



LOCAL & INDEPENDENT



Wooyung Road was cut off to most traffic on Tuesday. Although there are worse floods to the north and south of Tweed Shire, the RTA advises people to make only essential journeys. Photo Jeff 'No Weather for Dogs' Dawson

## The downpour makes it tough to be homeless

Kate McIntosh

The ongoing wet weather is making life even tougher for those living on the streets, according to a local homeless advocate.

John Lee from You've Got a Friend said homeless people were taking shelter from the recent deluge anywhere they could, including bus shelters and under buildings.

Mr Lee, who heads outreach services from Coolangatta to Murwillumbah, says he had been making almost daily visits to homeless people in the region, to provide dry blankets and other supplies.

This week he provided assistance to a 62-year-old woman in Tweed Heads who he found huddled in a sleeping bag in a puddle of water.

He says the weather conditions have been extremely testing to those already in a desperate situation.

'They just keep moving to try and find shelter,' he said. 'Honestly, it's horrendous. They're all battling.'

'Their clothes just get completely soaked and there's nowhere they can take a shower. It's a very depressing situation.'

Mr Lee says numbers are also down at a weekly Sunday breakfast organised by You've Got a Friend as the weather is making travel difficult for marginalised people living in isolated areas in the Tweed hinterland.

The You Have a Friend organisation currently serves more than 300 meals a week at breakfast, lunch

and night outreaches in Coolangatta, Chinderah and Murwillumbah.

He says up to 50 people sleep rough in the Tweed/Coolangatta area on any given night – most are middle-aged or elderly.

Mr Lee, who has been campaigning for the establishment of a drop-in centre, says support services in Tweed are stretched to breaking. The lack of crisis accommodation means many homeless men, women and children are being forced to 'camp' in cars, under buildings and near churches.

### Highest rate in NSW

Mr Lee says despite the 2006 Census finding Tweed Heads had the highest homelessness rate per capita in NSW, support services remain chronically under-funded.

He says the state government and local authorities needed to work together to tackle homelessness.

## Councillor free to vote, says GM

Ken Sapwell

Tweed Council general manager Mike Rayner has scuttled a last-ditch attempt to disqualify a councillor from taking part in next week's vote aimed at overturning new height and density controls for Hastings Point.

He's found a complaint alleging Cr Phil Youngblutt shouldn't take part in the vote because of a conflict of interest wasn't worthy of an investigation by the council's conduct review committee (CRC).

Mr Rayner's use of his executive powers to stop the complaint being considered by the independent CRC has drawn fire from residents trying to stop the hard-fought planning controls from being overturned.

Hastings Point Progress Association president Julie Boyd alleged Cr Youngblutt had a conflict of interest when he voted last month against the new two-storey height limits because his brother was employed as a resident caretaker on a site earmarked for a major development in the village.

Ms Boyd contended Cr Youngblutt rightly declared a non-pecuniary interest and didn't take part in a recent council decision to fine the owner of the creek-front site \$3000 for unauthorised fence works – and should have done the same last month.

But Mr Rayner disagreed, saying Cr Youngblutt's brother was not a property owner and as such the councillor has no direct private interest in the Hastings Point planning controls.

He told Ms Boyd in a letter rejecting her complaint that it didn't matter whether the two were close

friends or relatives, even though Cr Youngblutt said he caught up with his brother only a couple of times a year.

'In consideration of that degree of closeness I doubt that there would be a councillor who would not be conflicted in dealing with a Kingscliff, Murwillumbah or Tweed Heads DCP [Development Control Plan],' he said.

'Clearly the more generalised nature of the issue the less likely a councillor's decision will be influenced by any private interest they may have.'

### 'No breach of code'

'I have determined that there is no prima facie evidence of a breach of the code of conduct relating to the non-declaration of a non-pecuniary interest.'

But resident and solicitor John O'Reilly has called on Mr Rayner to rethink his decision, saying serious breaches of the law required addressing.

In a letter, Mr O'Reilly said the brother was employed on site by Walter Elliott Holdings which had plans before the Department of Planning for a major housing and resort project which the new DCP would significantly impact on.

He said it contained specific conditions, including new environmental buffer zones, which restricted the development potential of the land and could force the developer to sell-up and walk away, likely having an adverse impact on Mr Youngblutt's employment and residential status.

He says it's inaccurate to say the

continued on page 2



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www.tweedecho.com.au**

# High flying author touches ground

Kate McIntosh

Phil Latz led a life of such daring and adventure that being diagnosed with cancer merely rated as a blip in comparison.

The 73-year-old former helicopter pilot, who once crash landed on Ayers Rock, has enjoyed a career that took him to some of the world's most challenging and demanding environments.

Since retiring, Phil has channelled his energies into writing his memoirs.

His self-published autobiography, *Flying With My Angel: Surviving Religion, Sex and Helicopters*, charts his early life growing up on an outback Lutheran mission to his split with religion over the fallout of an ill-fated love affair with a Catholic girl whom his family disapproved of - and his subsequent globetrotting adventures and considerable romantic conquests.

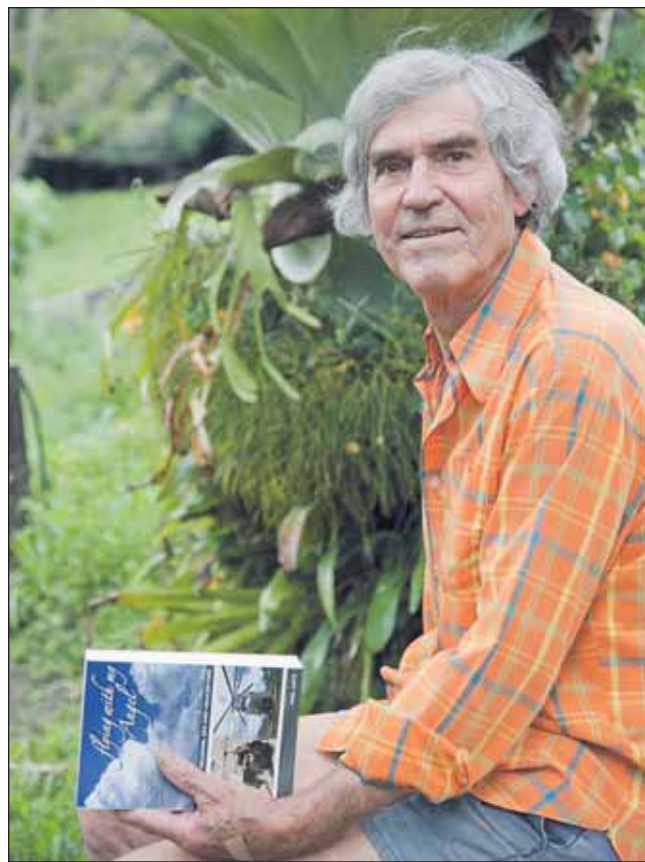
His book, which took six years to complete and spans 60 years, is based on his personal journals, flying logbooks, as well as his mother's diary, which he had translated from German.

Three years ago, while still working on his book, Phil was diagnosed with malignant cancer of the larynx - news he took in his stride.

'I wasn't even fazed,' he said.

'It was peanuts compared to what I'd been through.'

