glasses to support

their vision... a blanket ban might constitute unlawful discrimination,’ he said in *The Conversation* (theconversation.com/can-australian-businesses-legally-ban-customers-from-using-smart-glasses-290854).

Federal Attorney-General, Michelle Rowland, acknowledged community concerns about the potential harmful use of smart glasses but said the federal government was not currently planning an import ban, despite calls from the Greens and independents to halt imports for 12 months until privacy laws are strengthened.

‘The *Privacy Act* consultation does not go to issues of import restrictions; however, we are not ruling anything out in terms of other measures we can take,’ she said.

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Mullum Chamber calls for action on Scout Hall – not demolition

Aslan Shand

When Byron Shire Council (BSC) decided that they would demolish the Mullumbimby Scout Hall in 2026, because it had become too expensive to repair after it was damaged by the 2022 floods, the President of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community (MCCC), Paul Prior, asked around to see if there was anyone who would consider moving the historic building to an alternative site.

In response councillors then voted to open an expression of interest (EOI) for any groups interested in saving the hall.

The top half of the Scout Hall was the original Mullumbimby Bowls Club, it was replaced in 1957 by the current bowls club and the original clubhouse was moved to its current site as the first storey of the Scout Hall, and the lower level was built in. Returned servicemen had their Christmas lunches at the Scout Hall for many years.

Both the Mullumbimby Community Gardens (MCG) and the Mullumbimby Showgrounds said they were interested in relocating



Mullumbimby Chamber President Paul Prior says they will keep fighting to stop the Scout Hall being demolished. Photo Jeff Dawson

the building, with the showgrounds then stepping back for the MCG to put in an application.

When the EOI was concluded BSC Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, spoke to the MCG and told them that ‘it is not going to happen because Council don’t want to take liability for the building because it would be located on Council land at the MCG,’ Mr Prior told *The Echo*.

‘Instead they want to demolish it and then bring in a house recovered from the Lismore floods to put on the

Scout Hall site.’

Since the Scout Hall was damaged in the flood it has been fenced off, but has had multiple squatters and fires at the building, including another fire last Friday.

‘We have at least three key historic buildings, the railway station, the Signal Masters Cottage, and the Scout Hall that have had wire fences put up around them for years now,’ said Mr Prior.

‘It’s a disgrace. After the last fire at the Scout Hall Council said they would use security to keep the

squatters out, but squatters are back in there. It’s a great tragedy that they say we can’t repurpose the building, but we’re going to keep fighting to have it repurposed.

‘The Council’s “let it rot and demolish” is very disappointing, and it’s disrespectful to all of the servicemen that had their Christmas parties there for all those years. It’s shocking, and it’s just not good enough. We want to restore and use Mullumbimby’s historic buildings, not let them rot away as they currently are.’

57 Station St approved but questions remain

► Continued from page 1

The significant traffic impacts on the town in relation to lost central parking, congestion of the entrance and exit of McGoughans Lane, which will be the access route for the build and the residents, did not appear to carry significant weight with the NRPP.

Flooding concerns remained with the NRPP Chair, Dianne Leeson, pointing out the building plans show a ground floor at 5m above sea level (known as RL 5.00). The Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) has also pointed out that ‘special purpose facilities’, such as the development’s boarding house, must meet the 2100 flood level of 5.14 metres under BSC planning rules. Responding two days later Council published a report stating that the 2100 flood level ‘does not apply to this development’.

The MRA say the community still needs answers to the questions of: ‘Which floor level has actually been approved – the 5m on the plans, or the 5.06 metres in the conditions?; Why the 2100 flood level does not apply? If the floor is raised, what happens to the shop, the ramps,

and the building’s margin under the 11.7-metre height limit?; and, if the building floods, who is responsible?’

Dale Emerson, Convenor of MRA told *The Echo*, ‘Residents did win one important point. The NRPP has required Council to build replacement public parking, with at least as many spaces as are lost, before any work can start. But in September, Council staff told councillors there was no funding for the full project. Who will pay remains unanswered.’ The BSC will sell the current carpark site for \$1 for the development.

Speaking to *The Echo*, former BSC Mayor Jan Barham said, ‘The Council-owned land was an opportunity to achieve an exemplar development to address the needs of vulnerable residents within a design that complemented the town. Instead, an approval for an out-of-character development at the entrance to town sets a poor design precedent.’

‘Urgently needed social and Aboriginal housing to address homelessness, social need, and undersupply weren’t prioritised, and the consultation failures and process secrecy have eroded

community trust.’

The MRA agreed that the process has not engendered trust between the community, BSC, and Landcom.

‘People need to be able to trust what they’re told, and trust the process that decides,’ Mr Emerson told *The Echo*.

‘In 2025, Landcom’s social impact consultant, Dr Rigmor Berg, described the project’s opponents as “not near neighbours and not renting workers, but home-owning retirees”.

‘At the NRPP meeting Landcom’s architect described a residents’ suggestion about garbage collection as “frankly absurd” and an alternative as “foolish”. He said it was “vexing to hear these accusations” about the building’s height, and that a concern raised about fire safety was “completely misleading”.

‘Labels don’t answer questions,’ Mr Emerson said.

‘Nearly two-and-a-half thousand objections came from people of every age and walk of life in this town – renters, workers, business owners, families. Each concern deserves an answer, not a characterisation.’

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Sunday was Zenith Virago's 20th, and last, Day Of The Dead ceremony as leader. Kirsty Laing, in green, will take over the coordination of the much-loved ceremony. Zelda in the foreground places a small sculpture she has just made. The Sunday ceremony was moved into the Mullumbimby Drill Hall because of the inclement weather.
Photo Jeff 'Nearly There' Dawson

Cadwallader calls for airport funding

Mayor of Ballina Shire, and candidate for the 2027 state seat of Ballina, Sharon Cadwallader, has called for a fairer airport funding partnership for the Northern Rivers, contrasting the Commonwealth's reported \$5.6 billion investment in Western Sydney Airport with Ballina Shire Council funding almost three-quarters of its airport's

recent runway upgrade.

The \$20.68 million Ballina Byron Gateway Airport runway upgrade, completed in 2024, received \$5.5 million from the Commonwealth. Ballina Council paid the remaining \$15.18 million – approximately 73 per cent.

Fairer funding

'These are different

projects, but the funding contrast raises a clear question: why should a local council carry so much of the cost of infrastructure serving an entire region?' 'Our airport serves Ballina, Byron and the wider Northern Rivers. State and federal investment should reflect those benefits,' Ms Cadwallader said.

Preschools urged to join Lismore rally



Preschool teachers at a previous rally in Lismore. Photo supplied

Paul Bibby

Northern Rivers preschool staff and families are being urged to rally outside Lismore MP Janelle Saffin's office amid concerns that new state funding rules could threaten community preschool services.

The Independent Education Union's NSW/ACT branch has called the rally for Thursday, 29 October, from 9am to 9.30am, outside 55 Carrington Street.

It is asking nearby preschools, particularly those within the electorate, to close during the rally so staff, families and management committees can attend. Services unable to close are being encouraged to send representatives.

The union says the new

Universal Preschool Funding model could leave some services with significant funding reductions, putting staffing, wages, and their viability under pressure.

'Every service represented will strengthen our message that this is not an isolated problem, but one affecting community preschools across NSW,' its rally announcement states.

The protest follows the release of the NSW government's funding guidelines on 19 October.

10,000 extra places

The government says the program, which replaces Start Strong for Community Preschools in 2027, will fully fund places for three-year-olds and create capacity for more than 10,000 additional

children.

The guidelines also require participating services to meet higher minimum pay rates for teachers and educators.

'Every child deserves access to safe, high-quality, early learning,' Education Minister Prue Car said.

The guidelines provide a one-off transition payment for eligible services whose calculated funding falls compared with 2026. The payment will cover a proportion of the difference, subject to eligibility and changes in service operations.

Community preschool staff and supporters also rallied in Lismore in May, seeking increased funding to support fair pay. The October protest is one of three rallies planned across NSW.

Ballina Council fined for pesticide breaches

Ballina Shire Council has been fined \$2,500 after misusing pesticide near a Lennox Head waterway and failing to keep a required application record.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority launched an investigation after a community member reported pesticide use at a Hutley Drive reserve in January 2026.

Its inquiries found Council had applied Metsulfuron-Methyl WG Herbicide to weeds growing in, or over, water in a culvert, contrary to the product's label instructions.

Council also failed to record a pesticide application at Kell Mather Drive, as required under NSW pesticide laws.

The EPA issued two penalty notices, for \$1,500 and \$1,000.

EPA Field Operations Director Greg Sheehy said the investigation demonstrated the importance of residents reporting suspected breaches.

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

SUPPORT LOCAL, SHOP MULLUMBIMBY

Featured business



Mullumbimby Show

The Mullumbimby Show has been named Community Initiative of the Year at the Byron Shire Council Community Awards. The President and Treasurer accepted the award on behalf of the entirely volunteer-run Mullumbimby Agricultural Society Inc committee. The Show which celebrates rural heritage and community spirit, welcomes thousands of visitors of all ages each year. Following the 2025 Show, the Mullumbimby Agricultural Society gave back \$7,000 in donations to ten local volunteer organisations and sporting groups. The 2026 Mullumbimby Show will run from 6 – 8th November, and the community is warmly invited to attend.

www.mullumbimbyshow.org.au • mullumbimbyshow2@gmail.com

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



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Where's the funding for critical community services?

David Lowe

Local Community Services Association (LCSA), the peak body representing over 175 Neighbourhood and Community Centres (NCCs) in NSW, has launched a major advocacy campaign titled 'Core Funding for Stronger Communities'.

Centres are struggling to keep their doors open and are cutting services because they don't have ongoing core funding to cover staffing and operating costs.

72,000 people a week walk through the doors of one of the 175 NCCs somewhere in NSW. These centres are the largest community-led social infrastructure network in the state – and yet the NSW government provides no ongoing, dedicated funding for the work that makes them possible.

The campaign notes that NSW is one of the last states in Australia not to support NCCs through realistic core funding. Neighbourhood centres are at the frontline providing a multitude of services – community support, parenting support, domestic violence services, support for homelessness, financial counselling, food programs, community meals and social inclusion activities.

Mandy Nolan, Greens candidate for Ballina said, 'I'm hearing from so many people who work in the neighbourhood centres that they are struggling to keep up with the demands placed on them.'

'Julie Williams, the manager of the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre told me that in over 40 years in the sector, and 34 of them in Mullum, she has never felt such frustration,



Mandy Nolan was at the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre on Monday, talking about the neighbourhood centre crisis with (L-R): Sylvia Amoding, Operations Coordinator, Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre; Abigail Boyd MLC, Greens NSW spokesperson for neighbourhood centres; Damien Farrell, General Manager, Fletcher Street Cottage; Michelle Heuer, Acting General Manager of the Byron Community Centre; and Joel Orchard, General Manager of Wardell CORE neighbourhood centre. Photo Jeff Dawson

anger, and despair, and disempowerment all in one go.

'The NSW government has formally recognised NCCs as essential social infrastructure. But recognition means nothing without funds to support this infrastructure.'

'We need the NSW government to commit to ongoing core funding for these services that are (barely) holding communities together.'

Beyond crisis

Julie Williams said, 'Neighbourhood centres are not just the place to go in a crisis. They can help strengthen communities, working from a model of community development and community engagement that can support people into a more stable life.'

'What we do is really critical, and important, and we're so tired of being ignored when it comes to funding. We can barely do the short-term fixes that people need let alone the proper work of helping people to move out

of their crisis state into something stable,' she said.

'We need to rebuild the village, and that includes the village having eyes on our most vulnerable old people – like those who can't afford Meals on Wheels and are coming in to access food because they're making a choice between rent or food. The women living in their cars, the young people who are couch surfing – it's the same thing.'

'If we see them, we can help them beyond food assistance – but we need recurrent, ongoing core funding to do that.'

Frontline service

Joel Orchard said, 'Neighbourhood centres evolved to be a frontline service in climate disaster responses because they're equipped to deal with that kind of need, yet they've never been adequately resourced to do it.'

'They're now almost expected to hold that space between catastrophes, so

Mullumbimby poster cleanup



Gail and Allan Campbell get stuck into removing layers of old posters from the main streets of Mullumbimby. Photo Jeff 'Who Is Bill Posters' Dawson

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community (MCCC) along with local businesses and volunteers, were out in force last Sunday morning cleaning up the town.

'It was fantastic,' said organiser Janelle Stanford. 'There was such strong community support with around 40 people pitching in to clean

posters off the poles, gutters, and improve the town. Lots of them said that they want to continue the clean ups on a regular basis. Byron Council were also a great help with providing materials that were needed to make the clean up a success.'

Currently, anyone wanting to put up a poster in

Mullumbimby is welcome to head into the Mullumbimby Newsagent to put one in their window or add one to the billboard at the old bakery building. The MCCC are working with artist Daniel Hend to add two more billboard spaces to his murals on the side of the IGA and Bakers & Daughters in the near future.

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Painting, supporting, and exhibiting together



Seven local women have been getting together at the beautiful Ewingsdale Hall each week to paint. ‘We began as a group keen to share our creative practice and support each other, we share ideas and techniques’ said Cass Coffee. The group will now exhibit their work as ‘The Artist Collective’ at Ewingsdale Hall, opening night is Friday, 13 November, from 5-9pm, then the following Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Photo Jeff Dawson

Mullumbimby Road to close to outbound traffic

Mullumbimby Road will close to outbound traffic, except for buses and emergency vehicles, for three days from 16 to 18 November.

The road will remain open to inbound traffic although there will be delays of up to 15 to 20 minutes at times.

The reason for the changes is so Council can do a final seal of the road.

Drivers will have to use alternative routes to leave Mullumbimby such as Myocum Road and Coolamon Scenic Drive.

Heavy vehicles should use Myocum Road.

The road closure and changed traffic conditions will be in place from 7am to 6pm. It will be open to two-way traffic at night.

Buses and emergency vehicles will continue to have inbound and outbound access to Mullumbimby Road under staff supervision.

Line marking will be done over two nights in late November and another two nights in early December. The road will remain open during those works.

Great Koala National Park approved

Aslan Shand

The humble NSW koala has led to local Liberal MP Catherine Cusack crossing the floor, and serious internal disputes between the NSW Liberal and National Party over land and koala management policy, with the koala wars a particular flash point in 2020.

Finally, last Thursday, 22 October the legislation to create the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) passed in the NSW Parliament.

The legislation will add more than 178,000 hectares of state forest and other Crown land to existing national parks, establishing a more than 475,000-hectare safe haven for koalas on the Mid North Coast.

Key advocates for the GKNP were North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) and the North Coast Environment Council.

‘This is a historic step forward in the conservation of NSW’s forests and their long-suffering inhabitants. Premier Chris Minns and Environment Minister Penny Sharpe are to be congratulated for finally making this promise a reality,’ said Dailan Pugh, President of NEFA.

‘This park encompasses some of Australia’s most important forests and vital climate refuges for the future of many species. And as leading koala expert Dr Steve Phillips has said, “the Creation of the GKNP will stand in history as the most significant contribution to koala conservation in NSW since the species was first listed as Vulnerable during the 1990s”’

It is estimated that the GKNP will protect an estimated 12,000 koalas, and 36,000 greater gliders, along with the ecosystems that so many other native Australian species call home.

Management concerns

North Coast Environment Council spokesperson Susie Russell said, ‘We appreciate the need to designate some areas as regional parks to accommodate the spectrum of recreational uses. However we believe some of these would be better managed as national parks and will be encouraging participation in the plan of management preparation to address outstanding concerns.’

‘We are pleased that no State Conservation Areas (SCAs) are being created to allow continued mining exploration, and that some existing SCAs are being made into national parks.’

‘We recognise that the NSW government made it clear from the start that they were going to exclude plantations from the park, but we urge them to consider the future inclusion and rehabilitation of key areas of plantations needed to establish habitat links and improve the integrity of the park.’

WWF-Australia’s CEO, Dermot O’Gorman, said, ‘This is conservation at the scale nature needs.’

‘More than 60 years ago, China began establishing nature reserves to protect giant pandas. Those efforts helped panda populations recover and ultimately move off the endangered species list. We hope the GKNP can help put koalas on a similar path to recovery.’