The son of German speaking missionaries, Phil - who now



Phil Latz has written a book about his colourful life as a globe trotting helicopter pilot and engineer.

lives at Stokers Siding - had an austere, if somewhat unconventional upbringing, shadowed by the threat of World War II.

Growing up in Hermannsburg in Central Australia in a largely Aboriginal community, Phil's childhood was one marked by hardship, deprivation, but also incredible freedom and tenacity.

'Growing up with Aborigines you develop very sharp in-

stincts and reflexes necessary for survival in the desert,' he said.

After dabbling with a career in the mines and as a mechanic, Phil set his sights on pursuing his dream as a helicopter pilot and engineer.

His work was to take him to more than a dozen countries, including Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia and Kenya.

He was involved in major

offshore drilling, mining and infrastructure projects, often in extremely dangerous and unpredictable conditions.

In 1992 he travelled to Cambodia to supervise the operations of aircraft sent to assist the UN who were monitoring the country's first elections since feared despot Pol Pot was deposed.

Phil's 45-year career also included stints with multinational giants Shell, Rio Tinto, BP and Chevron.

Notably, he had a lucky escape after crashing his helicopter on Ayers Rock while filming a major TV commercial and today remains the only person to have crash landed at the historic site.

More used to the language and jargon of technical flight manuals, Phil said making the transition to the personal for his book proved difficult.

'My editor kept saying "For God sake Phil, get some emotion in there",' he said.

'I was a bit like the ambo - to survive in difficult environments you have to suppress different emotions.'

Since relocating to the Tweed 16 years ago to be with his partner Dinah, Phil says he now enjoys a more settled life.

'I spent so long at airports and I've done so much travel, I'm just very content,' he said.

'I don't get bored at all.'

*Flying With My Angel* is available at Angus and Robertson and Dymocks, or visit www.phillatz.com.

## Pensioners' rate rebates spark radical new proposal

Ken Sapwell

Pensioners' assets could be sold after their death to recoup rate rebates under a radical plan to help retirement havens like the Tweed avoid bankruptcy.

The proposal is contained in a University of New England study which Tweed Council cites in a plea to all major political parties to ease the growing financial burden caused by the pensioner rebates scheme.

It follows concerns raised in a secret report to council and by mayor Kevin Skinner about the impacts that the long-running rebates scheme was having on council's finances.

Cr Skinner sparked the ire of pensioner groups when he told a recent council meeting he worried about the 'incredible amount of money' the half-price rebate was costing the cash-strapped council.

His comments follow a report showing the council paid \$1.35 million towards the rates subsidy last financial year, with the state government picking up the tab for a similar amount.

According to the study paper given to councillors, the problem will worsen with the baby boomer generation expected to

reach retirement age in the next few years.

'Many intend to relocate to the coast in their retirement and a sizeable portion will be eligible for council pensioner rebates, likely placing further strain on the finances of affected coastal councils,' the study finds.

The paper offers two alternatives.

The first involves the federal government taking responsibility for rebate concessions, similar to the way it provides unemployment benefits and aged pensioner allowances and payments.

### Tapping capital gains

The second is to allow NSW councils to introduce a scheme where pensioners ultimately funded their own concessions through the capital gains reaped on the sale of their homes.

'They could deduct the amount of the rate concessions they received during the ownership of their residence, either upon their death or on their transfer to another location,' the university's centre for local government paper said.

'Under this funding arrangement, generally referred to as a reverse mortgage, the pensioner

would be lent money on the argument that while they may be income poor they may be simultaneously asset rich.'

The paper also suggests the current scheme is unfair to ratepayers who pay full rates.

'The equity of the present system can be questioned since pensioners can receive rate rebates on a property which is later sold with a capital gain to enable them or their beneficiaries to benefit at the expense of ratepayers,' it says.

Chairman of the disbanded Tweed Economic Development Corporation, Tom Senti, also raised concerns about the economic impact of the shire's ageing population in his final report to the council.

## Councillor free to vote (from page 1)

DCP is a generalised matter akin to the consideration of any DCP or LEP in any other town or village.

'The number of times that Cr Youngblutt might catch up with his brother hardly addresses the existence of the interest that is in conflict,' Mr O'Reilly said.

'This is not a generalised matter but a very specific one

The report, which was originally stamped 'commercial in confidence' but later released after it was leaked to the media, noted that in 2006 22 per cent of the shire's population was over 65 years and 35 per cent was over 55 years of age.

'Population projections suggested that by 2031, 38 per cent of the Tweed's population will be over 65 years which equates to 45,600 people (with 8,700 being over 85 years of age),' Mr Senti said.

'What will be the economic impact on the council's ability to provide essential infrastructure to support sustainable socio-economic growth and the impact on its financial stability and sustainability?' he asks.

in which the (brother's) future is likely to be affected depending on the implementation of the proposed DCP.

'I am of the view that any reasonable person would perceive that Cr Youngblutt's decision on the DCP could be influenced by the impact that it will have on his brother's welfare.'

■ See Editorial, page 6

# Last-ditch efforts to save koalas

Murray Simpson

The thumbscrews are being applied to the Tweed Shire Council to take urgent action to preserve the remnants of the region's once thriving koala population.

The flashpoint is the gigantic 856ha development at Kings Forest, approved in September, with provision for up to 4,500 homes.

Unfortunately it is also home to one of the Tweed Coast's three remaining koala colonies.

Environment and koala groups are urging Tweed residents to lodge submissions with the council to protect the last of the koalas.

Ardent koala activist Jenny Hayes says the clock is ticking for the colony unless proper protection measures are put in place and it would be devastating if all there was left was just a memory.

'I've lived here all my life and can't bear the thought that our children won't know them,' she said.



Koala advocate Jenny Hayes with one of the animals threatened by huge new developments about to destroy their habitat.

Key elements are a ban on dogs and cats and the provision of a fauna overpass on the development's proposed four-lane highway.

'Ideally we'd like to see restrictions similar to those applying at Koala Beach which include a 40km/h speed limit, dim street lights and elevated

houses so koalas can pass underneath,' she said.

This week the council's Koala Advisory Committee chairman Dot Holdom claimed the council's powers were limited.

But Ms Hayes, who is also on the committee, said the council had the planning powers to make a difference. It was

more a matter of will-power.

The Tweed Heads Environment Group has also entered the fray with president Richard Murray claiming the council's performance was woeful compared with what was happening north of the border.

'While new koala refuges are being created in south-east Queensland, the Tweed Shire Council has yet to provide protection for the Tweed Coast's last three koala colonies,' he said.

'The last three colonies at Kings Forest, Round Mountain and Pottsville need immediate protection.

'The Tweed's failure to conserve the koala will mean our children and grandchildren will not experience koalas in the wild.'

He said the current population represented only ten per cent of that existing in 1996.

'For koalas to have any chance of survival at Kings Forest minimum standards for koala protection need to be put in place.'