The government has provided a support package for timber workers affected by the creation of the GKNP.

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Mullum Show just around the corner

Aslan Shand

An exciting Mullumbimby Show is coming up on 6, 7, and 8 November at the Mullumbimby Showground with lots of fun activities, music, and events for all the family.

For those who have a mullet to show off there is a new mullet category for all the family said Sue Walker from the show committee.

‘We have a new category that is the best mullet family. It has to be at least two generations of great mullets to enter.’

The official opening of the show is 2pm on Saturday, 7 November followed by the grand parade. However, there will be lots happening from Friday, 6 November including the stock horse challenge that includes new junior and youth categories, horse judging, a trotting demonstration, and an all-breed challenge.

There will not only be skilled axe-people showing off their woodchopping



Get a little mullet time at the Mullum Show. Jeff ‘Making Mullum Mullets Magical’ Dawson

skills, but a chainsaw artist creating a permanent sculpture for the showground.

Family fun

Kids can enjoy hanging out with farm animals, checking out reptiles, camp oven cooking and riding the Dinky Di land train that

will be carrying kids and their families around the showground for free while the Cupcakes from Spaghetti Circus will be keeping the crowds clean and dusted.

There will be plenty of other fun with local bands and fireworks on Saturday night and two shows from

the FMX Freestyle Motocross Team.

‘There are lots of competitions to enter from cooking to painting as well as plenty of events to watch and get involved in,’ said Sue.

Entry on Friday is free, and tickets are \$20 per day for Saturday and Sunday for adults, \$5 per day for 6 to 16 year-olds, and free for under 6 year-olds. You can get tickets at the gate or online at: www.mullumbimbyshow.org.au.

Building healthier waterways and slowing floodwaters

There are increasing examples of ways that natural flood management can help waterways recover, slow flooding waters, and improve the waterways and catchments.

This contrasts to the proposed ten mega dams that the CSIRO modelled to flood local valleys and take two metres off the flood depth for Lismore. Read more at: www.echo.net.au.



Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative site in Newrybar after works. Photo supplied

Rehabilitating the catchment

Instead, Rous County Council (RCC) has been partnering with local landholders to help slow the flow of water across the Richmond River catchment, supporting healthier, more resilient waterways with the \$5 million grant for the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative.

‘RCC and its project partners are delivering a series of natural flood management solutions across the region to improve how water moves through the catchment,’ said a RCC spokesperson.

The initiative is piloting four complementary work-streams focused on restoring the function and structure of local waterways: riparian

restoration and catchment revegetation, soil health improvements, natural flood management, and redesigning historical floodplain drainage using locally led solutions.

‘This will strengthen the resilience of Northern Rivers catchments and help communities and landholders better prepare for future weather events,’ said Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty.

Slow water and reconnect floodplains

According to Anthony Acret, Catchment and Cultural Awareness Manager at RCC, these projects are designed to slow water

movement, reconnect floodplains and improve catchment resilience.

‘The natural flood management pillar of works aims to show how small-scale interventions can slow down and spread water across the landscape through measures such as leaky weirs, rock chute intervention and the planting of native reeds and shrubs. If these kinds of works were to take place across the catchment at scale, we’d see multiple benefits over time,’ said Mr Acret.

RCC has launched a second web-based StoryMap to help tell the story of the natural flood management component of the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative.

Find out more at: <https://tinyurl.com/bfz5pb8j>.



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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 41 #20 • October 28, 2026

Can independents save democracy?

Senator David Pocock was already booked for the National Press Club when Helen Haines was attacked outside her office, but this shocking event put a sombre spotlight on his speech, which focused on the role and responsibility of political independents.

Pocock described Dr Helen Haines as a beacon of integrity. 'You make our politics in this country better. That someone would deliberately hurt you, I find unfathomable.'

'We must meet this attack on you by doubling down on the values that you represent, that you champion so hard in our parliament every day: democracy, transparency, accountability, care, and kindness.'

It was Haines and her predecessor Cathy McGowan who pioneered the community independents movement that made it possible for people like Pocock and the teals to be elected, transforming their seats into hotbeds of democratic participation.

'Politics should be a contest of ideas, not just who can whip up the most hate or spread the most disinformation... I believe we have a great democracy, one that's worth defending, a democracy that can better serve us today,' said the senator and former Wallaby.

Pocock's recipe

Calling for evidence-based solutions, David Pocock renewed his call for a 25 per cent gas export tax, which he said could raise \$17 billion a year to reduce the growing gap between rich and poor and properly fund nature conservation.

On the issue of corporate lobbying, he said ministerial diaries should be published, with an end to the culture of 'cash for access', noting that an extraordinary 80 per cent of lobbyists weren't on the official register.

Pocock called for Australian biodiversity to be taken seriously, with rivers protected and the best First Nations knowledge and science to be harnessed to drive real

environmental outcomes. As he put it, 'We are part of nature, and if she goes down, we're going down too.'

He proposed a five per cent data centre levy (which would raise \$500 million), said Australian copyright needed defending to avoid the country becoming a data laundering hotspot, and called for a 'deeply patriotic' government procurement policy to better support local businesses.

Stop the revolving door

Returning to the corrupting influence of lobbyists, David Pocock said the major parties had resisted proper reform of this system, going on to explain the real world results, with families destroyed by predatory gambling interests, single mothers and children struggling with extreme poverty, and thousands of older Australians dying on aged care wait lists, even as multinational companies were subsidised to remove resources from this country without being properly taxed.

Although Pocock hasn't joined the formal alliance between the teals Allegra Spender and Zali Steggall, he closed with a pitch for voters to support their local community independents in order to secure control of minority government from 2028.

'We want politicians who are really in touch with their communities and the challenges facing Australians. We want people who have the courage and a commitment to the long-term solutions needed to solve them, people just like Dr Helen Haines.'

'I believe a model of smaller community interest parties and independents working together in an alliance can succeed here and build the future that we want,' he said. 'It could actually give us the courage to stand up to big countries and companies and demand a fair deal.'

'We have an incredible opportunity to help shape the next chapter of our country, and it's time we took it.'

David Lowe, guest editorial

Rejecting the politics of hate

Have you ever lived in such turbulent times? We really don't know what to expect from one day to the next. With such uncertainty it is difficult to plan ahead.

We are being warned that an economic downturn is on the way, as if many aren't already experiencing this.

Some will not be affected and can continue living comfortable lives; others will need to adjust and adapt to even tougher times.

Many are already struggling. After attending a book launch in Byron the other evening, I came out to discover two homeless people settling down for the night under the awnings of nearby shops. My heart went out to them; I wanted to help in some way. I had a comfortable home to return to, they didn't.

It is totally unacceptable that so many are homeless in one of the richest countries in the world. How did this happen?

This crisis of inequality was engineered and accelerated by neoliberalism, adopted by both major parties. Taxes were slashed for rich individuals and corporations while government-provided services were privatised. Ordinary taxpayers now shoulder too great a share of the tax burden.

Rapidly worsening inequality is unravelling our social fabric, especially in rural and regional areas where health services are woefully inadequate, and housing is unaffordable for average wage earners.

Pauline Hanson, who for decades was just a fringe player in politics, has capitalised on this wave of anger and dissent. Assisted by Australia's richest person, Gina Rinehart, One Nation has moved into the mainstream, aided by bot farms infesting social media with nasty memes convincing angry, marginalised people that she speaks for them.

If those people took a moment to study her voting record, they would realise she represents harsh Trump-style politics, not average Aussie battlers. Like Trump, she denies the reality of the climate crisis and is anti-environment, even



'This crisis of inequality was engineered and accelerated by neoliberalism, adopted by both major parties.'

– Richard Jones

voting against the new Great Koala National Park.

Her anger and 'I'm sick of it' approach to politics attracts disgruntled voters. The online memes amplify abuse and hate and are damaging to a healthy democracy. Mocking Jacqui Lambie's vaginal prolapse was cruel and her cartoon of politicians being rammed by a SUV is completely unacceptable and incites violence.

Whilst there's possibly no connection, the whole country was deeply shocked when independent MP Helen Haines was subsequently rammed by a car and lost both legs, remaining in a serious condition in hospital.

Add to this the crisis created by demented Donald's Iran war and rocketing fuel prices, the deepening climate crisis, and AI throwing thousands out of work, and we have a recipe for severe uncertainty and civil unrest.

In the UK, for example, expectation of worse climate shocks has led Prime Minister Andy Burnham to urge British households to stock up with three days' worth of bottled water, non-perishable food, spare batteries, and a battery-powered or wind-up FM radio.

In France and elsewhere, despair at inequality has triggered huge demonstrations and riots. The right has blamed immigrants for the riots but it's not true.

There are workable solutions to deal with inequality in Australia, but the Albanese government would need courage to introduce changes. We see no real signs of this government backing away from corporate-backed neoliberalism.

Even those modest capital gains tax reforms were viciously attacked but were nothing compared to what's needed to adequately fund public housing and the health system.

Imagine if they tried to do what the Grattan Institute recommends – increase the GST to 15 per cent and widen it to include fresh food, health, and education.

States are crippled by inadequate income and struggle to provide vital services.

Increased GST revenue could be more than offset for those on lower incomes by lifting pensions and raising the tax-free threshold on incomes.

Another way to generate badly needed revenue would be to properly tax our mineral exports. We are virtually giving them away.

Capital gains tax could be increased, the top tax rate on high income earners lifted back to 67 percent, where it was for decades, and company tax rates returned to 45 per cent.

Sadly, the likelihood is that ordinary Australians will be left to fend for themselves and struggle as best they can. This is where we as a community must come together to support each other to the best of our abilities.

There are community gardens where we can grow some of our own food. It's also vital we support farmers' markets and health food stores supplying fresh, clean, local produce. Supply chain disruptions may become more frequent with wild, unpredictable weather. We must ensure local farmers remain viable.

There are great op shops, like Global Ripple in Byron, where we can take surplus possessions and acquire items very cheaply.

Above all, though, we as a community need to reject the politics of hate. It has no place in Australia. Kindness must prevail.

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



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1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Concerns missed

At Monday's (19 October) NRPP meeting on 57 Station Street, only three people, including current Cr Swain and Cr Ndiaye, spoke in favour of the development, almost exclusively because they say it will deliver affordable housing. No-one argues that need is genuine. The community actively supports affordable housing but overwhelmingly objects to this proposal. Four out of nine councillors have now listened and understood the community concerns. Cr Warth spoke to the NRPP about his reasons for no longer supporting the proposal.

Councillors Swain and Ndiaye failed to engage meaningfully on the technical concerns which have been raised over several years, starting with the farcical community engagement underpinning the project and its lack of social licence, through to a range of design issues that have persisted through various iterations.

The mayor once again tried to paint the objectors, in this case a majority of the local community, as being anti-affordable housing. She quoted the numbers of objectors to various proposals over the years, presumably in yet another effort to discredit the community. What a shame the effort to dredge up that irrelevant history hasn't been put into meaningful community engagement through this exercise, or even trying to understand the technical concerns.

Cr Swain's speech sounded to me like it was read from talking points for a state election. Again, no meaningful engagement on the many genuine concerns of the community, as has been the case for the duration of this project.

Meanwhile, community-supported sites better suited for affordable housing will be used by Council to build a replacement carpark. It's like an episode of *Utopia*.

I objected to this proposal because it is poorly conceived and poorly enacted. The NRPP's approval hasn't changed that.

Paul Cholakov
Montecollum



Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

Cheques exist?

I received a cheque in the mail (I didn't know they still existed) from Medicare. It is payment to a specialist doctor for services rendered. No money for me. I then received a text asking me, the patient, to forward said cheque to another address.

Are you kidding me? This is efficiency? The productivity commissioners would be banging their heads against the wall. Again.

Larry Hoofs
The Pocket

Ballina to Atlantis

Regarding Ballina Hospital emergency/Ballina Shire Council (*Echo*, 14 October): Jamie Hoile, what a great letter.

A couple of additional points:

- Government grant to help fix traffic flooding on Ross Lane, presumably to sell the proposed floodplain development
- Proposed development opposite Emanuel College – hundreds of houses on swamp land with one proposal for vertical evacuation, i.e. helicopter pad for older people (Stairway to Heaven!)
- Massive development opposite Fishermens Co-Op across the road from Emigrant Creek (tidal)
- The new bridge will only help in dry times and cause huge problems on either side which already floods, so no access to Ballina Hospital
- King tides and heavy rain

block Bruxner Highway to Alstonville (i.e. Lismore Base Hospital)

• Heavy rains now cause Ballina Island to be land-locked. New bus terminal (millions of dollars worth) already floods in king tides. A new hospital on the present site will not help if you cannot get to it from either side, including Cumbalum

• Our current Ballina Mayor Cadwallader wants to be the new independent state member for Ballina which is sited on low-lying land. However, various past councils have rezoned low areas for development – nature never stood a chance against the almighty dollar.

A potential Atlantis? When will we ever learn?

C & C Quick
Rous

Hospital action!

In the past I have pushed against agencies that denied the avenues to pursue a positive outcome.

In the case of the essential new Lennox Head roundabout, Ballina Shire Council told me that this was not possible until funds became available in 2036!

In *The Echo* I pointed out that this was unconscionable in the light of Ballina Council investing millions in gentrification works in the shopping precinct, but not investing in community safety at that critical intersection.

I suggested the interim roundabout. Two days later Council put in that roundabout. Then, responding to community pressure, Justine Elliot MP announced federal funding of \$1,533,144 for the project.

I now call on the community to advocate for a fast-tracked, overdue, 'fit for purpose' Ballina Hospital and outpatients service.

When a person walks into outpatients and cannot find a seat, or has to wait over six hours for treatment, the public deserves much, much

better. Something is broken.

It is not incumbent on overburdened staff to do the impossible! It requires someone to make decisions and for funding to be made immediately available.

When asking this question of those who have influence I get mixed responses. Ballina Mayor, Sharon Cadwallader, has enumerated the positive steps she is involved with. Especially if Council does not easily condone the massive expansion in population currently proposed by enormous, new, and questionable subdivisions.

My argument sees Council putting the cart before the horse: 'Let them come, and then build the infrastructure to cope!' This is intolerable.

Build the hospital, fix the flooded roads, build the bridges, provide sufficient parking, fix the black spots, etc, and then provide fit-for-purpose and affordable housing.

Tamara Smith MP did not wish to comment personally but her chief of staff stated 'we are aware of the broader concerns about Ballina Hospital's capacity and need to ensure local health services can meet community's needs, both now and in the future'.

Beyond that, he merely referred me the Ballina Region Health Services Plan, which will assess current and future needs with an 'online survey' that closed on 25 October. That survey outcome is not scheduled until 2027. The chief of staff admitted that the survey 'does not extend to a new hospital location or funding'.

Way too little, too late! People can't sit down in a chair at outpatients and wait

six or seven hours to be seen. This can wait no longer.

Currently candidates for the upcoming state election are being photographed in front of Ballina Hospital. Now this needs to translate to actions, not just photo opportunities. Please just fix our hospital – someone! Who will do it?

Jamie Hoile
Lennox Head

Ballina Hospital

After recently suffering a stroke I have been extremely fortunate to be doing my rehabilitation at the Ballina Hospital rehabilitation unit.

I cannot speak highly enough of the professionalism and kindness of all staff including cleaners, kitchen staff, wardsmen, nurses, doctors, physios, and OTs and OT assistants and administration.

Nothing is too much trouble for these wonderful people and they deserve the highest praise for the care they give to patients.

During my stay, three areas that seem at odds with this otherwise-excellent facility are cause for concern.

The use of bottled water throughout the hospital which is sourced from a private company AAA Bottled Water which is located in Penrith. This water doesn't taste the best and the bottles are overfilled so they spill and they are made of very thin plastic that can leak. This is in direct contrast with Queensland hospitals that provide a fresh jug of water and plastic glass each day.

Secondly another private company Hills provides TVs for patients, at a cost of \$10 a day, \$47 a week, or \$87

► Continued on next page



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

► Continued from page 11 a month. Now this is just free-to-air TV, not a bad little earner. In Queensland TV is free just as it should be in NSW hospitals.

The most important area is the 18 hospital beds in the mothballed Transitional Care Unit that have remained unused for the past six years due to funding cuts from NSW Health. All of these can be easily fixed with common sense and the will to improve.