■ See Letters, page 7

## (Real) Advice from Mrs Product Tester



Dear Mrs Product Tester, **Phew!! What a great Christmas, I've been busy, busy, busy... eating, eating, eating... and drinking, drinking, drinking. I think I've put on about 5kg. How was your Christmas?**

Joy

Dear Joy,

Well I must admit, mine was a little quieter than yours, we've been keeping a pretty low profile. What with all the rain I'm starting to grow webbed feet. I always make a point of never letting the rain dampen my spirit. Over the holidays we've been walking (getting in training for the Great Ocean Walk!). I've been walking with my new Shelta umbrella, a real pretty girly one with butterflies on it. Sometimes I've even had to wear my lightweight rain jacket. Then last week we went canoeing (ask Tony about getting up close and personal with the fish ladder at slippery crossing). He reckoned he couldn't let Lucy have all the fun! Luckily the hardware shop sells fibreglass repair kits, and yes, it rained again but it didn't really matter 'cause we were all wet already!

So just because it's a bit wet, it doesn't mean you can't enjoy yourself. You just need the right gear. I know of this little shop in Murwillumbah called Outdoorism, it's got all your wet weather needs. So get out and enjoy!

Your friend Cathy

For *genuine* advice on a great range of adventure gear for campers, hikers and travellers see



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# Mortgagee sells off dozens of Resort Corp units

Luis Felio

Dozens of Tweed Coast apartments and townhouses held by collapsed Tweed developer Resort Corp have been sold off by the company's mortgagee.

Resort Corp, run by Tweed lawyer Paul Brinsmead, the son of former Tweed deputy mayor Bob Brinsmead, and his brother in law Peter Madrers, was put into voluntary administration last year with debts of \$300 million but continued to trade out of difficulties through a deed of company arrangement (DOCA).

The arrangement involved the sale of all company assets over 30 months to repay creditors.

News Ltd financial reporter Tracey McBean reported that a Sydney funds manager headed by former Macquarie Group senior executive Bill Moss had recently bought the 71 homes

within Resort Corp projects Beach Shacks and the five-star Santai resort, at Casuarina.

Mr Brinsmead was named by the 2004 Daly Inquiry as a central figure who organised a developer-backed slush fund called Tweed Directions which channeled hundreds of thousands of dollars to the campaign war chests of pro-development councillors who eventually controlled council.

### 'Developer puppets'

The council was sacked by the state government in 2005 after the inquiry described majority councillors as 'developer puppets'.

Two members of that sacked council, Crs Warren Polglase, the then mayor, and Dot Holdom, were re-elected in the 2008 council election.

Mr Moss, who retired as Macquarie's head of property and investment banking in

2007, founded the independent advisory and funds management firm Moss Capital last year.

The deal with the Resort Corp mortgagee, believed to be Capital Finance, involved 49 one- and two-bedroom apartments in Santai and 22 townhouses in Beach Shacks. The fund manager is making the acquisition on behalf of a consortium of investors.

The report said Mr Brinsmead and Mr Madrers have since partnered with India's Pearls Infrastructure Group to seek property opportunities in Australia and late last year they brokered the \$62.5 million sale of the Sheraton Mirage on the Gold Coast to Pearls after meeting the company's executives during a campaign in India to sell Resort Corp assets.

Santai and Beach Shacks are among several developments

that Resort Corp undertook on the Tweed Coast, including The Beach resort at Cabarita, and Nor Nor East, Sea, Zen and Soraya at Kingscliff.

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# Photo lands Ebony trip of a lifetime

Kate McIntosh

A chance photograph in a NSW pine plantation is taking Hastings Point resident Ebony Rowe all the way to rainforests of Sri Lanka.

The 29-year-old photography enthusiast is the winner of CameraPro's Rainforest Rescue Photographic Competition.

The national photography competition aimed to raise awareness of Rainforest Rescue's operations in Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The not-for-profit organisation works to re-establish rainforests through planting, maintenance and restoration programs, as well as purchasing and protecting high conservation value rainforest and preserving its biodiversity.

As winner, Ebony will take part in the 12-day Ride for the Rainforest 2011 Sri Lanka Cycle Challenge, which is worth \$6,000.

As well as cycling through the stunning rainforests of Sri Lanka and visiting temples, villages and national parks, Ebony will also participate in the organisation's reforestation efforts. She finishes up in the World Heritage listed city of Galle, with time to relax on the



beach before heading home.

The trip will be Ebony's first outside Australia. She says she is looking forward to the challenge and experiencing the Sri Lankan culture first-hand.

'I am absolutely thrilled to win this amazing trekking trip to see the reforestation work of Rainforest Rescue in Sri Lanka,' Ebony said.

'It will be good to challenge myself physically and get out of my comfort zone.'

The photographic competition, with the theme 'Our Changing World', was

designed to give amateur photographers and tertiary students the opportunity to showcase their work of a changing environment.

Ebony's beautifully composed photo 'Against All Odds' (reproduced above) shows a small tree struggling upwards amidst a cleared forest. Ebony said the picture, which was taken on a trip to Tooloom National Park in northwest NSW, dramatically illustrates man's impact on the natural world.

Ebony, who entered the competition after hearing

about it through a friend on Facebook, said she never expected to win.

She says the prize will help fulfil her dream of travelling overseas, which she had previously been unable to afford.

A keen amateur photographer since high school, Ebony says she prefers candid portraits and landscapes to staged or set-up shots.

'I'm not very good at describing things in words, but with photography I like the way you can capture an emotion for artistic reason or for memory,' she said.

# Coast cycleway 'in need of repair'

Kate McIntosh

The final link in a 10km-long pedestrian and cycleway connecting Kingscliff to Pottsville opened just before Christmas, but already some residents have expressed frustration at the degraded state of some sections of the track.

The cycleway allows cyclists and pedestrians to travel uninterrupted along the Tweed Coast without the worry of traffic or congestion.

Long-time Casuarina resident Greg Kinkade uses the path on a daily basis.

He says while the opening



Greg Kinkade shows the state of disrepair of the old cycleway on the coast. Photo Jeff 'Broken Springs' Dawson

of the latest linkway is positive, other sections were in urgent need of repair.

'In the Casuarina area, it's quite nasty, it's an accident waiting to happen,' he said.

He says the appalling state of Casuarina sections of the pathway posed a significant public health risk and their condition continued to galling many local residents in the area.

'Imagine walking along at night and you can't see a damn

thing or you hit your leg on something or fall in a hole - and I'm not even exaggerating,' he said.

'It's quite dangerous, quite hazardous.'

Mr Kinkade says lighting is also intermittent along much of the pathway as a result of faulty wiring or damage by vandals.

He says Tweed Shire Council has been contacted on a number of occasions about

the issue, but nothing had been done to remedy the situation.

The opening of the latest link is part of the first stage of civil works, landscaping and onsite parks at the \$1.5 billion Seaside development.

The residential and resort strip and will ultimately comprise a village centre and retail precinct, tourist accommodation and housing for up to 2,000 people.

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## Cabarita youth make colourful statement

The newly launched site of the Cabarita Youth Service is off to a colourful start.

About 20 young people were involved in the mural project, led by local artist Lorraine Abernathy, who was commissioned by the Tweed Shire Council to do workshops on the planning, design and painting of the mural on the shopfront of the Cabarita Youth Service building.

The mural reflects the young people's different interpretations of Cabarita.

The project was initiated by Cabarita Beach Business Association which currently oversees Cabarita Youth Service operations.

Tweed Shire Council youth development officer Sylvia Roylance said the mural is a positive example of council collaborating with community groups to deliver community-based programs. The Cabarita Youth Service helps young people aged 13-18 years and their families access information, as well as a range

of other services, including an after-school and holiday activity program, youth worker support, and referrals to other community services.