Scott Hyams
Mullumbimby

Council: efficient, benchmarked?

Despite lots of information about the rate rise, there are no options, ideas for increasing revenue, or organisational efficiencies provided by Byron Shire Council and no advice that business rates are below the state average including below Ballina and Lismore.

The cost of servicing a tourism economy appears to be a major factor. In 2019 Council identified a cost of \$23m per year but provide no update. Without state approval for a tourism levy the only current method to allocate those costs is to review business rates, but Council hasn't.

The 26/27 rates projection identifies the business rates contribution as \$7.2m, which is 21 per cent of the total, with just under \$3m from Byron Bay CBD.

Residential rates deliver \$25.4m, which is 74 per cent.

Increasing the business contribution, wouldn't raise additional funds but would reduce the impact on residents. If residential rates were 65 per cent that could

deliver an average of \$214 reduction per year, per residential property. Business rates would increase but that would bring them in line with other councils.

Council reports reveal there's been an increase of 90 staff since before the 2017 rate rise, at approximately \$6.5m per year. Council also doesn't reveal expenditure on consultants.

Residents are being asked to support another rate rise but deserve a fair outcome and assurance that Council is operating efficiently.

Jan Barham
Broken Head

No SRV

Proposing another Special Rate Variation (SRV) during a financial, and affordable housing, crisis portrays a local council willing to cause further financial distress to ordinary ratepayers, renters, and small business owners who rely on residents having a disposable income.

Past SRVs, selling community assets, and Council's 2016, 'Fit For Future Plan' has not fixed our basic infrastructure requirements, nor prevented Council from once again, returning to financial hardship.

Attempts to increase the rate base with condensed housing developments has only increased Council's infrastructure costs, flood-risk costs, and placed unsustainable pressure on our fragile natural environment.

Jan Barham's article and multiple letters printed in *The Echo* have accurately presented the sentiments and questions of many residents across Byron Shire.

I respectfully add that the proposed SRV is not required

to meet residents' expectation that 'our Council treat all residents equally, with transparency, integrity, and with an ethical responsibility'.

H Rowland
Ocean Shores

■ See comment by Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye on the following page.

Wheelchair-accessible buses?

Why in 2026 are buses, including school buses, not wheelchair-accessible?

Why has Byron Council banned local buses, that bring local people to town to shop in local businesses, from stopping in the main streets of Mullumbimby and Byron Bay?

Why is it that for six years the trip planner has failed to accurately list the one bus servicing Byron hinterland communities? Currently the bus does not appear at all.

At other times it has appeared at times it does not run. The route number shown in some timetables is not shown on the bus. If this 'planner' was for airlines or hotels, there would justifiably be an uproar. So why have these issues gone unresolved for six years despite being repeatedly shown to exist to high level Council and NSW government representatives?

Could the answer to these questions be that Council and state government simply don't care about the significant proportion of ratepayers who need these services for work, education, medical services, and simple day-to-day movement?

Action and explanation from councillors and candidates for the NSW election encouraged.

Basil Cameron
Goonengerry

Clifford St koalas

Trawling through voluminous documentation to get abreast of the current DA for 9-15 Clifford Street is not how I want to spend my time. It is necessary, however, to advocate for our precious ecology, again at risk, from the same developer. This, of course, is a shire-wide issue, and does not pertain merely to Clifford Street, beachside Suffolk Park.

'Extreme lengths' by the developer's team were undertaken to protect the Cypress Pine Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) at the site of the proposed development. They had no choice, however, after the previous DA lodged was refused by the Land and



A koala on a cypress pine at Clifford Street, Suffolk Park.
Photo Lynne Richardson

Environment Court in 2023.

Yet, 582 square metres of other high value native vegetation remains at risk. 15 native trees belonging to the critically endangered littoral rainforest and endangered swamp sclerophyll forest are set for removal. The vegetation may well be below the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme entry threshold, but these trees are mature and in good condition, providing support for other endangered communities at risk, including koalas and the grey-headed flying-fox.

Site assessment objectives by Blackwood Ecological Services have focussed exclusively on vegetation. The koala community and other fauna have consistently been downplayed in ecological reports since the DA of 2022, through the assertion of no evidence of koalas at the site. Contradicting this is video and photographic evidence tendered to the Land and Environment Court by Suffolk Park neighbours and residents. This includes a rescue from above Jimmy's Coffee caravan as recently as June last year.

Many sightings and rescues in the locality have been recorded by Friends of the Koala, including at 9-15 Clifford Street.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has made it very clear that even single trees are valuable, and can act as stepping-stones or provide habitat. Do we really want to see more endangered and critically endangered vegetation removed to facilitate this questionable over-development?

The constraints of the site need to be fully recognised, not just on the grounds that saw the previous DA off in court. The Cypress Pine EEC may well have been deliberative in the commissioner's judgement, but it was not exclusive.

Small impacts in small communities like ours can have broad effects. I encourage the wider community respecting ecological values to have their say on this DA.

Developers need to get the message.

Lynne Richardson
Suffolk Park

Clifford Street DA

Clifford Street: Three affordable homes and a bigger housing question.

The Clifford Street DA has divided Suffolk Park, but I don't believe this has to be a choice between supporting development and caring about existing tenants. We desperately need more housing in Byron Shire, including genuinely affordable homes.

I am not opposing the development. I want to see housing delivered, but I also want to know what happens to the people who already live here.

As a mother of four, and a current tenant in the affected units, this is personal. After being forced to leave a previous rental because of black mould in 2024, I spent six months homeless with my children. I now volunteer with a local homelessness service.

The proposal includes three affordable rental apartments. Three homes won't solve Byron's housing crisis, but they are a start. In Suffolk Park, where finding another rental is incredibly difficult even for people who can pay market rent, the need for secure housing cannot be ignored.

I want the developer to clarify in writing what relocation arrangements will be offered to existing tenants, whether moving assistance will be available and whether the proposed 30 per cent of household income rent model will be secured for the three affordable apartments for the full 15-year period.

At a recent public meeting

organised independently of the Suffolk Park Community Association (SPCA), some attendees reportedly felt intimidated and reluctant to ask questions amid shouting and jeering directed at the developer.

Whatever our views on the DA, people should feel able to ask questions and express their opinions respectfully.

SPCA remains neutral on the application. Its reopened the community survey and I encourage residents to complete the SPCA survey and make their own submission to Byron Shire Council before the exhibition period closes.

Hayley Devlin
Suffolk Park

■ Hayley Devlin is the Secretary of the Suffolk Park Community Association (SPCA), formerly the Suffolk Park Progress Association.

Ain't easy being green

What the hell is David Shoebridge doing? No sooner had he become the new leader of the Greens than he is attacking the Labor party, his natural political ally, saying the Greens are not here to support Labor – they are here to *replace* Labor.

Does this mean the Greens will no longer exchange preferences with Labor?

Both the Greens and Labor rely on each other's preferences to get elected.

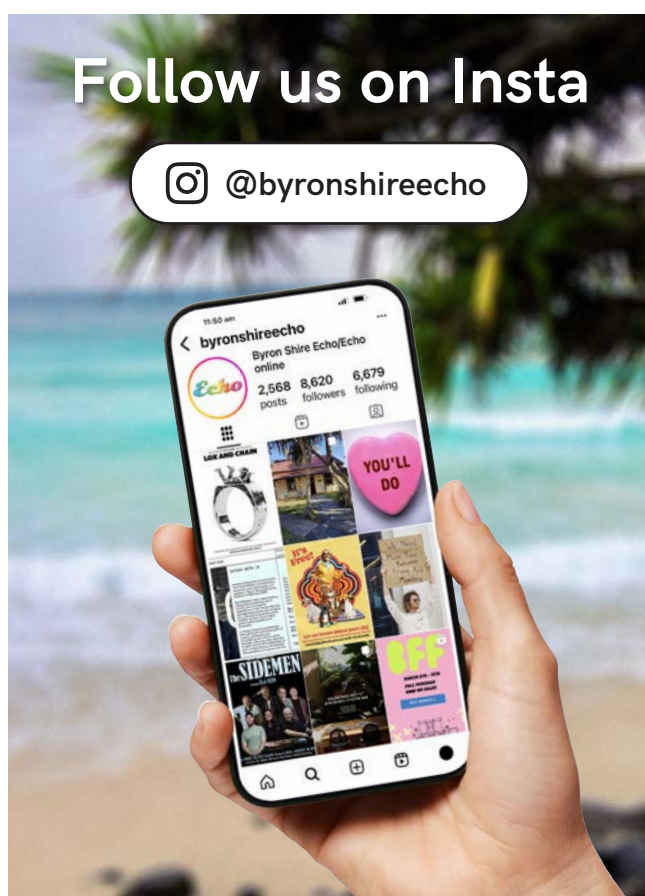
This is *no* time for the Greens to go to war with Labor. The Libs, Nats, and One Nation, aided by the Murdoch shock-jocks, are relentlessly slugging the Labor government – and it sticks, even when it's based on exaggerations, distortions, and lies. All this at a time when we need as many well-informed people on deck to defeat this mindless 'protest' swing toward One Nation.

For the past 33 years my partner and I, along with many thousands of others, have given our primary vote to the Greens and first preference to Labor. If Shoebridge wants a war with Labor, let the Greens be the first casualty. In the next election I will be giving my primary vote to Labor.

I looked forward to the day when the Greens form a coalition with Labor, to become a winning team – a very progressive and environmentally engaged net-zero government.

But it won't happen under Shoebridge.

Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek



Reflecting on Brunswick Heads' coastal cypress pines

■ Although they are listed on the National Heritage Trust Register, Reflections CEO, Nick Baker is not prepared to recognise the remnants of the WW1 Coastal Cypress Pines Memorial in the Terrace Holiday Park as a war memorial. He rests his argument on the fact that it is not registered on the NSW War Memorial Register.

Based on advice from Council, the Department of Veteran Affairs has declined to register it pending a review of the evidence.

A 2017 ecologist/botanist's report to Council concluded there was uncertainty about the pines ever being planted. Drawing on that report, the conclusion of uncertainty was supported by a heritage consultants. Both consultants positioned that the community had given value to existing pines as a war memorial.

However, within the last 12 months, historical aerial photographs have come to hand. They clearly show distinct east-west rows of trees extending through the holiday park. This evidence supports ecologist/botanist Greg Elks' Vegetation Management Plan 2011 which formed part of the 2014 Plan of Management for the Terrace Holiday Park (renamed Brunswick Heads Holiday Park) wherein he refers to rows of coastal cypress pines with a long history of planting.

In September 2026,



An aerial photo from the 1960s of Brunswick Heads showing the coastal cypress pines planted in east-west rows. Photo supplied

Greg Elks was asked, 'In a natural regenerative environment, would coastal cypress pines grow in rows over an extended area?' His response, in part was, 'As indicated in the Terrace Reserve Vegetation Management Plan (Idyll Spaces Environmental Consultants dated 21 January 2011) it was my opinion that coastal cypress in the southern precinct (and at least several in the central precinct) were evenly spaced and in parallel lines and had therefore been planted.'

The aerial photography, together with expert opinion gives certainty to the text written by Mr O'Meara and Mr Bashforth that the pines were planted.

In May 2021 the Land and Environment Court was scathing of Reflections management of the pines which had been listed as an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) in 2016. The court ordered the replanting and regeneration of the pines.

The replanting of the original forest as laid out by Shire Engineer Mr Boyd in 1918 would comply with the dural purpose of revitalising the intentionally planted memorial and the regeneration of the EEC.

Based on the above evidence, Council is in a position to advise Veteran Affairs of the certainty of the planting of a war memorial in the Terrace and support its listing as such. Meanwhile, the descendants of those men who volunteered to plant the memorial should be outraged by this certainty versus uncertainty issue.

Patricia Warren
Brunswick Heads

■ These are the trees [above photograph on right] that were shown to Byron Shire Council members (when they were still alive) by Reflections Holiday Parks as a demonstration of their commitment to the replanting of the coastal cypress pines.

As you can see most are



Coastal cypress pines that residents say Reflections Holiday Parks were planning to plant. Photo supplied

now dead and not one of them has been planted.

I was one of the community members who was at the meeting prior to the erection of these fence and tent structures. There was no consultation. It was an announcement that the following week they would be commencing construction of the glamping tents.

A map was provided indicating that new fencing was to be provided where the old fencing existed – namely along the riverbank – not enclosing the southern precinct and there was a gateway that was at the normal area where people would enter from the south to enable them to go through the southern area.

We were expressly reassured that no fencing would be put up excluding the public from that. As per usual Reflections says one thing and does another!

Megan Cusack
Brunswick Head

Why is Byron Shire Council seeking a special rate variation?

Sarah Ndiaye

Former Mayor Jan Barham asks why Byron Shire Council (BSC) is considering a rate increase before NSW government funding reforms are settled. It is a fair question.

No one wants to introduce a rate rise. Fuel, materials, labour and insurance have all gone up. Council can't simply lift our prices to cover it. We must go through extensive community consultation first, and rightly so.

A special rate variation (SRV) was one of the first things I was asked to consider when I was elected in 2016. The 2017 variation was identified as insufficient to stop our infrastructure declining. Rising construction costs and the 2022 floods have made it worse.

The NSW funding reforms are welcome, but their timing and benefits remain uncertain. Delaying infrastructure renewal could leave residents facing significantly higher costs later.

Council is consulting on a cumulative 35.03 per cent increase in ordinary land rates over three years, including the annual rate peg. It does not apply to water, sewerage, waste or storm-water charges. If approved, the higher rates base would be permanent. Councillors will decide on 3 December whether to apply to IPART.

The proposal would raise approximately \$83.9 million over ten years. Seventy per cent is proposed for infrastructure renewal and maintenance, ten per cent for climate adaptation, and 20 per cent for business resilience.

The cost of waiting is real. Resealing a road costs about \$9 per square metre, full reconstruction costs about \$150. Without additional funding, our modelling shows a further 104 kilometres of sealed roads will fall into poor condition over the next decade.

Developer contributions support infrastructure needed for growth, but not routine maintenance or the

renewal of ageing assets.

Tourism adds real pressure to local services. Council has advocated for a bed tax for decades, but it requires NSW government action. We are working to better quantify visitor impacts and seek funding reflecting that.

Reviewing business rates could redistribute the burden between residential and business ratepayers, but it would not increase total rates revenue or deliver funding needed for renewal.

Swimming pools, libraries and community facilities are subsidised so access stays affordable.

We are exploring every alternative, from cutting spending to raising revenue. The community listening sessions have been productive. Updated asset modelling went to the Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Committee in September. The Financial Sustainability Review and community feedback will be made public before councillors decide.

On timing, I believe now is right. We have a stable Council and a well trusted general manager. Deferring would push the burden onto a new Council or into an election year, when good decisions are harder to make.

Here is what weighs on me most. A rate rise is hard for people already doing it tough, and I do not say that lightly. But if we do nothing, the people hurt most will be those on the lowest incomes and those who are socially disadvantaged. They are the least able to absorb failing roads and shrinking services. Councillors must weigh financial need, alternatives, efficiencies and community capacity to pay before any application, and that is exactly what we are doing.

I encourage everyone to review the information, use the rates calculator and have their say at yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/srv by 30 October.

■ Sarah Ndiaye is the Mayor of Byron Shire.

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On the brink: beach-nesting birds

Byron Bird Buddies

Perched on the edge of the Brunswick River estuary, binoculars poised, Jan and I are searching for beach-nesting birds. It's a magnificent morning in early spring and these birds are starting to build their nest scrapes in the sand. The estuary's waters are mostly shallow, its nutrients supplied by the sea's tidal movements, shifting sands and run-off from the land. Together with four surrounding nature reserves and three tributaries of the river, these waters attract a host of wildlife, including the Pied Oystercatcher pair who've just come into view.

'They are one of this shire's 18 species of resident shorebirds,' says Jan, who is part of the Byron Bird Buddies' monitoring team.

'Along with 22 migratory shorebird species that visit each year, they need quiet places for foraging and somewhere to roost above the high tide line. Our resident population includes three beach-nesters: Pied Oystercatchers, Beach Stone-curlews, and Red-Capped Plovers. They're here year-round, so also require somewhere safe to nest and raise their chicks.'

While the residents nest in late winter and early spring, migratory birds start arriving at the end of August. Little Terns come from their breeding grounds in Japan; Whimbrels and Bar-Tailed Godwits fly all the way from Siberia and the Arctic respectively.

'They're exhausted when they get here and need to recover. Some stay right through summer. As March approaches, the migratory birds begin to depart, and by May most of them have gone. It's ...'

Jan's words are drowned by the sudden roar of two motorboats. Their wakes rush in successive laps across a sandy patch on a mid-stream island, startling the Pied Oystercatchers.

Jan grimaces. 'Each disturbance can imperil shorebirds. It's not just powerboats. We've seen paddle-boarders and kayakers approaching beach-nesting birds. We've even seen the odd dog leap from a paddle-board, swim ashore and wreak havoc.'

Byron Shire is blessed with numerous estuaries, wetlands, creeks, and beaches, which should offer a wide choice of isolated habitat where these birds can



Australian Pied Oystercatchers with chick. Photo Reid Waters

go about their daily business in peace. While marine parks, national parks, and reserves supposedly protect all of our shorebirds – and international agreements protect migratory ones – boating, fishing, and yabbing are widely permitted across the shire.

Impacts of population and tourism increase

Sadly, even endangered resident shorebirds, such as Pied Oystercatchers and Beach Stone-curlews, have nowhere safe to go.

This reality is reflected in Byron Bird Buddies' annual monitoring reports, which, in the case of the Belongil estuary and beach, date back to 2004. Declining numbers of successfully raised and fledged chicks coincide with increases in population and tourist numbers. Added to that is the toll taken by introduced predators, along with natural predation by Silver Gulls, Osprey, Brushturkeys, and Crows. There are also cyclones, east coast lows, flooding rain, gale-force winds, even abnormally high tides to contend with. Little wonder that only two Beach Stone-curlew nest sites remain in the entire shire.

'From our observations, a pair of Pied Oystercatchers requires 200 square metres for nesting,' Jan says. 'The parents have to compete for food, not just with other nesting birds but with their own offspring, because their chicks are precocial. That means the chicks hatch with eyes open, bodies covered in down and immediate mobility. They have to escape from predators and defend themselves from the start. Pied Oystercatchers generally lay 2-3 eggs, and each nest site needs enough room for parents and young to forage.'

'Beach Stone-curlews usually only lay one egg per year when nesting, although they might lay a second one

if the first egg is destroyed or a newly-hatched chick dies. Either way, survival odds are grim now that we're down to two pairs.'

With that, Jan and I visit one of the Brunswick River breakwaters, a popular spot for tourists and locals alike. It's mid-morning in the school holidays and the rock wall is bristling with people. Amongst the busyness, a Pied Oystercatcher nests in a modest nook between the rocks. Towering above it, a Pelican, ostensibly engaged in preening, waits for a disturbance. It's hoping someone will walk close to the nesting bird. Once startled, the Pelican will pounce on the egg.

'This is a new nest site,' Jan says. 'Precarious, to say the least.' It seems the Oystercatcher is pleading with us – showing us what it's been reduced to in its desperate attempt to reproduce.

Next is one of Byron Bay's popular beaches where a stormwater outlet empties into the sand dunes. Shorebirds forage here and the surrounding area has become a roost site. As we watch Welcome Swallows chase insects mid-air, a bright flash draws our attention. It's a pair of spectacular Rainbow Bee-eaters, whose vibrant colours and deft, aerial skills instantaneously lift our somewhat sombre mood.

'They make long tunnels in the sandy banks here,' Jan says, pointing at the Bee-eaters, 'with a special nesting chamber at the end. Striated Pardalotes nest here too. Trouble is, people – especially kids – walk and run all over the top of the sand dunes and that causes catastrophic cave-in events.'

Nearby is a small, temporarily fenced-off area, aimed at protecting beach-nesting birds. In 2024, one of the two pairs of Beach Stone-curlews moved here from a site that had become unstable. Other birds that nested here in the

latest monitoring period include Pied Oystercatchers, a pair of Red-capped Plovers and a pair of Masked Lapwings. Reid Waters, an original founder of Byron Bird Buddies and dedicated member of the monitoring team, checks these and other shorebirds' nests regularly – sometimes daily – during nesting season, recording his observations at every stage.

At the Belongil estuary, another fenced-off area is in place to protect roosting and nesting birds. This site is truly dynamic, with shifting sand and tidal flows causing constant fluctuations in water levels. Some of the birds that formerly nested here have turned up at different sites, others have simply disappeared, fate unknown. That climate change will exacerbate weather events is a given.

In this year's monitoring period, our beach-nesting birds laid 32 eggs between them. Of these, the number of chicks known to have fledged is sobering: three Pied Oystercatchers, one Beach Stone-Curlew and one Red-capped Plover.

'The promotion of tourism and our ever-growing population are putting pressure on our shorebirds,' Jan says.

'Different birds have different needs. Shorebirds are complex edge-feeders with special requirements. They don't nest in trees but in a shallow scrape on the ground. Their evolutionary traits compel them to nest where there's a food source for chicks that's free of predation and has a 360° view to watch for predators. Increasingly, there's a lack of such places. Instead, there's constant disturbance by people, dogs, and foxes. Beach-nesting birds are an important story, especially for a tourist town. We have to change our thinking.'

You can help preserve these precious, vulnerable birds by:

- Reading signage and following instructions about nesting shorebirds.
- Avoiding fenced-off areas and 'no-go' zones established to protect birds.
- Keeping your dog on a leash, particularly from August to March.
- Using bait pumps away from shorebird nesting areas.
- Staying out of sand dunes and confining walking to wet sand.

To learn more or to join Byron Bird Buddies, email byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com.



Wanderlust Community Night Market

Set beneath the festoon lights in the heart of Mullumbimby, Wanderlust invites the community to a magical evening celebrating connection and conscious living at the Wanderlust Night Market.

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Wingsuit pilot Chris Geiler is all about speed

Eve Jeffery

Northern Rivers wingsuit pilot Chris Geiler has returned from the sixth FAI World Wingsuit Flying Championships held at Skydive Elsinore in California, with a win in the speed division.

Geiler, who is the fastest unpowered human to fly horizontally across the planet (think as fast as a Formula One racing car – with no car), holding the world record of 326.8km/h since October of 2021.

Geiler is part of a team who between them have won five out of six world titles, with team-mate Luke Rogers securing the overall championship this year to claim his second world title.

Geiler says the comp went well, though he feels he could have done better with more training. Though he loves to fly, Geiler says the comps are all business.

‘Even after finishing the comp run you’re just focused on having a good deployment and then you’re physically exhausted once



Chris Geiler with winning speed. Photo supplied

the parachute opens. The big (flying) suits are a workout and stressful!’

Geiler says he and the team also try to help less-experienced people with their flying skills and preparation while on the ground in between jumps.

Geiler says the speed runs can be tricky. ‘Flying at that speed is like being right on the edge of being out of control. Every movement needs to be slow and smooth to stop you

from flipping and being out of control in a flat spin.’

‘Speed runs are kind of scary but my best speed runs feel easy, everything just falls into place and happens smoothly. The worst are where you’re swerving across the sky at over 300kph, hoping you can hold it together until the end of the competition window.’

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

Byron Bay wins Wallace Shield

For the past 63 years Byron Bay and Ballina lady golfers have had a fierce, but friendly, rivalry for the Wallace Shield. Even Covid couldn’t spoil the party, although the competition was played with certain restrictions.

This year Byron Bay won the shield, defeating Ballina 557 points to 523.

The shield has been won by Byron Bay 35 times, Ballina 26 with two draws.

Wallace & Co of Ballina has sponsored the competition since its inception. May Wallace, a keen golfer herself, wanted to support women in golf and the social benefits the game has to offer and her daughter Debbie has continued the tradition.



A jubilant Byron Bay captain, Marjorie Askew on the right, receives the Wallace Shield from Debbie Carter, daughter of the founder, while Ballina captain, Pauline Ryan, looks on. Photo supplied

Locals heading to Jakarta for a padel

Three Northern Rivers junior tennis players, brothers Miles and Ollie and teammate Frankie, have been selected to represent Australia at the FIP Junior Asia Padel Cup in Jakarta this November. All three are proud to be pulling on the green and gold, and they hope their journey shows other regional kids that big dreams are possible.

So what’s padel? Picture tennis doubles played inside a glass box, the serve is underarm, the glass walls are part of the game, and the result long, thrilling rallies. The court is smaller than tennis so the game is social, easy to pick up and, players say, very addictive, with padel clubs adding to the vibe with music and catering woven into the experience.

New local clubs

Padel Australia say in 2023 there were just five clubs nationally, now there are 100,000 players and heading toward 40 clubs by the end of this year, with new clubs planned for Byron



Miles Field, Frankie Smith, and Oliver Field, getting ready for the challenge. Photo K Smith

and Ballina Shire.

Australia’s national padel team have a proud record in international padel. Former tennis world No. 1 Pat Rafter and local padel players Matt Barrelle and Tim Lanyon have worn the green and gold, and now it’s the juniors’ turn. Padel Australia selected locals Miles, Ollie and Frankie, who all play high-level junior tennis, into the U14 team to join the squad.

Aussie Crocs team manager Harry Bruen said: ‘It’s incredibly exciting to take

such a talented group of boys and girls to the Asia Pacific Championships, where they’ll represent Australia in padel for the very first time’.

Getting an Australian junior team to Jakarta is a big task, with flights, accommodation, uniforms and tournament costs all adding up. With limited government funding the team is seeking donations to help showcase Australian talent, and bring more kids into a fun, active and social sport. To donate, visit gofund.me/d65003ca4.

Karate success for young locals

Three young karate students from Ewingsdale’s Jin Wu Koon Karate have qualified for the AMAC Australian Championship following competition in Queensland.

Sensei Richard Light said, ‘I have just returned from the Queensland State Karate Championships where Jin Wu Koon Karate tasted great success.’

‘It was Jesse, Sage and Oscar’s first state titles but they took on the challenge with courage, commitment and focus. Sage won gold in the 11-12 years non-contact sparring and silver in the free sparring.’

‘Jesse was disqualified for



Jesse, Sage and Oscar from Jin Wu Koon Karate. Photo supplied

excessive contact in a lively bout with Sage in the free-style semi but came second in kata. Oscar came third in freestyle sparring.’

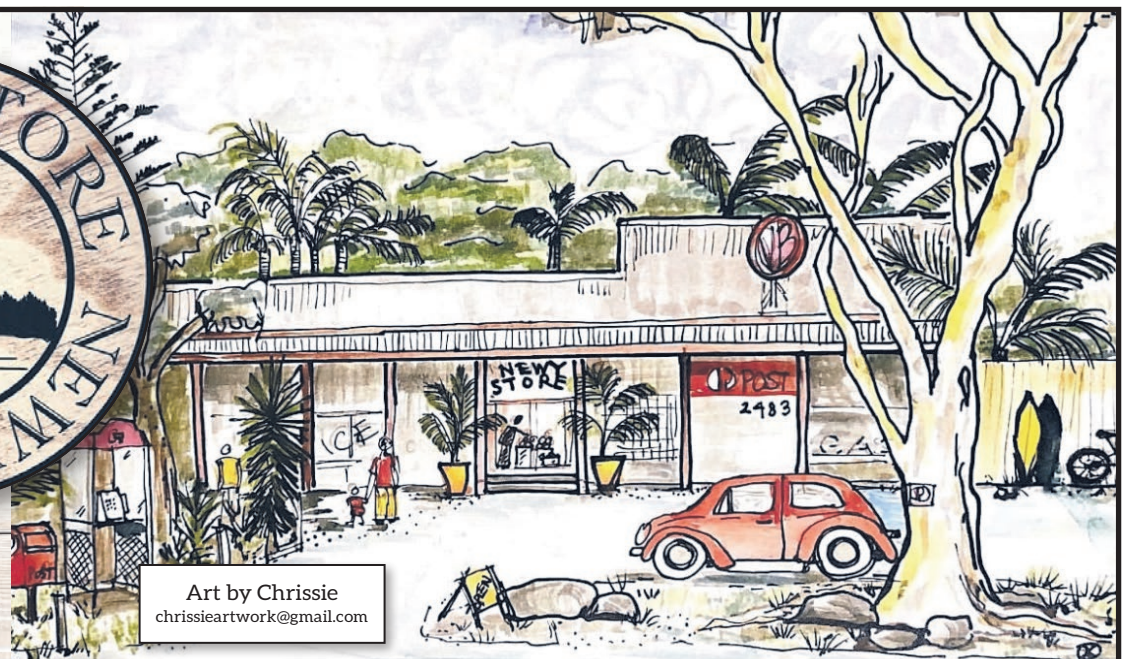
All three boys qualified for the Australian Martial Arts Championships (AMAC) to be held in Sydney on 5-6 December.

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Making SPACES

Eden at Byron



Late spring is hydrangea time. With lovely, neat mounds of lush green leaves topped by clusters of little buds that grow plumper by the day, they are a highlight in semi-shaded positions from now through to the end of summer. In full bloom, the large, striking flower heads in shades of blue, purple, pink, cerise, and white, are just gorgeous.

Hydrangeas are an easy-care, fast-growing shrub. One of the very cool things about them is that the flower colour can change depending on the pH of the soil. Acidic soils will generally produce bluer flowers, whereas alkaline soils will produce pinker flowers.

Hydrangeas are long-lived and easy to grow in pots and gardens in a partly shaded spot protected from strong winds and hot afternoon sun.



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There's something undeniably sexy about a magnificent tree — the sweeping canopy, the sculptural branches the way it transforms an ordinary backyard into a private oasis. And even the most beautiful trees need a little love.

Healthy trees also provide valuable homes for birds and wildlife. Thoughtful tree management helps protect these precious environments for generations to come. The team at Sentinel Tree Care brings expertise and passion to every project, from expert pruning to habitat creation, storm damage management, selective removals and professional tree lighting.

Because exceptional tree care is about more than tending branches. It's about turning your space into something truly beautiful.



0421 435 620
hello@sentineltreecare.com.au
sentineltreecare.com.au

Artisan Air Combat humidity and protect your home



During the Northern Rivers' rainy season, excess humidity creates the perfect environment for mould growth in both air conditioning systems and homes. Artisan Air reminds homeowners that most modern air conditioners feature a dehumidifier setting – a powerful yet often underutilised function that removes moisture without overcooling spaces.

Running the dehumidifier mode regularly during wet weather prevents mould development inside the unit while protecting furnishings, walls, and belongings from moisture damage. This setting uses less energy than full cooling mode, making it an economical humidity control solution.

For homes requiring additional moisture management, Artisan Air supplies dedicated dehumidifiers that work independently or alongside existing systems. These standalone units provide targeted control in problem areas like bathrooms, laundries, and bedrooms, ensuring comprehensive protection throughout the home.

02 6680 9394
hello@artisanair.com.au
artisanair.com.au



Swap a Bottle



With spring slowly getting us warmer and the pressure of winter leaving us - you may like to consider if choosing a true local for your gas supply is something to look into!

Swap a Bottle are a local, small, family business, located in Murwillumbah. They enjoy offering regular local deliveries from Bangalow to Tugun.

If they don't personally deliver in your area - they have a local distributor that does!

Choosing a small business run by locals is a decision to help the whole community. With no ongoing fees or rental charges - they maybe the change you have been looking for!

If you feel like taking a lovely drive, you can drop in and have your BBQ bottles quickly refilled on-site, as long as they are in-date.

Feel free to jump on the website to place an order or Free Call 1300 727 013 for any more information the team can help with!



10 Kite Crescent, South Murwillumbah
Free Call 1300 727 013
swapabottlegas.com

Working Windows



There's a door in your home that sticks. A window that won't quite close. A ripped screen you've stopped noticing because you've learned to work around it. Every time you tolerate something broken, you're quietly giving up some comfort, style or freedom in your home.

There's always a reason why you've been putting it off. Maybe it's something small, maybe it's just not the right time. But that's the thing with working windows: fixing them doesn't have to be a big deal.

Fixing what's broken is more than just maintenance. It's a small, physical act of creating something lighter, freer, more open and involved.

That's Working Windows. Sliding doors, windows, screens, locks. You name it, we've seen it. Because your home is meant to be lived in, not worked around.