The service has been running almost two years and celebrated the launch of its new headquarters in Bogangar last October.

■ In Jeff Dawson's photo, mural mentor Loraine Abernathy is in the foreground, with Matt Cotter, Youth Activities Officer, standing left.

## Abbott energises dam supporters

Murray Simpson

Tony Abbott's dam plan has had a happy reception at the Tweed Shire Council which is doggedly persisting with the Byrill Creek dam scheme despite being knocked back by the state government.

Opposition leader Tony Abbott launched his dam plan this week after touring flood-ravaged Queensland claiming it would reduce the impact of floods and boost food security.

A delighted Tweed Shire mayor Kevin Skinner said he embraced the national dam plan.

'It was about time someone started looking at the bigger picture,' he said.

Cr Skinner said Mr Abbott's announcement breathed life back into the Byrill Creek scheme.

Cr Skinner had used his casting vote twice to push though the Byrill Creek plan only to have it scuppered by NSW Water Minister Philip Costa in late December.

In a letter to Save Byrill Creek campaign spokeswom-

an Joanna Gardner, Mr Costa said his decision was based on the 'high environmental and world heritage values of the Byrill Creek area and the availability of other water supply options for Tweed Shire.'

These options include raising the Clarrie Hall Dam wall.

Council officers are currently reviewing the implications of Mr Costa's decision and Cr Skinner has said the issue is not dead in the water.

### Enormous damage

As a result, Mr Abbott's grand plan has come as music to his ears.

'Enormous damage has been caused by a lack of foresight in this country for some time,' said Cr Skinner.

The Abbott plan is aimed at taking the heat out the Murray-Darling restructure issue, and as a spinoff offers a glimmer of support for the Tweed scheme.

'With our weather the way it is with cyclonic weather, it is an obvious statement - just another plus for building a second dam,' Cr Skinner told media.

'Not only would it assure water for the future, you would have flood prevention.

'If you've got two dams, you can release them to half capacity and still have the equivalent of one dam and alleviate some the of the problems we have here on the coast,' he said.

But anti-dam campaigner Andrea Vickers said Cr Skinner was grasping at straws.

She said building dams flew in the face of current expert opinion.

'There are far smarter ways of tackling water conservation which the council is slow to address,' she said.

'There are many ways people can help themselves with water conservation and with a bit of visionary government support at all levels we can avoid building huge dams with all the environmental implications they carry.'

The dam issue is likely to be a hot topic at the council community access meeting this week where Joanna Gardner is expected to speak.

■ See Mungo, page 6

## Road info now available online

Residents seeking information on the condition of shire roads during the current foul weather can get up-to-the-minute information on the website [www.myroadinfo.com.au](http://www.myroadinfo.com.au).

Tweed Shire spokeswoman Tiffany Stodart said information was updated on a 24/7 basis. The site is supported by the councils of Ballina, Byron,

Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore and Richmond Valley.

The council announcement was prompted by a Byrill Creek resident John Morrison who complained to *The Echo* of a 'terrible lack of information' provided by the council on roads during the current flood conditions.

Ms Stodart said so far road

crews had not experienced any severe damage to roads that would require informing residents to take an alternative route.

She added that the *Tweed Link* magazine for 2011 is due out shortly and will feature a range of information for residents about the NSW Natural Disaster Assistance schemes.

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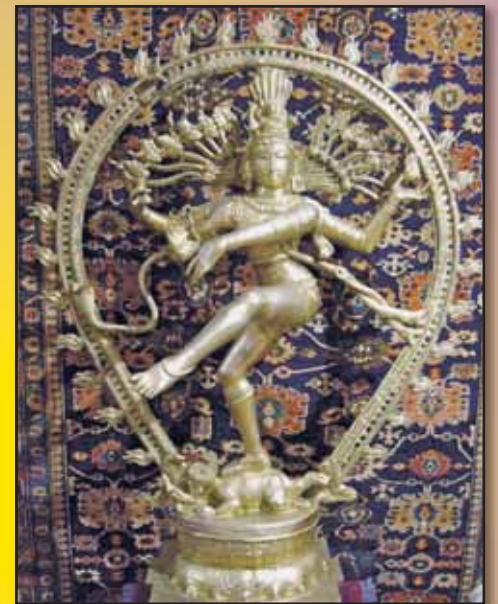


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Volume 3 #18

January 13, 2011

## Transparency

Council general manager Mike Rayner has decided that Cr Phil Youngblutt is acting perfectly properly in voting on building controls for Hastings Point, and will therefore not allow the matter to be taken further. As a consequence, he is making the judgement that there is also no conflict of interest in the councillor being involved in the calling of a rescission motion that has had the effect of delaying introduction of the controls.

Cr Youngblutt's brother is the caretaker of a property owned by a developer whose interests are affected by the regulations. Council's new height and density controls will prevent the intended large-scale redevelopment of the property (unless they are overridden by the Department of Planning).

The argument is a familiar one. Sticking strictly to the letter, if not the spirit, of the code, Cr Youngblutt has no direct pecuniary interest in the matter, and therefore it is up to him to decide if he has a conflict. Mr Rayner believes that if this non-pecuniary interest were to be taken seriously, there would hardly be a councillor who would not similarly have a friend or relative affected by council's planning laws somewhere in the shire.

Generally speaking this would be true, but we are not speaking generally but specifically. There is a property due to come under planning restrictions, which has already been identified as a major development, and the brother of a councillor depends for his livelihood on the success of that development. In the interests of transparency, Cr Youngblutt's conduct in this matter should at least be examined.

Transparency, or lack of it, was of course the main criticism aimed at the previous council, which was sacked by the state government. That council allowed the perception to arise that developers received unduly favourable treatment, to the detriment of the environment, infrastructure, assets and interests of the ordinary ratepayer.

Transparency, or lack of it, was also the charge levelled against the general manager when he refused to admit a conflict of interest in sitting on the board of the motor rally. Mr Rayner's interest was also non-pecuniary (in acting for the benefit of that organisation he was not paid), so it is easy to understand that he feels unable to accept the criticism directed at Cr Youngblutt.

### Tweed Shire Echo

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

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## Going to extremes now natural for weather

For the first couple of weeks of 2011 the big story has been the weather – it well and truly pushed politics off the front pages.

But not for long. Not that the weather is likely to get all that much better, but that's not the point. From here on in it will become inextricably entangled with politics.

Indeed, to some extent it already has. When Tony Abbott went to Queensland to inspect the flood damage, he made it clear that his main objective was not to express sympathy and compassion for the victims, but to gather political ammunition. He was there, he announced, to check up on the government's relief measures, to make sure there was no more waste.

And then he sent his hapless Mr Fixit, Andrew Robb, into a committee stacked with irrational Nationals to mastermind the construction of lots of new dams. These, he said, would not only prevent flooding, but would also store water against future droughts and generate lots of clean electricity.

As various experts hurried to inform him, this was all nonsense: dams were hugely expensive and also environmentally damaging and if they were to be built at all it had to be for a well formulated purpose, not just as some kind of political panacea.