This spring: 20% off your first repair
0435 506 465 or 0405 793 994
workingwindows1@gmail.com
workingwindows.com.au



Good Taste

Dining Guide

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

BRUNSWICK HEADS

PACIFIC BISTRO AT BRUNSWICK HEADS BOWLING CLUB

Good food, great value, and no fuss! Enjoy fresh meals, pub favourites, burgers, weeknight specials, fortnightly chef's specials, and Sunday roasts in a relaxed, family-friendly setting.

Check Facebook for the latest menu!

Open: Tuesday–Sunday, 12–2pm and 5–8pm

Address: 107 Tweed Street, Brunswick Heads
brunswickbowlingclub.com
[@brunswickheadsbowlingclub](https://www.facebook.com/brunswickheadsbowlingclub)

BYRON BAY

BOMBAY TO BYRON AUTHENTIC INDIAN FOOD

Serving Indian food to Byron Bay for last 12 years.

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

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

MANNA HAVEN

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

Celebrating 20 years in Byron!

Open: Mon to Fri 11am–3pm

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

THE BELONGIL

A world-class, multi-venue dining and lifestyle destination at the heart of Belongil Beach, Byron Bay.

Open: Belongil Kiosk: 7 days a week, 6:30am–4pm

Belongil Bistro: Wednesday–Sunday, 11:30 til late

Feu – Dinner: from 5pm Thursday to Saturday, Lunch from 12pm Friday to Sunday

Address: 33-35 Childe Street, Byron Bay
Contact: 02 5643 9377
reservations@belongilgroup.com
belongilgroup.com • [@thebelongil](https://www.facebook.com/thebelongil)

BAYSIDE YAKINIKU CLUB BY YUKO

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

Open: Wednesday to Sunday

Lunch 12pm–3pm
Dinner 5.30pm–8.30pm

Address: 1/14 Bay Street, Byron Bay
Contact: 0493 565 508
[@bayside_yakiniku_club](https://www.facebook.com/bayside_yakiniku_club)

THREE BLUE DUCKS

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

Open: Monday – Friday 8am–4pm
Saturday 8am– 6.30pm
Sunday 8am–8pm

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

NO BONES BYRON BAY

Vegan Kitchen + Bar

\$20 Carbonara Mondays – every Monday until sold out.

Happy hour – \$14 cocktails from 5-6pm every night.

Live jazz – first friday of every month from 6.30pm.

Open: 7 nights from 5pm

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

ROCA BYRON BAY

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

Open: every day except Wednesday 6.30am to late

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

FOREST BYRON BAY

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

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

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

WILSONS CREEK

THREEWAYS OF THE VALLEY

Nestled in the lush Wilsons Creek rainforest, a beautiful destination for seasonal dining, nature and community.

Live music: Fridays, 5:30pm–7:30pm.

Rain or shine, the valley comes alive!

Private parties and events: Enquiries welcome!

Open: Breakfast & Lunch: Wed–Sun, 8am–3pm
Friday evenings: 4pm–8pm

Address: 10 Huonbrook Road, Wilsons Creek
Contact: 0421 054 804
www.threeways.store
[@threeways_of_the_valley](https://www.facebook.com/threeways_of_the_valley)



www.echo.net.au/good-taste

Photo: Ries Bosch / Unsplash

No shortage of bananas at Byron Farmers Market!



Above: Banana farmer Georgia Powell at Bangalow Farmers Market. Top: Bananas aplenty at Caldera Harvest. Right: Craig Evans shows off the goods at Byron Farmers Market.

While a banana shortage is hitting supermarket shelves around the country, stocks are in plentiful supply at our local farmers' markets each week.

Unseasonably cool weather in North Queensland has slowed down banana crop growth, leaving shelves in Coles, Woolworths and Aldi bare. However, local growers – including Georgia Powell, Craig Evans, Neville Singh and Matt Everest – are still bringing fresh supplies of locally grown bananas to Byron Farmers Market every Thursday morning.

Georgia Powell is a third-generation banana grower and president of Byron Farmers Market. Her range of certified-organic bananas, including cavendish, ladyfingers and red dacca, are available at Byron every Thursday morning, and Bangalow on Saturday mornings. She says her farm at Burringbar hasn't been affected by the conditions being felt by other banana growers.

'Production hasn't slowed up at all for us, nor has it for other local growers I've spoken too,' Georgia says. 'In fact, we've had almost ideal conditions with the heat and now with a good dump of rain it sets up the summer banana season really well.

So, we have ample supply for all our markets currently and this should continue, moving into summer.

'We're lucky in this region as bananas are in season all year round. For most growers in the subtropics there is a slowdown in production in the middle of winter, but rarely would they ever come to a full stop.'

Georgia says that more than 90 per cent of Australia's bananas come from North Queensland where there has been unseasonably cooler weather, which has affected banana production.

'This means that even a small drop in production in that region has an impact nationwide,' she says. 'And I think the supply shortage has been worsened due to the fact that WA growers are still rebuilding after having almost all of their bananas wiped out by cyclones at the start of the year. Meanwhile, growers in Coffs Harbour have plenty of fruit but Coles has ended their contracts, leaving them scrambling to find other outlets for their fruit.'

'This situation with the shortage in supermarkets due to the weather challenges up north, and the cutting of ties with Coffs growers, highlights one of the most

important things about our farmers' markets, in that our farmers aren't beholden to any major supermarket chains, central markets or agents.

'Growing and selling fruit (and everything else) direct to customers at farmers' markets gives the power back to the growers while giving the customers the choice to support local farmers and buy fresh produce. It also means the supply chain is not as vulnerable and we can continue to feed our local community week in and week out.'

■ Byron Farmers Market is held every Thursday from 7am to 11am at Butler St Reserve, and Bangalow Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 7am to 11am in Piccabeen Park.

CELEBRATIONS
Cakes by Liz Jackson

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

Made with heart – a year on at Ebiya Japanese Eatery

Almost a year after opening in Byron Bay's Arts & Industry Estate, Ebiya Japanese Eatery is becoming the welcoming neighbourhood spot its founders, Ebi and Yuko, had hoped to create.

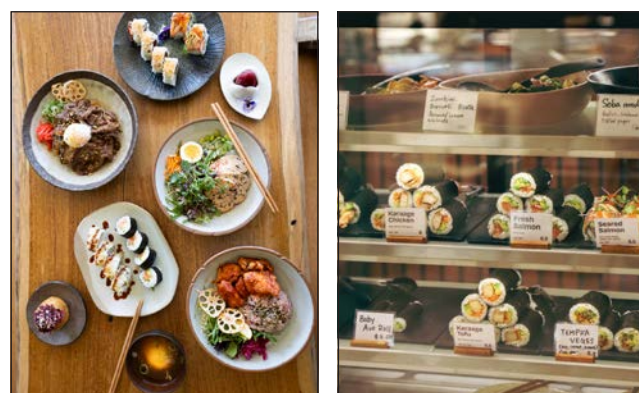
The idea was simple: to share the warmth and comfort of everyday Japanese cooking, using quality ingredients, local produce wherever possible, and food they would happily serve their own families. A place where people could drop in for a nourishing lunch, feel welcome and return throughout the week.

Ebi brings his experience as a chef and a deep appreciation for Japanese flavours and traditions. While the regular menu has found its rhythm, Today's Special gives the Ebiya team room to explore new dishes, seasonal ingredients and flavours they love sharing.

What makes this especially rewarding is the conversation with customers. Feedback, familiar faces and shared food experiences have gradually helped shape Ebiya's evolving menu. It's a lovely balance between introducing the flavours of Japan and listening to the community around them.

Beyond the food, it's the warmth of the Ebiya team and the people who walk through the door that have created its friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Seeing regular customers return, sometimes bringing friends and family, has been one of the most meaningful parts of the journey for Ebi and Yuko.

You'll also still find Ebiya every Thursday at the Byron Farmers Market,



Ebi, Yuko and the team at Ebiya Japanese Eatery share the warmth and comfort of everyday Japanese cooking. Photos supplied

where its story first began. With summer approaching, the team is looking forward to introducing new seasonal specials inspired by Byron's warmer days. Ebiya also offers lunch, catering for meetings, workshops and gatherings.

The goal remains unchanged: to share Japanese food and culture in a way that feels natural, comforting and part of everyday life.

The whole Ebiya team is grateful to everyone who has helped make the eatery what it is today and looks forward to continuing to grow alongside the community.

■ Ebiya Japanese Eatery, 6 Tasman Way, Byron Bay. Open Monday to Friday, from 11am to 2:30pm, also at Byron Farmers Market, every Thursday. @ebiyakitchen

BYC
BYRON BAY

Bayside Yakiniku Club
by Yuko

Premium Australian Wagyu
Homemade sauces
Fermented foods
Rice bowls & fresh deli salads

Open Wed-Sun
Lunch 12pm-3pm
Dinner 5:30pm-8:30pm

Shop 1/14 Bay St, Byron Bay
@f @bayside_yakiniku_club
0493 565 508

AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CHARCOAL RESTAURANT

Byron Arts & Industry Estate



1



4



2



6



7



5



3

1. AKADEMIE

Akademie exists to elevate the standard of Pilates by redefining how it is practised, taught and studied. Rooted in classical Pilates and shaped by modern concepts, their method values discipline, alignment, inclusivity and repetition. They invite you to deepen your practice with precision, purpose and long-term results. A curriculum for the body. A philosophy for life.

Unit 26/73 Centennial Circuit
hello@akademie-byron.com

2. BODHI LIVING

Bodhi Living showcases a carefully-curated collection of furniture, homewares, rugs and lighting, sourced both locally and globally. They have introduced a range of collections designed in-house, including sofas, dining tables and seating using natural and sustainable materials such as rattan and wood.

The brand encapsulates the freedom of spirit, and the soul of the individual, as represented through their home.

Shop 1/18 Centennial Circuit
bodhiliving.com.au
@bodhi.living

3. THE LARDER

Catering made simple, events made memorable

The Larder Byron Bay caters for life's moments. Casual backyard BBQs and intimate gatherings to grand celebrations, The Larder lets you relax and savour the fun. Let them handle the heat so you get the most out of your event.

Be a guest at your own party. Enjoy every moment while establishing unforgettable memories.

02 6680 8644
catering@thelarder.com.au
1/12 Bayshore Dr

The Byron Arts & Industry Estate is a dynamic, creative hub just minutes from Byron Bay. It blends Byron culture, featuring artisanal workshops, unique retailers, boutique fashion, wellness spaces, gourmet cafes and local food and drink producers in a vibrant, community-focused business precinct.



Habitat Precinct

4. BYRON BAY SALVOS STORE

Packed with quality pre-loved clothing, homewares, furniture, books and more at great prices. Discover great deals on well-known brands and make sustainable shopping even sweeter.

Now accepting donations

The Salvos welcome clean, good-quality items. Your donations help support programs making a real difference locally. Shop sustainably. Support local. Give back. Discover something special today. Great brands. Great prices. Great cause.

5 Banksia Drive

5. A J EDDEN – BYRON BAY BRANCH

Established in Newcastle in 1946, A J Edden has a proud history of providing quality locksmith services, door hardware and security systems. Now, A J Edden has a locally owned branch in Byron Bay, bringing its expertise and commitment to quality to the Northern Rivers. Servicing residential, commercial and building projects, A J Edden offers trusted advice, reliable solutions and quality products to help keep properties secure.

Unit 1, 60 Centennial Circuit
02 6617 5766
www.aje.com.au

6. LOCO LOVE

Loco Love creates artisanal chocolate magic, designed to bring more beauty, presence and love into everyday life. Crafted in Byron Bay with organic ingredients, sustainable cacao and genuine wholefoods, every creation honours nature, conscious craftsmanship and the wisdom of ritual. Each chocolate is an invitation to slow down, awaken your heart and remember the magic that already lies within you.

63 Centennial Circuit
@locolovechocolate
locolove.com

7. OUR TIMELESS THREADS

Rent a rack for just \$250. Two-week selling cycle. Receive 100% of your sales. Give your clothes a second life. Support a local, community-focused not-for-profit. Your clothes. Your rack. Your sales. Limited racks available each cycle. Come and join our circular wardrobe community.

The OTT Shop, 18 Acacia Street
rent a rack at ourtimelessthreads.org
or visit store@ourtimelessthreads



Habitat is a cleverly designed village in Byron Bay, where you can live, work and play, all in one place. Over 20 years in the making, Habitat combines the best of old-school Byron (community, creativity, respect for the environment) with the latest in design and thinking (renewable energy, car sharing, hybrid live + work spaces) along with plenty of shops, cafes, and good times, it is a little oasis within one of the most beautiful places on Earth.



HABITAT

Get out of town! Visit Habitat where you can shop, eat, drink and recharge, all in one place. Think standout wellness, beauty and fitness studios, seriously good food, and a unique mix of flagship stores. Made for slow mornings, post-work resets, and long, lingering lunches in the sunny courtyard.

1 Porter Street
habitatbyronbay.com
@habitat_byronbay

8. ASTRID DISPENSARY & CLINIC

Part clinic, part dispensary, and part lifestyle retail store, Astrid is a space to explore plant-powered wellness rituals.

Come in with a specific question, or with just your curiosity. Our Byron Bay team is here to welcome you.

Suites 57-58, 1 Porter St
02 7908 4459
astrid.health

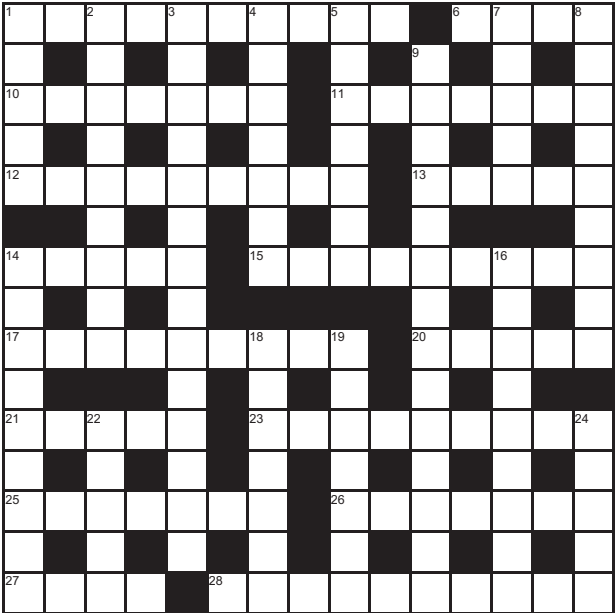


9. RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

Practicing exclusively in family law, Richardson Murray offers legal advice and guidance in matters of separation, divorce, parenting arrangements and property settlements.

With considerable experience in all matters of relationship breakdown, including domestic and family violence, Richardson Murray are known for their compassionate approach and commitment. Their dedicated team aims to deliver the best possible outcomes for clients.

42 Parkes Avenue
richardson-murray.law



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 1. Trade preserve for bottleneck (7,3)
- 6. Ray claims to exist twice (4)
- 10. Snark-hunting hotel employee (7)
- 11. University tenor to play piano – that’s ideal (7)
- 12. Reported stiffness with Italian bed – requires work by Verdi (9)
- 13. Food firm with radio skill (5)
- 14. About to steal seedpod (5)
- 15. Naturally monks go in for healthy lifestyle (2,7)
- 17. Crazy Bogle grabs note and coin (9)
- 20. Bird, a new giant (5)
- 21. Photographic evidence (5)
- 23. The French twice invade chart, a French national emblem! (5,4)
- 25. Quality, alternative: rat (7)
- 26. Detach with hesitant admission of unpunctuality (7)
- 27. And another thing – Gore’s nothing (4)
- 28. Brutes surround ruined fane for parties (10)

DOWN

- 1. Row about British-Roman flower (5)
- 2. Badly allergic, with nothing symbolic (9)
- 3. Handouts for Domino covered badly, in my belief (6,8)
- 4. Beat the weight – duck! (7)
- 5. Visual humour? (7)
- 7. On the outskirts of 17. A bush (5)
- 8. Little wildebeest confused by warning signal (6,3)
- 9. Fresh, hot: free world OK. There’s mutual responsibility (4,3,3,4)
- 14. Queen Cole, a part badly played (9)
- 16. All together, taking communion (2,3,4)
- 18. Unhappiness about the code (7)
- 19. Officer takes charge – a legend (7)
- 22. Works over Capone for the jewels (5)
- 24. Releases say: don’t move! (5)

■ Crossword circa 2009

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- 1. Road problems, gridlock (7,3)
- 6. Shine, put out rays (4)
- 10. Staffer at a plush hotel (7)
- 11. Unattainable, ideal (7)
- 12. Opera by Verdi (9)
- 13. Skill, artfulness (5)
- 14. Chocolate substitute (5)
- 15. Cigarettes banned (2,7)
- 17. Off-centre, slightly crazy (9)
- 20. Gold Coast footballer (5)
- 21. Decisive evidence. Verification (5)
- 23. Canadian flag (5,4)
- 25. Deserter, double-crosser (7)
- 26. Separate from others, set aside (7)
- 27. As well, too (4)
- 28. Celebrations, lavish meals (10)

DOWN

- 1. River of Rome (5)
- 2. Symbolic, like a parable (9)
- 3. Australian middle class welfare (6,8)
- 4. Young duck (7)
- 5. Watery, of liquid found in the eye (7)
- 7. Heath bush (5)
- 8. Signal sixty seconds before start of a race (6,3)
- 9. Mutual responsibility for the unemployed (4,3,3,4)
- 14. Egyptian queen (9)
- 16. Taken as a group, all together (2,3,4)
- 18. Repentance, ruefulness (7)
- 19. Title text for a picture (7)
- 22. Australian gems (5)
- 24. Rescues, liberates (5)

Last week’s solution #32



It stops with Helen

The horrendous and shocking violence experienced by MP for Indi, Helen Haines has shown us, in technicolour, that public life is not safe. Helen is known for her moderate approach, her lack of affiliation with party politics and her deep commitment to community. If Helen isn’t safe, then none of us are. But in particular women in public life are not safe. We are targets of hate and abuse at profoundly higher rates than men. According to Pathways to Politics – a national mentoring program for women that I have attended – global research shows that abuse directed at women is overwhelmingly gendered, personal and sexualised. It’s meant to delegitimise our authority, to silence, and enforce threatened patriarchal structures. If you ever needed proof that the world hates us, and domestic violence stats aren’t enough, this is it. It’s a war on women.

Former Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner Anna Cody has noted that no woman in public office escapes sexualised and misogynistic violence. My experience affirms this. Every woman I know in public life has experienced threats, abuse and harassment. This is women across the political spectrum. Conservative women, progressive women, radical women and moderate women. Women like Helen Haines, who is now facing the real life consequences of unaddressed gendered political violence.

I too have lived experience of abuse and threats. Since I started campaigning in 2020 I have been on the receiving end of both funded targeted personal abuse from third-party orgs, and derision and personal abuse and threats from numerous individuals. It has gotten so bad that I’ve had restraining orders against some, and one occasion that required four police from the Fixed Persons Unit in Sydney to travel here and investigate. That was when it was believed that my life was at risk.

And I’m not even a politician. I am a community member running in an election, with no more power or influence than the next person. And as I write this, a well-known individual is currently posting an edited clip of me as part of a personal attack on community Facebook pages. Just over a week ago a woman in public office was almost murdered. Yet nothing is learnt. The connecting lines are not drawn by admins or regulators.



Hate feeds violence. It dehumanises. It’s dangerous.

The hate and personal attacks continue on all women in politics. Hate feeds violence. It dehumanises. It’s dangerous. While I feel alone, I know I am not alone. This is happening to us all. To my colleagues, my collaborators, and my political adversaries. We need it to stop.

This abuse has a purpose. It is meant to scare and intimidate. Personally I find this material disturbing. It messes with your head, it gives you a strange sensation that you are being watched. Perpetrators of online violence are going through your digital bins – looking for anything that might harm you. Does it hurt? Yes. Does it scare? Yes. Does it stop other women entering politics? Absolutely. That’s what it’s meant to do. You have to deliver an impossible kind of resilience to live with the sick feeling you get of being a hate target.

A culture of hate and division has emboldened online violence. Stroll through any MP’s, or even my, Facebook feed and you’ll find polite disagreement is in the minority. It’s abuse, and hate that is normalised in many communications. Some are bots. Some are real. Hate bots boost the algorithm so real haters turn up. It’s sick. And it’s unchecked.

What has happened to us? Are we no longer able to engage in political discourse of disagreement without becoming

savage, vile and personal? Hate is a radicalising force, and online abuse is abuse.

Safety advice for parliamentarians and people in public office is bizarre. Being told not to attend, or at least don’t publicise attending, events is like telling a firefighter not to attend a fire. Being in the community is what elected reps are elected to do.

Real safety only comes when hate and division is addressed. Give people somewhere safe to live, mental health support, a liveable income, a purpose and sense of future, and perhaps then they won’t be susceptible to committing acts of violence.

Safety isn’t elected reps hiding in our homes. It’s about what happens in the community. In the dark digital radicalising spaces being funded to divide us.

As we send love and admiration to the remarkable Helen Haines, let’s also send her something more meaningful. Something she has dedicated her life to: change. Examine the conditions that led to this. Stop the violence.

■ 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

This week’s go-slow astrological sequence of four worldly, and two personal planets retrograde offers the possibility of pausing autopilot for a moment to tune into the bigger picture...

SCORPIO THE SCORPION

ARIES: With the trinity of Saturn, Neptune and Chiron all retrograde in Aries, this week’s *Game of Thrones* scenario features temper flares, power struggles and hothead reactions. Savvy Aries will channel this cosmic heat into your favourite physical workout or creative endeavour to burn off excess agitation in a healthy way.

TAURUS: Venus your ruling planet reversing in the sign of equity is your cue to do a review of the balance of give and take in Taurean relationships from personal and public, to business, social and creative – especially if any past patterns are resurfacing of compromising too much or ignoring the obvious.

GEMINI: Venus is currently not in an astrologically advisable mode for drastic style makeovers or impulsive money ventures. And your mentor planet Mercury retrograde is asking you to pay attention to what’s best left unshared, on and offline. This week’s most enjoyable date? Midweek moon in Gemini.

CANCER: If you’re called on to deal with relationship issues from the past, or something that’s been brewing for a while, this week’s astral energy supports honest discussions of difficult issues, pent-up resentments or any partnership areas where you might be over-giving or settling for less.

LEO: Highlighting the drawbacks of overexposure, this week’s lesson for Leos emphasises less is more. As Leo style icon Coco Chanel famously advised: *‘Before you leave the house, look in the mirror and take one thing off.’* Apply this also to your calendar by lightening the load of weighty obligations.

VIRGO: Venus reversed in your sector of money and values asks you to reassess what is really worth spending your energy, attention and talents on. To rethink what and who you value. Your planet mentor Mercury retrograde calls for discernment and a possible rejig of where you place your trust.

LIBRA: Your celestial mentor spinning backward in your harmony-seeking sign until mid-November has everyone craving more TLC at the same time, that means interpersonal give and take is requiring extra effort. The upside? Venus reversals every 18 months offer a chance to address unspoken relationship issues.

SCORPIO: Retrogrades are the zodiac cycles for working with re- words, and Mercury, the communication principal, hibernating in your sign is your personal opportunity to refine the way you express yourself: perhaps using more finesse, enhanced understanding and compassion without blunting your cutting edge.

SAGITTARIUS: Your forthright, straightforward Sagittarian style may see some draining relationships hit their use-by date during the current eyes-wide-open cycle. Though that’s not necessarily a bad thing, because what’s not to like about a clean sweep and refreshing change of cast, crew and personnel?

CAPRICORN: Capricorns like being prepared, so best use of the current retrogrades would be getting an early start on end-of-year plans. Your planet mentor Saturn in the sign of creative leadership recommends engaging others through encouragement for their contributions. This week’s biggest challenge? Asking for help.

AQUARIUS: This week’s celestial energetics invite your community-minded, tech-savvy sign to conduct a social, digital and personal edit which will power-up your ability to draw in kindred spirits and activate collaboration. So scan your inner circle, edit the wish list and practise conversational reserve.

PISCES: In view of the current double-trouble Mercury/Venus retrogrades with their elevated capacity for emotional misunderstandings, tentative steps are best. Resist any tendency to obsess over trust issues, which is just not worth the energy expenditure, because definitive answers aren’t likely this week.

seven

Seven days of entertainment

Volume 40 #30

28–4 October, 2026

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Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au

Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday

Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each

Friday

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au

P: 02 6684 1777

W: echo.net.au/entertainment



It's a killer

The Killer Queen Experience is Australia's premier tribute to Queen, delivering a powerhouse two-hour show packed with the band's greatest hits and fan-favourite deep cuts. Formed in 2003, the show has grown from a local Brisbane act into an international touring production, performing across the UK, Europe, Asia, India, and the Pacific.

Frontman **John Blunt** has portrayed Freddie Mercury for over 20 years and is recognised globally for his uncanny likeness. His career highlights include starring in the UK docudrama *The Freddie Mercury Story – Who Wants to Live Forever* (ITV/Channel 5), appearing live to seven million viewers on French television, and performing with *Legends in Concert* in the US.

The band features **Wayne Vitale** (bass – John Deacon), **Kevin Shilling** (drums – Roger Taylor), and **Andrew Edwards** (guitar – Brian May), recreating Queen's iconic sound with authentic costumes, replica instruments, and live harmonies. Together, they have performed more than 1,000 shows across more than ten countries, sharing stages with artists including Jeff Beck, Foreigner, Journey, Twisted Sister, Thin Lizzy, and Kelly Rowland.

Major appearances include the 2019 Rhapsody Tour (54,000 attendees), Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and the *Bohemian Rhapsody* movie pre-screening at Sydney's Orpheum Picture Palace. The band has also been featured on *Australia's Got Talent*, *The Today Show*, *Today Extra*, and multiple print publications.

With the enduring global love for Queen and the success of the Hollywood biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*, The Killer Queen Experience continues to bring the spirit, energy, and legacy of Freddie Mercury and Queen to audiences worldwide.

The Killer Queen Experience is at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay, on Sunday, 8 November from 4.30pm.



Crooked Colours

Balance leads to bliss. Extracting harmony from the union of seemingly disparate elements, **Crooked Colours** exist at an elusive crossroads between delicate acoustic instrumentation, evocative vocals, and dancefloor-ready synth transmissions. The Australian trio – **Phil Slabber** [vocals, guitar, production], **Leon Debaughn** [keys, production], and **Liam Merrett-Park** [drums] – could just as easily soothe a quaint coffeehouse or a chaotic club. Generating over 100 million streams, selling out shows on multiple continents, and garnering looks from *Billboard*, *ThisSongIsSick.com*, *NME*, and more, the group further sharpen this shape-shifting sound on a series of singles and their forthcoming debut album for Atlantic Records.

After winning Triple J's 2014 St Jerome's Laneway Festival competition, the group signed to Sweat It Out! in Australia. During 2017, their full-length debut album *Vera* yielded the hit 'Flow', which gathered north of 25 million Spotify streams. On its heels, the 2019 follow-up album *Langata* boasted fan favorites 'Do It Like You' (11.6 million Spotify streams), 'I'll Be There' (7.4 million Spotify streams), 'Hold On' (4.9 million Spotify streams), and 'Never Dance Alone' – featuring Ladyhawke (2.5 million Spotify streams). Among many highlights: they sold out The Forum in Melbourne (as captured on the Triple J *Live At The Wireless*, the *Forum 2019 EP*; and The Roxy in Los Angeles; as well as delivering an unforgettable set at Bonnaroo.

Crooked Colours are touring their fourth studio album *Dirt Road Gold*, and will play **The Northern in Byron Bay on Sunday, with supports from 7pm.**

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THUR 29 OCT

Dan Hannaford 6-9pm | DJ Davi Bangma 9.15pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

FRI 30 OCT

Kane Muir Trio 7-10pm | DJ Oren Selecta 10.15pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

SAT 31 OCT

NuFarrago 7-10pm | DJ Quendo 10.15pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

SUN 1 NOV

Jock Barnes 5-8pm | Vinyl Sunday Ft Scott Plant 8.15pm
Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

MON 2 NOV

Lachy Dwyer 6-9pm | DJ Oren Selecta 9.15pm
Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

TUES 3 NOV

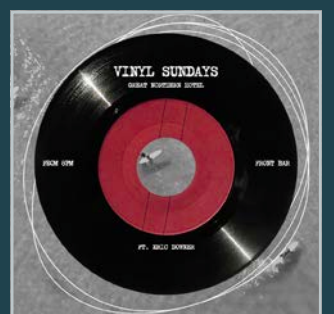
Marshall Okell 6-9pm | Dj 9.15pm | Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

WED 4 NOV

Tahlia Matheson 6-9pm | Duelling Piano Bar 9pm



NORTHERN BOTTLESHOP



INTERVIEW

Boy & Bear : acoustic reinvention

Known for their rich harmonies, heartfelt songwriting and uplifting live energy, **Boy & Bear** will bring a more intimate side of their music to Byron Wellness Festival with beautifully reimagined versions of favourite songs, soulful acoustic arrangements and the kind of shared musical moments that invite you to slow down, breathe and be present.

This special set is an opportunity to experience Boy & Bear in a raw and intimate setting, where voices, strings and stories take centre stage.

Seven recently spoke to Boy & Bear's **Jon Hart** about this special show.

What prompted an acoustic set for the Byron Wellness Festival?

It felt like the right fit – we wanted to be involved, but a full-band, loud show didn't seem quite right for the occasion. We've made acoustic recordings before, taking our own songs – and sometimes other people's – and rearranging them. We enjoyed the creative process, so we thought an acoustic performance could work as a live show too. It will give people who have seen us before a different experience.

How does reworking your own songs change the way you approach them?

You get used to playing a song a certain way, especially when you perform a lot. Arranging it acoustically makes you ask what the important parts are and how to bring them out with different instruments. An electric-guitar part might need to work on acoustic guitar, or a synthesizer part might become something for piano. It's a chance to relearn your own music and decide what really matters in each song. That makes it a fun, creative process.

You've played a lot of festivals. What do you value about them?

There seem to be fewer festivals around now than there used to be. We've played festivals such as Blender, Bluesfest, Falls, and Big Day Out, and it's strange to talk about some of them in the past tense. I hope the current moment is part of an ebb and flow, and that opportunities come back.

Festivals are wonderful for audiences because you can discover artists you might not have bought a ticket to see on their own. You're there for the experience, you hear someone new, and you might become a fan. That's valuable for artists too. You want the chance to win over people who didn't come specifically to see you – and you also get to watch artists you love.

What's inspiring you right now?

Touring through regional Australia gives you a lot of time in the van or between flights and drives. It can feel nostalgic, and things along the way trigger memories from childhood or adolescence. I write those memories down, and they can lead me somewhere creatively. Being in that reflective mood often makes me want to go and make music.

My kids inspire me too. I have two children under five, and seeing the world as they see it can be powerful. They're absorbed by simple things – a leaf, a stick, something right in front of them. They're very connected to the physical world. Paying attention to that helps me look at ordinary things differently.

Jon, are you having enough fun?

Yes, very much. Having two young kids puts a limit on how much fun you can have if you want to be present with them, but I'm having fun. They also remind me that enjoyment doesn't have to be complicated. Between family life, touring and making music, there's plenty to appreciate.

Boy & Bear will appear at the Byron Wellness Festival on Saturday, 28 November. Find out more at byronwellnessfestival.com.



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Meet the future of friendship

In a dystopian future some children are genetically engineered – ‘lifted’ – for enhanced academic ability. As schooling is provided entirely at home by on-screen tutors, opportunities for socialisation are limited and parents who can afford it often buy their children androids as companions. One such Artificial Friend (AF) is Klara.

From Academy-Award-winning writer-director Taika Waititi (*Jojo Rabbit*), comes the adaptation of the bestselling, critically acclaimed novel from Nobel Prize-winner Kazuo Ishiguro, *Klara And The Sun*, a heartwarming sci-fi story that explores the complexities of what it means to be human.

From her place in the store, Klara (Jenna Ortega), an AF with outstanding observational qualities, carefully watches the behaviour of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her, but is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans.

When Klara meets Josie (Mia Tharia), they each immediately sense a kindred spirit in the other. Josie has a fraught relationship with her mother (five-time Academy Award-nominee Amy Adams), and they’ve suffered great loss, but Klara’s innocent wonder and unwavering loyalty begin to heal the family and bring light to Josie’s complicated world.