And in any case the real problem was towns located in floodplains; how do you dam a floodplain? But Abbott was happy to have struck the first blow, and followed it with a demand that the implementation of reforms for the Murray-Darling system be postponed for at least a year because he didn't like them.

Julia Gillard, meanwhile, stuck to the traditional script, being shocked and sorrowful

and promising relief. But if she was genuinely depressed by the human suffering she saw, she must have been equally horrified at the budgetary implications. Quite apart from the billions needed to repair the damage, the loss of revenue from exports of minerals and primary produce will be horrendous; so much for getting back into surplus in 2013.

And domestic prices will rise

2001; true, but that's because the last decade was the hottest on record. And in fact 2010 was hotter than the average from 1960 to 1990, suggesting that yes, there is a trend. And most importantly in 2010 the sea surface temperatures were also the highest on record, which may or may not have contributed to the La Nina – we just don't know.

Looking more widely, in

Global warming means that as more energy is trapped in the earth's system, the weather patterns grow more chaotic.

by Mungo MacCallum



dramatically, causing a sudden inflationary spike and the prospect of another interest rate rise. The Reserve Bank may be persuaded to discount the increase in the Consumer Price Index as a one-off event, but is it really? Floods like these are supposed to be one in a hundred years events, but in fact parts of Queensland have been hit by similar disasters three times in the last two years, and the weather bureau reckons 2011 is shaping up to be the mother of them all.

Certainly some of the problem can be blamed on an unusually intense La Nina, which is unlikely to be repeated soon – or at least it would have been unlikely under the patterns of the last century. But it just could be that the times have moved on; that, like politics, the weather has entered a new paradigm.

Which brings us inevitably to climate change. The sceptics are, of course, not convinced, pointing out that in Australia 2010 was the coldest year since

amassing data from 189 nations and territories across the globe the World Meteorological Organisation calculated that the year to the end of October was the hottest since 1850, when they started keeping records. The northern winter may bring this down a little when the annual figures arrive in March but the experts are predicting that 2010 will still be in the top three.

Ah yes, the northern winter: surely such freezing conditions prove that global warming is a myth? Well no, in fact they are more evidence that it is very real indeed. Global warming does not mean a slow, steady increase in temperature across the planet; it means that as more energy is trapped in the earth's system, the weather patterns grow more chaotic; extreme events become the norm. Thus we can look forward to an increase in the severity of droughts, floods, storms, cyclones, hurricanes and yes, even blizzards.

One possible effect of global

warming might be to push the gulf stream, the northerly current that skirts the west coast of Europe, further out into the Atlantic; if that happens, freezing European winters will become standard. Prepare for an influx of Pommy boat people.

And at the same time, at least 17 countries broke their maximum temperature records in 2010 and the ice caps and glaciers continued to retreat. And of course greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere continued to rise. Since 1990 the increase has been 27.5 per cent and there is no sign of any global strategy that will reverse the trend. In the last 30 years the mean global temperature has risen by just half a centigrade degree – and look at what has already happened: 2010 saw the second highest level of natural catastrophes in that 30 years and almost all of them had to do with the weather.

Even if the politicians get their act together and agree to stabilise greenhouse emissions at 450 parts per million, which is the most optimistic of all suggested scenarios but still an extremely unlikely one, global temperatures will still rise by another two centigrade degrees – four times the increase to date. You ain't seen nothing yet.

This eventuality should give Gillard and Abbott something to contemplate as they ceaselessly circle each other in an effort to score a point for the evening news; but it probably won't. They may, however, care to note that the problem so concerns Graeme Wood of Wotif.com that he gave \$1.6 million, the largest political donation ever disclosed, to the only party he thought was serious about it – the Greens.

If science and objective evidence will not convince our leaders to act, perhaps the hope of money will.

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**Letters to the Editor**

Email: editor@tweedecho.com.au  
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 Letters longer than 200 words may be cut and pseudonyms are not acceptable.  
 Please include your full name, address and phone number.

**A new invasion**

Over many years, the people of Queensland have generously sent us their cane toads to help eliminate a NSW cockroach problem. More recently they have sent us their surplus water and top soil.

It appears that the generosity of Queenslanders has come to an end and they are ready to reclaim their resources. The *Sun Herald* on January 9 ran an ad from MyQLDHoliday, headed 'The Best of Peppers in Queensland'. Among the two Queensland holiday destinations listed in the ad was: 'Peppers Salt Resort and Spa, Kingscliff'.

Apparently the annexation process has begun and the daylight savings issue has been solved for the Tweed Coast.

**Neville Jennings**  
 Kingscliff

**Evictee blues**

I wish to express concern regarding the eviction of 11 Long Term Casual (LTC) caravan site holders at the Kingscliff Beach Holiday Park, in particular the selection process which clearly appears to have lacked equity.

My family and I have had a site in the park for over 15 years with three generations, including my four-year-old and 20-month-old grandsons, having enjoyed the experience of a beachside caravan park lifestyle.

While acknowledging that the Tweed Shire Council Reserve Parks Trust is under no obligation to provide reasons for terminating our site agreement, other than giving the site holders three months' notice, it would not be out of order to suggest that the Trust has a moral obligation to ensure that the selection process was transparent, and fair and equitable, considering the contribution the evictees have made to the local community (businesses, restaurants, clubs, etc) over many years.

Mr Richard Adams, Executive Manager, Tweed Coast Holiday Parks, stated, and I quote, 'Sites were selected on the basis of (i) beachfront location - as many potential guests turn away due to the unavailability of beachfront sites and (ii) size - to cater for the larger modern caravans. Selection was carried out by three people: Mr Adams, the parks supervisor and the park manager, during a walk-through of the park.'

The following observations raise conjectures of discrimination:

- Lack of clearly defined selection criteria apart from beachfront location and size

**continued on page 9**

# Last stand for our koalas

■ Looks like native animals are doing it tough all over.

Just before Kristina Kenelly prorogued parliament, her government approved the concept plan for a 5,000-house, very high density mini-city near Kingscliff for big Labor donor Bob Ell of Leda.

A four-lane highway, cars, cats and dogs will wipe out the Tweed Coast's koala population. Experts say we can still save them except for this approval - Kristina has more to answer for than just electricity.

As it had more objections than any development in the history of NSW, and she got most of them while she was planning minister, she cannot pretend she does not know what she is doing.

Pity about the poor bloody koalas. Never mind, more billions for a billionaire.

**Lisa Townsend**  
 Murwillumbah

■ While new koala refuges are being created in south-

east Queensland, Tweed Shire Council is yet to provide protection for Tweed Coast's last three koala colonies.

These remaining koala colonies at Kings Forest, Round Mountain and Pottsville need immediate protection. Otherwise Tweed's continuing failure to conserve our koala will mean that our children and grandchildren will not experience koalas in the wild. Statistical information indicates that these three koala populations represent only ten per cent of the Tweed Shire koala population that existed prior to 1996.

This Tweed Council will be remembered for its environmental credentials, when council will soon assess a koala management plan for the threatened koala colony at King's Forest (10,900 persons).

For the koala to have any chance of survival at Kings Forest, minimum standards for koala protection need to be put in place. The proposed four-lane highway should require koala protective fencing through

'core' koala habitat together with fauna under/overpasses. Since dog attacks account for ten per cent mortality on koalas in the nearby areas, prohibiting dogs and cats to conserve fauna should be a planning requirement.

Loss of 'core habitat' is a key issue for koalas in New South Wales. A 2004 study undertaken by the University of Queensland, Australian Koala Foundation and the New South Wales Department of Environment and Conservation identified the minimum habitat requirements for koala populations must comprise greater than 50 per cent high quality koala habitat and should be configured in large patches of 100 hectares or greater. Sealed roads should be avoided wherever possible within or near to habitat patches.

I ask readers to make submissions to council seeking protection for our last koalas.

**Richard W Murray**  
 Tweed Heads Environment Group

# Dam issues continue to flow

■ The support by councillors Skinner, Polglase and Youngblutt for damming Byrrill Creek flies in the face of all available scientific opinion and community views. It also runs contrary to the recommendations of council officers.

These 'Three Stooges', as they have been labelled, consistently vote against the interests of the wider community in support of untrammelled development and exploitation of the Tweed's precious ecosystem.

The list of councils that have made a conscious effort to embrace strategies that improve the sustainability of their operations is very long... but unfortunately does not include Tweed Shire. At meeting after meeting sensible proposals for enhancing council's approach to sustainability generally, and sustainable development in particular, are rejected out of hand by these supporters of gung-ho development.

Every time the community has been asked, whether it be ten years ago, for the development of Tweed Futures, or ten weeks ago, for the development of the Community Strategic Plan, the message came back loud and strong. The community's priority issue (whether council likes it or not - and whether council ignores it or not) is the protection of the Tweed's sensitive environment.

The current crop of councillors ignore the community's views at their peril!

**Michael McNamara**  
 Pumpenbil

■ Mayor Skinner's denial of state authority has resulted in him and the council being left 'out of the loop' in regard to the

Byrrill Creek Dam. Instead of acknowledging his poor communication with other levels of government and attempting to rectify his mistakes in order to promote good local governance he has seized on the irrational logic of Tony Abbott's grand dam plan.

Desperately attempting to keep the concept of Byrrill Creek dam alive he now claims that having a new dam will help reduce flood risk! Unfortunately for Skinner he can't have it both ways; the dam is either for a water supply or it is for flood mitigation, it is impossible to have both.

If a dam is to work for flood mitigation it has to remain always empty, and can never be used to supply water. Furthermore, a single dam in one valley does not flood prevention make. Flood prevention would require empty dams on every single creek and river in the entire valley, and once they are filled, their flood prevention capacity is lost.

I like to believe that the people of the Tweed are not so easily persuaded by such childish logic as promoted by the mayor, and I hope people realise that building a massive wall across Byrrill Creek will catch only one single rainfall event and will do nothing at all to help alleviate the downstream affects of floods.

**Sam Dawson**  
 Byrrill Creek

■ I ask the Mayor Kevin Skinner to recollect back to October/November last year: during his conversation whilst walking Byrrill Creek with me, and his public statements both on ABC radio and newspapers, that if

'the Byrrill Creek Dam is going to be stopped by government legislation, then let it be done as soon as possible.'

On December 17 this NSW legislation occurred: the decision within the Tweed Water Sharing plan was quite specifically based on the high environmental values of Byrrill Creek and the availability of other water supply options for Tweed Shire. It gave an opportunity for council to withdraw gracefully. This recommendation also came early enough to save Tweed ratepayers a lot of money (\$67 million for the larger or \$45 million for the smaller dam, and the already council committed preapproval plans of \$3.6 million).

But no, the dam must proceed, according to Mr Skinner in line with Tony Abbott's ideas about an Australia-wide program for more dams. May I point out that Mr Abbott's statements about flood mitigation and dams has been scientifically refuted - but then our mayor's decisions were never based on expert opinion or scientific fact, were they?

Our rainwater tanks are full; over the last month storm water harvesting would have caught megalitres of water and saved turbid runoff into our estuaries. Cobaki could have large tanks and grey water recycling as part of its development approval which will be going through council in the next few months.

It is in the hands of the Tweed Council to make a responsible decision at their next meeting on January 18.

**Joanna Gardner**  
 Save Byrrill Creek Coordinator

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## Six-day Bluesfest approval opens way for extra Dylan appearance

Hans Lovejoy

The prospect of a second Bob Dylan appearance appears promising after Byron Shire Council last week voted 6-1 in favour of the extra day.

A relieved Bluesfest director Peter Noble told *The Echo* he will now try to secure Dylan.

'I feel confident it will happen,' he said by phone while overseas.

'We are virtually sold out so this day will hopefully be an opportunity for locals to grab a ticket.'

The extra day had been in limbo since the council deferred a meeting last November.

At the time Mr Noble claimed that the delay could mean the loss of the booking, and had started the process for both for Ministerial intervention and a Land and Environment court application.

'I wasn't trying to attack council staff,' he said, referring to the intervention and court application.

'It was just an attempt for my small business to proceed in a successful manner, within the guidelines of our constitution.'



It's all just a simple twist of fate: Bob Dylan's second appearance should be confirmed – or not – shortly.

Mr Noble claims he is 'not interested in expanding' the yearly event beyond its current capacity.

He did, however, fire a broadside at Byron Council's Festival Events Policy, which he claims is ineffectual.

'It's not a gateway for start up events,' he said.

'Council has no Events Manager either, and I am told by NSW Tourism that Tweed is now the leading shire with regards to festivals and events.'

This year's Bluesfest in Tyagarah will run from Thursday, April 21 to Tuesday, April 26.

LETTERS from page 7

of site with evictees decided by a walkthrough of the park, suggests that some site holders may have been looked upon more favourably than others.

- Not all beachfront site holders have been selected.

- The poor state of the amenity blocks and the lack of a dump point are more plausible reasons for travellers turning away from Kingscliff Beach Holiday Park, not the unavailability of a beachfront site.

- Included in the list of evictees are three sites (one of which is ours) located at the beach end of 7th and 8th Avenues. These avenues are very narrow by caravan park standards and these sites are not large, particularly in length. It would be a daunting task to access and position a long modern caravan on these sites.

- Public access to minutes of meetings relating to this decision and the scrutiny of figures put forward regarding availability of sites and increased income, etc has been denied, with confidentiality given as the reason.

- The apparent cunning strategy of sending out the notifications just before Christmas when most people are obviously very busy and parliaments and councils are in recess for two months.

Allan Schmidt  
Salisbury, Qld

## Two wins for Tweed

A Tweed Shire Council bridge project which restored a threatened species habitat has been commended, while an environmental health officer has won a state award for reducing the red tape for food businesses.

Council's O'Brien's Bridge replacement project at Mt Burrell, which reduced impact on a threatened frog species and incorporated nesting boxes for a threatened bat species (*Myotis macropus*) roosting under the bridge, received a commendation in the 'Natural Environment Protection and Enhancement: On-ground Works' category in the Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards, announced in Sydney last week.

The site is one of only two known *Myotis* breeding sites within the Tweed local government area and one of only a few known locations within the Tweed where the Giant Barred Frog is known to regularly occur.

To overcome impacts on the frog, mitigation measures were implemented to limit impacts during demolition, construction and operational phases.

The dilapidated timber bridge on Kyogle Road was replaced with a concrete structure.