Klara And The Sun takes an insightful look into our rapidly changing modern world, examining the limits of technology to solve human problems, and artfully exploring the complexities of love, grief and the human soul, pondering the fundamental question: what does it mean to love?

Klara And The Sun screens at Palace Cinemas this week. See palacecinemas.com.au for more information and times.

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BritishFilmFestival.com.au

WEDNESDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAT TIERNEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM NOAH ROBERTSON**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **7PM OPEN MIC WITH SLIM PICKENS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **6PM BRUCE WOLPE IN CONVERSATION**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM CURRY JAM**
- OTLILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, **6PM MONDO HUM JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
- PEARCES CREEK HALL **6PM YOU, ME EVERYBODY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS **6.30PM KINGY COMEDY**

THURSDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANDY JANS BROWN DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **7PM FLOYD VINCENT & THE TEMPLE DOGS**
- BYRON THEATRE **7PM A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **7PM OPEN DECKS VINYL NIGHT**
- GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, **7.30PM TEMPLE OF FIRE**
- MARVEL ST HALL, BYRON BAY, **7.30PM SCREENING: ‘EYES LIKE DIAMONDS’**
- YELLOW FLOWER CAFE, SUFFOLK PARK, **6PM GEORGE SMILOVICI**
- BALLINA RSL **7PM THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT**
- BROADWATER HOTEL **5.30PM VALHALLA ROSE + ENDLESS APPROACH**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM ZAYDEN KENNEDY**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, **6PM MONDO HUM JAZZ ENSEMBLE**
- FOXY LUU’S @ COORABELL HALL **5.30PM DJ MAJESTIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL IRISH FOLK JAM, **7PM #1 DADS**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO **7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS **6.30PM KINGY COMEDY**

FRIDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JB’S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **5PM ZAYDEN KENNEDY BAND, 8PM PARTY THROUGH THE DECADES**
- BYRON THEATRE **7PM A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON **5PM OLE FALCOR**
- ARTS FACTORY BAR, BYRON BAY, **6PM NEVER DULL AND NIIKO X SWAE + DJS ABEL TORO, DALE STEPHEN, REIFLEX, WOODRO WEBSTER, KAZ**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **6.30PM DJ D-NOX + DJ ROB SYDNEY**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, **5.30PM MATT BUGGY**
- CLUB LENNOX **7PM LILLI SHEEN**
- LENNOX HOTEL **9PM THE DETECTIVES**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **6PM RUM JUNGLE + LYRIC + LAZY HAZE + SUN WILDE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **7PM DAN RATH**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM DJ JAX FAE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **5.30PM BALCONY BEATS + 7PM ANIMAL VENTURA, KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS,**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN **5.30PM OPEN MIC AT THE TAV**
- VARIOUS VENUES, NIMBIN, **NIMBIN FRINGE FESTIVAL**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB **6PM MARTIN WAY**
- CONDONG BOWLS CLUB **6.30PM THE WHOPPING BIG BAND**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS **5PM THE ZODIACS, 8PM NATHAN KAYE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, **5.30PM ELEEA, 6PM MARTIN WAY**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **7.30PM PINK ZINC**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, **3PM JOSH LEE HAMILTON**
- CLUB TWEED **1PM SOULCUTZ**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL **7.30PM OUTSHINED**

SATURDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HILLBILLY PIECE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **3PM PAT TIERNEY, 6PM HOUSE FREAKS**

- BYRON THEATRE **1PM A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, 7PM A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL **3PM BUNNY RACKET + THE JAZZ DADS**
- HAVEN, BYRON BAY, **5PM DJS MABEL B2B TANGELA, ROKA, COMMAND D**
- THE PARK HOTEL, SUFFOLK PARK, **6PM ADAM BROWN**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **4PM MARK HOWARD**
- LENNOX HOTEL **4PM PANDAMONIUM DJS**
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, **6PM LUKE YEAMAN**
- CLUB LENNOX **7PM PISTOL WHIP**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, **8PM ADAM GARDINER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **4.30PM ROOTS OF BRAZIL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE **7PM THE DEAD LEGENDS SHOW**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, **3PM THE BILLY BONES IRISH SINGALONG, 6PM PIANO BAR WITH JOHN HILL**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, **5PM ROWENA WISE + MINOR GOLD + ELLA JONES**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL **7PM PIPPI LIPS**
- VARIOUS VENUES, NIMBIN, **NIMBIN FRINGE FESTIVAL**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS **5PM BEN WHITING**
- TROPICAL FRUIT WORLD, DURANBAH, **9AM GEORGE SMILOVICI**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **7.30PM DANCEFLOOR EMPIRE**
- SALT & STONE, FINGAL HEAD, **3PM JOE CONROY**
- CLUB TWEED **7.30PM OLD SKOOL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS (QLD TIME), **8PM THE BURT BACHARACH SONGBOOK**

SUNDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY & MICHAEL O’GRADY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **4.30PM LISA HUNT, 7PM DJ LONGTIME**
- BYRON THEATRE **3PM A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**

- BANGALOW HOTEL **3PM FRANK SWABY**
- BALLINA RSL **10AM THE BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB, 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT JACQUI WALKER BAND**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, **3PM SAIJE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **4PM BULLHORN**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB **3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, **5PM ADRIAN WILLIAMS BRETT & CYE WOOD**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL **1PM SAM BUCKLEY**
- PEARCES CREEK HALL **5PM WE MAVERICKS**
- THE WINSOME, LISMORE, **2.30PM THE HEALING VOICES CHOIR**
- VARIOUS VENUES, NIMBIN, **NIMBIN FRINGE FESTIVAL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS (QLD TIME), **2.30PM LIZ TESTA**

MONDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BILL JACOBI**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM CARLY M**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**

TUESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALLY PALMER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM MARK HOWARD**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **3.30PM BENNY O’DWYER**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH, **3PM JON J BRADLEY**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **5PM JEROME WILLIAMS DUO**

WEDNESDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DEAN HAITANI**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **6PM YAZMINDI**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, **4PM CURRY JAM**

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29 TO WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4

PREVIEW SCREENINGS

WILD HORSE NINE

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29

PRIMETIME

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29

NOW SHOWING

CLAYFACE

THURS, FRI, MON, WED: 1:30PM, 8:30PM. Sat, Sun: 1:10PM, 8:30PM. Tues: 3:45PM, 8:30PM

CRAWLERS

Daily except Thurs, Wed: 1:50PM, 3:50PM, 8:20PM. Thurs: 1:50PM, 3:50PM, 6:00PM. Wed: 1:50PM, 4:15PM, 8:30PM

HEART OF THE BEAST

Daily except Sat, Tues: 2:20PM. Sat, Tues: 8:15PM

HOLY CANNOLI

Daily except Sat, Wed: 1:20PM, 6:10PM. Sat, Sun: 1:10PM, 6:10PM. Wed: 3:45PM, 6:10PM

KLARA AND THE SUN

Thurs, Fri, Mon, Wed: 4:30PM. Sat, Sun: 8:20PM. Tues: 7:00PM

LA BOLA NEGRA

Thurs, Fri, Mon, Wed: 4:30PM. Sat, Tues: 4:20PM. Sun: 7:30PM

NAZA

Daily except Sat, Mon: 1:40PM. Sat: 2:00PM. Mon: 1:40PM, 6:30PM

PRESSURE

Daily: 10:45AM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

OSZY & BLACK SABBATH: BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Thurs: 8:00PM

V FOR VENDETTA

Mon: 6:30PM – Cult Vault

WILD HORSE NINE

Fri: 6:30PM. Sat, Sun: 3:30PM, 6:00PM

FAMILY FILMS

COYOTE VS. ACME

Daily: 11:15AM

FORGOTTEN ISLAND

Daily: 1:00PM

SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM

Daily except Sat, Tues: 10:45AM, 12:30PM. Sat, Tues: 10:45AM

ALL FILMS

ALI G: WHO IZ IZ

Daily except Mon: 1:30PM, 8:30PM. Mon: 1:30PM, 8:15PM

PRIMETIME

Daily: 11:10AM, 1:30PM, 3:50PM, 6:10PM, 8:30PM

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Thurs: 11:00AM, 3:50PM, 8:10PM. Fri, Mon: 11:00AM, 3:50PM, 5:45PM. Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 3:20PM, 5:45PM. Tues: 11:10AM, 4:10PM, 5:45PM. Wed: 11:10AM, 3:50PM, 6:45PM

STREET FIGHTER

Thurs: 6:00PM. Fri, Sun, Wed: 8:15PM. Sundays: 11:00AM, 3:30PM, 6:30PM. Fri, Mon, Wed: 11:00AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM. Sat, Sun: 10:45AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM. Tues: 11:10AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM

THE DEVILS

Daily except Tues: 3:50PM, 8:20PM. Tues: 3:50PM, 8:30PM

THE SOCIAL RECKONING

Daily except Mon: 6:10PM

VERITY

Thurs, Fri, Sun, Tues: 10:50AM. Sat: 10:45AM. Mon: 10:50AM, 8:20PM

WILDWOOD

Thurs, Fri, Mon, Wed: 10:45AM, 7:30PM. Sat, Tues: 1:00PM, 7:30PM. Sun: 10:45AM, 4:30PM, 7:45PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

COYOTE VS. ACME

Daily: 9:45AM

HEART OF THE BEAST

Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:00PM, 7:10PM. Sat, Sun: 12:00PM

PRESSURE

Daily: 10:00AM, 2:20PM, 7:20PM

PRIMETIME

Daily: 9:45AM, 12:10PM, 2:30PM, 7:30PM

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Daily except Sat, Sun: 2:10PM. Sat, Sun: 4:50PM

STREET FIGHTER

Daily: 4:30PM

VERITY

Daily: 4:50PM

WILD HORSE NINE - PREVIEW

Sat, Sun: 2:10PM, 7:10PM

WILDWOOD

Daily except Sat, Sun: 4:45PM

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FOX BAITING NOTIFICATION:

This notification is to advise all landholders within 1 kilometre of the properties at 7 Pagottos Road, North Lismore that 1080 fox baits will be laid on the abovementioned properties in an ongoing program from 04/11/2026 to 04/02/2027. Property owners are recommended to restrain their pets and working dogs and to ensure that they do not enter the baiting location during and after the poisoning operation. In the event of an accidental poisoning seek immediate veterinary assistance. 1080 poisoned baits will be laid in accordance with Pesticide Control (1080 Liquid Concentrate & Bait Products) Order 2019 under Section 38 Pesticides Act 1999. Additional requirements may be imposed by NCLLS. For further information contact: Luke Atkinson 0419362822 or Luke Schirmer Biosecurity Officer, Local Land Services, 0409780695.

SEEKING INFORMATION

about effectiveness or otherwise of FENBENDAZOLE treatment. Ask for Johannes 66847420

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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 Providee

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.

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

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MAIN ARM Store

BILLINUDGEL Newsagent

BILLINUDGEL General Store & Pub

CRABBES CREEK Store

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HAWAIIAN MASSAGE

Ocean Shores, Michaela, 0416332886

KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress.
0403125506
SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

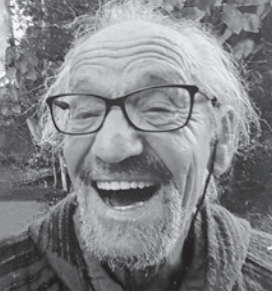
Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby
0401 926 090

DEATH NOTICES



Phoebe Joy Smith
13/12/2000 - 22/10/2026
Beloved daughter of Jessica and Craig. Cherished granddaughter of Meredith.
Fly with the angels darling girl free at last.

LIFE CELEBRATION



Vale Robin Harrison
AKA Professor Cuddlebumps, AKA Apprentice Earth Wizard
Robin Harrison was a much-loved figure in the Caldera and Byron shire. He was a performer, an activist, a change maker, a sustainability advocate extraordinaire. He had four daughters and was beloved "Farty" to his granddaughter Illuna.
Daughter Polly and the BEC invite you to join them on Tuesday November 10 in Byron Bay. We'll be starting at 10am, cleaning the BEC's soggy Cumbebin Board Walk (Butler St), then move to Railway Park from noon, at the Rotunda that Robin helped build.
Music, food and Robin-lovers will be there in abundance.

TRADEWORK

Septic Waste Removal
Summerland Environmental
The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

6687 2880

TREE SERVICES

HART TREE SERVICES
20 years local experience
• 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
• Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat
Fully insured • Free quotes
0427 347 380

WANTED

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

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

GARAGE SALES

BYRON 10 Autumn Court Sat 8am-1pm. Household goods, knickknacks, paintings

LILITH & FRIENDS MEGA GARAGE SALE. A recycled carnival of arty bargains, bespoke wearable art, vintage collectables, funky fashion, island style, good books, bijou bric-a-brac, general exotica & handcrafted Christmas gifts. Undercover. 7 Mahr Place, Suffolk Park
Sat & Sun 31 Oct-1 Nov.

HUGE SALE

Costumes, shoes & accessories, wall art, camping, tools & more. Sat 31 Oct. 9am-1pm. 23 Binya Place, Ocean Shores.

MASSIVE SALE

4 households combined. High quality, huge range.
Mullumbimby 36 Azalea St. Sat 8am

LOCAL REMOVAL

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

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

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TO LEASE

STORAGE/WORKSHOP
with elec. 36sqm Billinudgel \$149.50pw
Ph Lifestyle Group 66851206

PRIME BUSINESS LOCATION

Mullumbimby: 59 Burringbar St
Set up for Retail or Professional
83sqm - Airconditioned - Gallery lighting
Kitchenette - Bathroom - Hardwood feature wall - Change room - Custom built counter - Ample storage for stock - Freshly painted - Ready to set up shop!
Avail. November 2026:
Ph 0455 222 877

BANGALOW OFFICE

Old Bank Building
main street \$150/day or \$260/2 days inc. Suit counsellor/therapist. 0414 438 080

POSITIONS VACANT

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

PREGNANCY MODELS WANTED

Love a maternity photoshoot? Byron Bay brand SARAY seeks pregnant women for fashion photos and social media content. Receive edited professional maternity photos in exchange for your time. Images will be used for SARAY pregnancy-wear marketing.
Email hello@saray.au with a little about yourself and your Instagram profile.

PRIVATE MODELLING

young women 18-25yo. Express your naked beauty artistically in complete privacy/confidence, good pay, Andrew. Ph 0431393320

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

1st Byron Bay Scout Group
Volunteers needed.
Any age, any skill to continue the adventure.
CONTACT SAM AT
GL1stByronBay@nsw.scouts.com.au
www.1st-byron-bay.group.scoutsnsw.com.au



ZAC

Zac is a 4 month old, Kelpie X. He is a clever, energetic boy looking for an active family who can keep up with his zest for life. He'll need plenty of exercise, enrichment and ongoing training. M/C # 978142001355650
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact **Yvette** on 0421 831 128.
Interested?. Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338

FERGIE



Fergie is a 3½-month-old Bull Arab X Blue Heeler who loves company and being included in everyday life. Affectionate and happy, she has the potential for loyalty, intelligence and energy. She'll suit active people committed to patient, consistent training, positive experiences with dogs and people, and activities that keep her mind busy. Fergie needs someone who'll enjoy watching her grow, build her confidence and celebrate her progress along the way.
Rehoming Number R251000060

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



GIZMO

Meet 'sweetie pie' Gizmo, who just oozes affection! This lovely soul has so much love to give. See the video on our fb page, this boy absolutely lurrnrves attention!! • indoor cat • good with children • possibly good with small quiet dog • lap cat • playful Gizmo is desexed, and vaccinated. Microchip 991003002921203 - D.O.B 27/3/20
Ready for adoption!

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



Who gives a Cluck?

Adopt a Rooster.
Mr Norris is a friendly Large boy. Rescued up near Terranora. He's been Health & Temperament Checked and treated for worms and Lice and Mites. Please consider adopting him (he's #94) or check out the 10 other beautiful rescued boys we have up for adoption

whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/
[@whogivesacluck](http://whogivesacluck.org)

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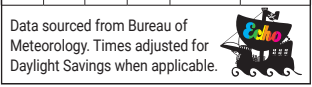
SOCIAL ESCORTS

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

SUN, MOON & TIDES – TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE Oct / Nov	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
28	W	5:56 19:02	21:33 6:56	10:36 1.79 22:42 1.21	03:43 0.10 16:57 0.26
29	TH	5:55 19:03	22:42 7:51	11:25 1.79 23:31 1.11	04:23 0.15 17:57 0.30
30	F	5:55 19:04	23:45 8:53	12:17 1.74	05:09 0.23 19:01 0.35
31	SA	5:54 19:04	10:01	00:30 1.02 13:16 1.67	06:03 0.32 20:11 0.38
1	SU	5:53 19:05	0:39 11:10	01:43 0.97 14:22 1.60	07:12 0.41 21:21 0.39
2	M	5:52 19:06	1:25 12:18	03:09 0.99 15:31 1.55	08:33 0.46 22:26 0.36
3	TU	5:51 19:07	2:04 13:22	04:28 1.08 16:37 1.51	09:56 0.47 23:21 0.32
4	W	5:51 19:07	2:38 14:24	05:31 1.20 17:36 1.48	11:09 0.45
5	TH	5:50 19:08	3:10 15:23	06:25 1.33 18:27 1.44	00:06 0.27 12:12 0.42
6	F	5:49 19:09	3:39 16:21	07:13 1.45 19:12 1.40	00:45 0.23 13:07 0.38
7	SA	5:49 19:10	4:09 17:19	07:55 1.55 19:52 1.34	01:18 0.20 13:57 0.36
8	SU	5:48 19:10	4:41 18:17	08:34 1.61 20:29 1.28	01:49 0.18 14:44 0.35
9	M	5:47 19:11	5:15 19:16	09:11 1.66 21:05 1.22	02:19 0.18 15:27 0.34
10	TU	5:47 19:12	5:52 20:14	09:46 1.67 21:40 1.16	02:49 0.19 16:09 0.35
11	W	5:46 19:13	6:35 21:11	10:21 1.66 22:15 1.11	03:18 0.22 16:50 0.37

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Pollinator's Week

The Lismore Rainforest is holding a Guided Walk 'Native Bees as Pollinators' with Graeme at 9.30 am on Saturday, 14 November for National Pollinator's Week. Bookings are essential, email: publicity@friendslrbg.com.au to book. Adults \$5 and children free (pay cash on the day please).

Rehydrate Australia

Pearces Creek Talks are hosting a screening of the documentary film *Rehydrate Australia*, on Saturday, 14 November at 6.30pm. The film shows how land managers are improving their farm using 'natural sequence farming', improving both resilience to drought and reducing the downstream impact of floods. The film will be followed by a Q&A with Stuart Andrews of Tarwyn Park Training, and Josh Wellman of Banyula Farm, Clunes. \$5 per person, supper included. Tickets: <https://linktr.ee/pearcescreektalks>.

Kirtan and meditation

A free evening of kirtan and meditation is benig held on Saturday, 28 November, at Bangalow A&I Hall at 7pm.

AGM Friends of Libraries

The AGM of the Friends of Libraries (FOL) Byron Shire will be held on Wednesday, 18 November at 10am in the Local History Room at Byron Bay Library with a guest speaker to be announced. Both members of FOL and the general public are welcome to attend.

Free digital workshop

50 or over and need a hand working out all things digital? The Byron Community Centre is running a series of free workshops to help you feel more confident with your computer. Workshops are on 3 and 12 November, 10am to 12pm at Byron Community Centre. Register at: seniors@byroncentre.com.au phone: 6685 6807 or drop in to book a place.

Dogs Day Out

Help celebrate 25 years of NRAS at the Dogs Day Out, Sunday, 1 November at Alstonville Showground from 9.30am to 1pm. Gates open from 9am with the first activities kicking off from 9.30am. Tickets are available from Humanity or can be purchased at one of the two entry gates for \$5 per dog.

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.

The Echo's Market Guide

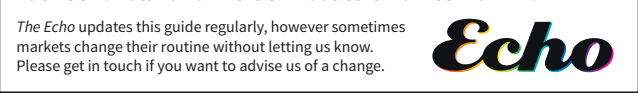
Find it online: www.echo.net.au/market-guide

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.



Free Tech Lessons for seniors

Are you a senior looking to build confidence with technology? Whether you want to learn how to use your smartphone, send emails, access online services, video call family and friends, or stay safe online, we're here to help. Don't let technology hold you back. Gain confidence, learn new skills, and stay connected with family, friends, and your community. Phone Mullumbimby Library on 6684 2992 to enquire about our free 40-minute sessions each Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon until the end of the year.

Byron Book Fair

Friends of Libraries (FOL) are now collecting books for next year's Book Fair from 9am to 10am Tasman Way, Byron Arts & Industry Estate. Books will need to be in very good, clean, and dust-free condition. Books of all genres greatly accepted. Book drop-off will take place the first Monday in November and December and next year, excluding January 2027, each month on the first Monday same place until the Book Fair. On arrival a FOL member will be at the gate to collect books. Enquires contact Monique: 0414 811 323.

Seniors Cards

You are most welcome to join our friendly 500 Card Group. We play at a convenient local venue in Byron Bay. Enquiries text Nancy 0498 480 373.

Bruns U3A

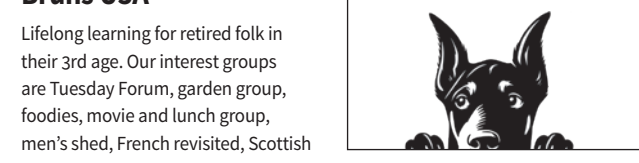
Lifelong learning for retired folk in their 3rd age. Our interest groups are Tuesday Forum, garden group, foodies, movie and lunch group, men's shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walker's and talkers, Shabashi. Table tennis (needs new players, ring Jane 0403 170 315), chess, debating group, ukelele. For info Denise 0423 778 573 or info@bvu3a.org.

Echo

Local news matters

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

Support your local paper



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

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.

October 28, 2026 The Byron Shire Echo 27

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY
RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**
Line ads: \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid
Display ads: \$70 per week for colour display ad.
Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.
New ads will be placed at end of section.
Contact: 6684 1777 or adcopy@echo.net.au



www.echo.net.au/service-directory

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BUILDER very exp. All aspects: comm/residential + bthrm/ktchn renos Lic348357c 0483 279644
BUILDER Asher Landini All aspects: building, renovations, extensions Lic498385c 0488 150778
TRADIE DAN MULLUM - Building work/repairs under \$5k.....0410 284550
VIDLER BUILT decks, extensions, bathrooms, kitchens, timber fencing Lic 304237c 0413 502281

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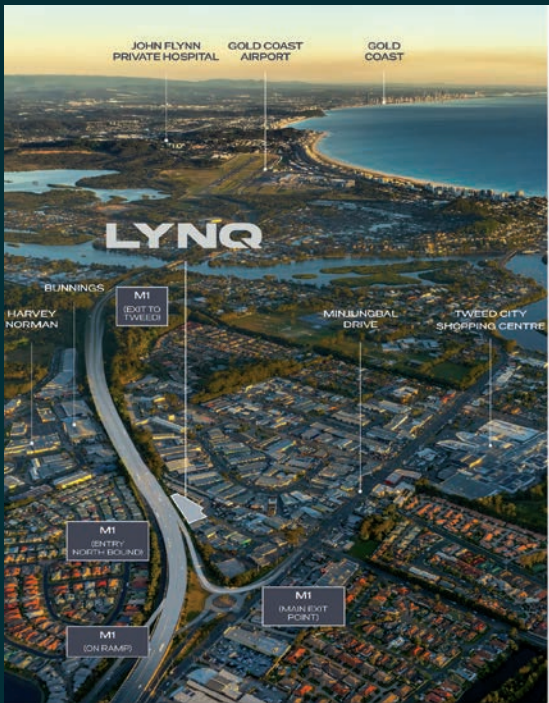
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5/48A Dry Dock Rd, Tweed Heads South. Sat 12-12.30pm
8/18 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 12-12.30pm QLD Time
2/14 Warrawong St, Coolangatta. Sat 1-1.30pm QLD Time

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85 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Wed 11-11.30am
469 Friday Hut Road, Possum Creek. Wed 12-12.30pm
440 Corndale Road, Corndale. Wed 3-3.30pm
10 / 1-2 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Thu 11-11.30am
47 - 49 Woodburn Street, Evans Head. Thu 11-11.30am
160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thu 12-12.30pm
2 / 49 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Thu 12-12.30pm
77 Tamarind Avenue, Bogangar. Thu 12-12.30pm
68B Teak Circuit, Suffolk Park. Thu 2-2.30pm
61 / 11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Fri 10-10.30am
10 Lorieket Lane, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am
103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11.30am
17 McAuleys Lane, Myocum. Fri 12-12.30pm
134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 1-1.30pm
61 / 11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
25 / 88 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
71 Broken Head Road, Newrybar. Sat 9-9.30am
5 / 7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
1 / 34 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
1 / 7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.45-10.15am
17 McAuleys Lane, Myocum. Sat 9.45-10.15am
10 Lorieket Lane, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
13 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
77 Tamarind Avenue, Bogangar. Sat 10-10.30am
85 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
4 / 45 Pacific Parade, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
28 Pacific Vista Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
92 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
22 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
6 Muli Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am

34 The Byron Shire Echo October 28, 2026

450 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 10-10.30am
134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30-11am
2 / 16 Nandroya Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30-11am
5 Bower Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10.30-11am
28/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
18 Heritage Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
6 Roses Road, Federal. Sat 11-11.30am
6 Hakea Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
671 Ellis Road, Rous. Sat 11.30am-12pm
440 Corndale Road, Corndale. Sat 12-12.30pm
58 Pacific Heights Drive, Cumbalum. Sat 12.30-1pm
127 James Street, Dunoon. Sat 1-1.30pm
77 Tamarind Avenue, Bogangar. Sat 1-1.30pm
13A Byron Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 1-1.30pm
1675 Dunoon Road, Dunoon. Sat 1.45-2.15pm
36 Wallace Road, The Channon. Sat 2.45-3.15pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

1/12-14 Hacket Lane, Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
18b Hartigan Street, Cumbalum. Sat 9-9.30am
4 Seaward Street, Lennox Head. Sat 9.30-10am
8 Seaward Street, Lennox Head. Sat 9.30-10am
25/136 Cherry Street, Ballina. Sat 9.45-10.15am
10 Hillcrest Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 10-10.30am
75 Swift Street, Ballina. Sat 10.15-10.45am
2 Sovereign Place, Goonellabah. Sat 10.30-11am
3/184 Tamar Street, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
5 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
98 Diadem Street, Lismore. Sat 11.30am-12pm
33 River Street, Woodburn. Sat 12.45-1.15pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

45 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 9.30-10am
43 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10-10.30am
41 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10.30-11am
156 Repentance Creek Road, Goonengerry. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
1 - 3 Walker Street, Clunes. Sat 1-1.30pm

Lifestyle. Byron Bay

4/14 Seaview Street, Byron Bay. Thu 11-11.30am
30 Rainforest Way, Lennox Head. Fri 12-12.30pm
40 Kingsvale Road, Myocum. Sat 10-10.30am
12/5-7 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
4/14 Seaview Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
34 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
43 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
30 Rainforest Way, Lennox Head. Sat 12-12.30pm
103 Plantation Drive, Ewingsdale. Sat 12-12.30pm
12 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
150 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm

Lifestyle. Ballina

64 Weis Lane, Rous. Sat 9-9.30am
3 George Street, Broadwater. Sat 9-9.30am
6 Acacia Place, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
35 Unara Parkway, Cumbalum. Sat 10-10.30am
13 Bonito Place, Ballina. Sat 10.10-10.40am
32 Antrim Street, East Ballina. Sat 10.10-10.40am
13 Catherine Crescent, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
11 Peppercorne Place, East Ballina. Sat 12.10-12.40pm
35 Rainforest Way, Lennox Head. Sat 1.10-1.40pm
31 Compton Drive, East Ballina. Sun 11.30am-12.15pm

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32 Kolara Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
11 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
19 Oakbank Terrace, Murwillumbah. Sat 9-9.30am
33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.30am
146 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
6 Hope Street, Bray Park. Sat 10-10.30am
12 Gilba Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
3A Langi Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
7 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
3/3 Durroon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
45 Cooloon Street, Kunghur. Sat 12-1pm
14 Goolara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm

Raine & Horne Jet

28 Tombonda Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 9-9.30am
62 Wollumbin Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 9-9.30am
114 Byangum Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 10-10.30am
2/35 Hall Drive, Murwillumbah. Sat 10-10.30am
63A Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30am-12pm
34 Chevell Place, Smiths Creek. Sat 11.30am-12pm
454 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek. 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
45 Fernvale Road, Fernvale. Sat 2-2.30pm
8 Hemlock Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 3-3.30pm

Real Estate of Distinction

33 Broadway, Burringbar. Sat 11-11.30am
3 Kalemajere Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 1-1.30pm
3/23 Poinciana Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 2.30-3pm
33 Broadway, Burringbar. Sun 11-11.30am

New listings

First National

671 Ellis Road, Rous.
449 River Street, Ballina.

Lifestyle. Ballina

3 George Street, Broadwater.

Mana RE

3/87 North Creek Road, Ballina.
134/399 Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay.
12 Gilba Avenue, Ocean Shores.

Auctions

Lifestyle. Byron Bay

103 Plantation Drive, Ewingsdale. Sat 21 Nov 9.30am

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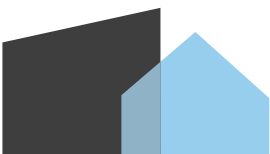
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Can you find NSW's most wanted frogs? Citizen science program FrogID Week, runs from 6 to 15 November. The green and golden bell frog is one of the wanted frogs and can be found in the Northern Rivers. Take part by downloading the free FrogID app at www.frogid.net.au and recording frog calls when you hear them.

As one local commented last week, 'Remember the old joke about what different professions do with their mistakes? Doctors bury theirs, journalists publish theirs, and architects plant trees in front of theirs. In the case of 57 Station Street they are taking more public land to do it.'

The NSW State Library has stopped collecting hard copies of the print issues of the *Byron Shire Echo* and will now focus solely on the digital deposits of the paper in the National eDeposit (NeD). They told *The Echo* that, 'The paper has always been a popular title among the library's readers and we're keen to have deposits kept up to date.'

Do you have an interest in running workshops that inspire people to repair, reuse, or upcycle? Byron Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest from skilled individuals, community groups and organisations to deliver hands-on workshops at the Re-Market (Tip Shop), located at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre, Myocum. To complete an expression of interest visit: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/reuse-repair.

Remembering Alfred



On 29 October it will be a year since Alfred last walked the highways and byways of Byron Shire. Photo Jeff 'Keeping Left Since 1986' Dawson

'Remember, for most of history, violence was a much more common cause of death. The fact that diseases of old age, like dementia and heart disease, are the biggest killers today is a testament to the peace we have wrought from an often hostile and volatile world.'

– Tim Dean, *Crikey*

The announcement by Premier Chris Minns, that special laws would be written for MACH Energy to increase their rate of coal mining has caused former Supreme Court Judge Anthony Whealy to call for an independent investigation into the government decision over public integrity concerns.

Amazon claims to have strict policies against sex dolls with childlike appearances, but Collective Shout has found over 100 this year alone. Collective Shout are

calling on global ecommerce platform Amazon to stop selling child sex abuse

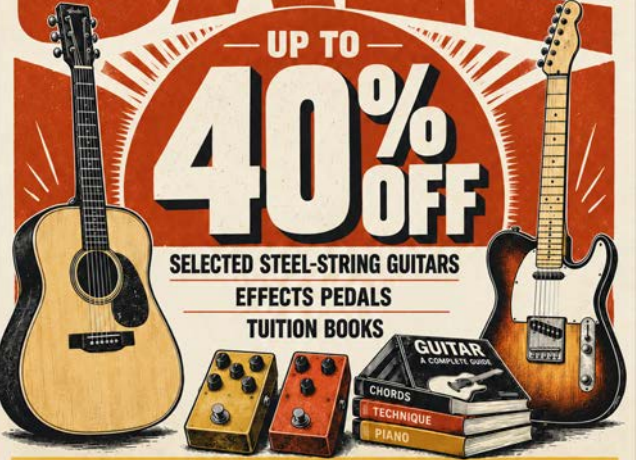
dolls at www.change.org/amazon-stop-selling-child-abuse-dolls.

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