Council environmental scientist David Hannah said incorporating artificial bat roosting habitat under the new bridge had proved to be a success by not displacing the bat population, which along with the frogs, were still thriving around the bridge.

### Food champion

Meanwhile, council environmental health officer Mark Longbottom was the inaugural winner of the Food Surveillance Champion Award (Country) for his contribution to an innovative system known as the Local Government Toolbox which makes it easier to comply with industry regulations.

Mr Longbottom was presented with his award at a ceremony in Sydney last week by the NSW Minister for Industry and Investment Steve Whan, on behalf of the NSW Food Authority.

Tweed joined forces with 23 councils across southeast Queensland to set up the Local Government Toolbox to help businesses such as cafes, restaurants, market stalls and mobile food vans easily operate fully-compliant businesses.

The toolbox can be accessed through website [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au).

# BACK TO SCHOOL

**SOMETIMES CHILDREN JUST NEED** a little encouragement to actually admit that they are excited about returning to school, seeing old friends, and starting a new adventure in learning. Here are some easy tips to make your child's transition an easy one, from a teacher's knowledgeable perspective.

1. Have your child start going to sleep a little earlier each day for the week before school. Children need ample sleep to be able to meet the rigors of the academic day with successful attitudes.
2. Make school shopping fun. Get your child excited. Make him/her part of the shopping process.
3. Buy that special folder. If it's a dollar more because it has some cartoon character on it, eat the extra dollar! Your child will be excited to show off his/her cool folder at school.
4. Look for child friendly tape, glue, pens, and pencils. A little glitter and color can go a long way toward making a child feel good about his/her school supplies. It's amazing!
5. Discuss BREAKFAST. Find out what your child will eat for breakfast and make him/her promise to eat breakfast on a daily basis. A hungry, tired child is not a child capable of learning.

Remember that your attitude toward school goes a long way toward influencing your child's attitude. Be involved. Be positive. Be active. Let your child know that you are on his/her side. Show him/her that you are excited about his/her academic career. Chances are your child will get excited, too.

### Paul "Rabbit" Robinson

is a versatile concert violinist who plays Electric 5 string fiddle with the **Round Mountain Girls**. The band recorded their new CD at Studios 301 Byron Bay in 2010 and the long awaited CD Launch is this Friday the 14th of January from 7:30PM DLS at the Ivory Tavern in Tweed Heads.

Tickets on sale at the venue and local music stores. They will be supported by the Swinging Cowgirl, Joel Salim MC and more. Rabbit is also a finalist in the Golden Fiddle Awards in Tamworth for the 3rd time.

For more info go to [www.roundmountaingirls.com](http://www.roundmountaingirls.com).

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9am-3pm

16 Wollumbin Street,  
Murwillumbah 02 6672 2226

A ministry of the Murwillumbah Presbyterian Church  
Services: 9am and 6.30pm Sunday

We stock  
**KOORONG**  
books  
Special orders  
welcome

music and videos on consignment from Koorong. Stock is rotated every four to six weeks and special orders are welcome.

It is staffed by volunteers; profits raised go towards funding the High Schools Scripture teacher in Murwillumbah.

Browse their range of boxed Christmas cards, 2011 calendars and diaries, gift ideas, serious and not so serious books.

16 Wollumbin Street, Murwillumbah. Ph 6672 2226

## learn to play VIOLIN & FIDDLE also Electric Violin



\$30/half hr – in home lesson  
\$25/half hr – school time lesson  
\$20/month – instrument rental

Phone Paul 'Rabbit' Robinson  
**0400 574 309 / 02 6676 1584**

# health &

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

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## Shimizu garden day spa & wellbeing centre



- Specialty massage
- Health coaching
- Iridology
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- Beauty therapy
- Body treatments
- Special occasions
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Gift vouchers available  
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total relaxation • total pampering • total experience

39B Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South, NSW 2486  
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shimizu.spa@gmail.com • shimizuspa.com.au

## Good news

### for Northern Rivers families

Tweed District Dental has recently opened its privately owned holistic Dental Care Practice, providing fine dentistry for all members of your family. Both Dr Chris Jackson and Dr Inta Rudajs have trained locally and internationally. Both are highly skilled and experienced with a wide range of treatment options and solutions. They place particular emphasis on the early growth and development of children.



Dr Chris Jackson says there is an alternative to waiting until your children are older, without missing the epigenetic opportunity for growth potential. Likewise for adults, Dr Inta Rudajs, formerly of Mullumbimby, has developed a special interest in treating chronic facial pain, related to temporomandibular joint (jaw joint) dysfunction.

Open for all emergencies except for weekends and public holidays. Teen vouchers will expire on Dec 31. We are happy to squeeze you in.

For more information on 'Lots to smile about', better faces, less braces, phone (07) 5513 0900

## ADDICTIONS?

Our special acupuncture & herbal program can help you overcome them.

**STOP** - Smoking  
**STOP** - Drinking  
**STOP** - Marijuana & Drug Use  
**STOP** - Overeating

### GOLDEN ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC

139 Minjungbal Dr, South Tweed Heads  
Ph: 07 5523 9388

Also: Mermaid, Tweed & Runaway Bay

## Keeping holidays happy and healthy without the hassle

The holiday period can demand a lot of a family – especially those with children to keep entertained.

The Mums at the Heart Foundation have come together to share their favourite top 10 tips for a happy, healthy, hassle free holiday for everyone:

**STAR WALKS:** Switch off the box and take the family and a few torches out for walks after dinner. Walk on the beach, around your neighbourhood or go to the local park to spot nocturnal wildlife.

**HOP TO IT:** Teach your kids the games you used to play at school – think hopscotch, hand tennis, elastics and French cricket – and join in too.

**TOY WITH ME:** Keep some inexpensive toys put aside for the inevitable "I'm bored, Mum!" like hula hoops, frisbees, kites, volleyball, velcro balls and catching mit.

**TREAT 'EM RIGHT:** Treat children with trips to the park, beach, skate park or local pool rather than food treats.

**PIECE OF PIZZA:** Ask older children to help prepare the ingredients for pizza and have the children assemble their own dinner. Challenge children to see how many different colours they can get on their pizza and keep it even healthier with reduced fat cheese.

**TAKE TURNS:** Give a friend with kids the afternoon off and invite her children over for a play date with yours – she'll be happy to take her turn too.

**WEAR THEM OUT:** Team up with another family with kids, pack a picnic, hat, sunscreen and plenty of cool drinks and take the kids on an adventure bushwalk. Keep them going for most of the day and they'll be in bed early.

**PUTTING ON AN ACT:** Keep younger children busy and active by challenging them to act out their favourite story. Encourage them to spend the afternoon dressing up and rehearsing and put on the performance after dinner.

**START A VEGGIE PATCH:** Encourage the children to dig over a patch of earth or buy planters to turn into your own veggie patch. Allow the children to choose the seedlings they want to plant and encourage them to water, weed, harvest, prepare and cook the produce.

**FEELING FRUITY:** chop up a platter of fruit and keep it in the fridge and let kids help themselves for quick, cool snacks or just keep the fruit bowl well stocked. Frozen seedless white grapes or oranges are thirst quenching and delicious – just allow them to soften for a few minutes before trying to eat them.



### Shimizu Garden Day Spa

Valentine Couples Package: 1.5 hrs (inc. 1hr massage/ refreshments) \$130 per couple!

Shimizu Garden Day Spa is your local, friendly, beauty, massage, body, health coaching and general well being centre.

Shimizu prides itself in giving their clients the ultimate experience whether for total relaxation or addressing aches, pains and other issues.

Dawn, their iridologist, can advise on issues you may have with nutrition and will help get you on the road to wellbeing. Dawn also specialises in sports and remedial massage.

Over the next three months we will be featuring special offers exclusive to *Tweed Echo* readers.

As a special *Temptation* offer for you to experience the products and staff at Shimizu, receive an hour facial for only \$30 OR 1.5 hr session with Dawn for only \$100 including an iridology consultation and one hour massage.

Redeem this page to receive

specials. Look forward to seeing you at Shimizu.

**39B Minjungbal Dr, Tweed Heads. Phone 07 5523 0772.**

### Brooke's Place

#### SKIN BODY BEAUTY

offers you a relaxed, friendly, professional environment to unwind and be taken care of. We offer waxing, pedicure, manicure, lash and brow tinting, spray tanning, makeup and facials using locally made Organic Spa skin care.

Gift vouchers and after hours appointments are available.

**Phone 6676 3514 for an appointment.**

### Kingscliff Holistic Health Centre

KHHC was taken over late last year by like minded friends Cheryn and Marilyn, both wanting to make a difference in people's lives.

We have a very diverse, professional team at the Clinic working with us covering many modalities.

Some of them are naturopathy, flower essences, remedial and relaxation

massage, acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine, Reiki, psychology and readings.

Other modalities include meditation and a Reiki awareness group.

We have a range of crystals, jewellery and books for sale; you are welcome to come and browse.

Gift vouchers are available.

**3/88 Marine Parade, Kingscliff. Phone 02 6674 4866, email khhc@aapt.net.au.**

### Waves Womens Fitness

New to Kingscliff, Waves Womens Fitness is a studio gym offering you a workout that fits your lifestyle. It offers members Keiser circuit training, cardio equipment, free weights and ongoing assessments in a relaxed atmosphere.

- for firming and toning
- for accelerated weight loss
- for feeling fantastic
- for all ages
- fully air conditioned for the hot months

Memberships start from just \$17 per week. They are open six days, Monday -

Friday 6.30am-7.30pm, Saturdays 6.30am-12.00pm.

Come in and talk to their certified staff who are happy to work out the best program for you.

**Shop 12, Azura Arcade, 60 Marine Parade, Kingscliff. Phone 02 6674 8810. www.waveswomensfitness.com.au.**

### Massage Works

#### OPENING SPECIAL

Sharne is delighted to announce her long awaited arrival to Murwillumbah. She brings with her professional experience, Remedial, Therapeutic, Pregnancy and Hot Stone massage, specialising in Lymphatic Drainage and Oedema Therapy. She also offers ear candling, facials, lavender stress release massage and foot, leg or back scrubs.

Opening Special: For the first 20 to book a treatment you will receive a half price massage voucher normally valued at \$65.00!

**1/34 Main Street, Murwillumbah, phone 02 6672 6659, 0403 811 881. Visit massageworks.com.au.**

**BROOKE'S PLACE**  
skin body beauty  
Brooke Baird  
beauty therapist  
2 Chappell Place  
Pottsville Beach  
NSW 2489  
02 6676 3514  
0409 909 766  
brookesplacebeauty@yahoo.com.au

**Massage Works**  
relaxes body, mind and soul  
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Ear Candling  
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1/34 Main Street  
Murwillumbah  
massageworks.com.au  
**6672 6659**  
0403 811 881

# beauty



## Acupuncture & Chinese Herbal Therapy

### FOR ADDICTIONS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Addiction is a complex disorder characterised by compulsive drug use. A senior 2000 Sydney Olympic acupuncturist Joy Zhao from Diamond Bridge Clinic says 'Acupuncture is rapidly increasing in popularity as an effective aid in the control of many addictions.'

'The cravings and withdrawal symptoms experienced by adults giving up alcohol or smoking are alleviated by raising the level of endorphins in the nervous system, which acupuncture can effect by helping alleviate the withdrawals and cravings (Yang aspect) and Chinese Herbs nourish the (Yin aspect); holistically this enables the system to start flowing again.'

Through many years of practice, the seven practitioners at Diamond Bridge Clinics have formulated a unique system in treatment of addictions. The program is customised to suit the needs of the individual, and has a high success rate.

**Diamond Bridge Clinic**  
**5th Tweed Heads - 07 5523 9388, Mermaid Beach - 07 5575 4337, Runaway Bay - 07 5529 2106, Robina - 07 5578 7730.**

## Crystal Light Bed Healing

RELAX, ENERGISE, REVITALISE

This unique healing modality is administered by lying on a bed, with seven individual clear quartz crystals suspended over each chakra.

The transmitter shines light through the seven chakra colours, and then through the hand crafted crystals that have been harvested from deep in the crystal mines of Brazil.

The crystal energy and healing light pulses deep into the body, balancing, re-vitalising, energising the spirit, soul and body.

When you receive this healing, you are in direct contact with the healing energy of the Casa De Dom Inacio, created by miracle healer, John of God.

**For appointments call Libby on 0438 145 972 or email libmac65@yahoo.com.au.**

## Tweed District Dental

Tweed District Dental has recently opened its privately owned holistic dental care practice, providing fine dentistry for all members of your family.

Both Dr Chris Jackson and Dr Inta Rudajs have trained locally and internationally. Both are highly skilled and experienced with a wide range of treatment options and solutions. They place particular emphasis on the early growth and development of children.

Myofunctional Therapy with strong nasal breathing enhances wellness and learning potential, and correct tongue posture creates more ideal jaw and tooth positioning.

Children from approximately four years of age can be helped with simple Myofunctional Therapy. Dr Chris Jackson says there is an alternative to waiting until your children are older, without missing the epigenetic opportunity for growth potential.

Likewise for adults, Dr Inta

Rudajs has developed a special interest in treating chronic facial pain, related to temporomandibular joint (jaw joint) dysfunction.

**Please call 07 5513 0900 or visit www.tweeddistrictdental.com.au.**

## Zumba Fitness

SUMMER IS HERE AND IT'S TIME TO GET MOTIVATED

Are you wanting to shake it like you're at a night club and get fit at the same time? Come along to any of the Zumba fitness classes with Zumba Far North Coast - we will give you the true Latin experience with some hip-hop to balance it out and shake you into shape.

New Aqua Zumba classes have started, perfect for the hot nights and for those who want to do a normal Zumba class but whose bodies can not take the high impact.

Zumba will change your body shape and mind and you will enjoy exercising. Women have lost kilos and centimetres around their waist, hips and thighs, not even realising they are working out. Cardio and a total body work out is what you will get with Zumba Far North Coast. Choosing your fitness level means anyone can do Zumba so bring a few friends and join the fun.

Come and release yourself in the music and shake your body into shape that you deserve and want for 2011.

**GO to www.zumbafarnorthcoast.com for classes near you.**

## Organic Revolution

The team at Organic Revolution are committed to bringing you quality Organic Cotton products for your lifestyle.

Practical everyday Organic Cotton items are readily available now in store, as well as Chemical Free, Recycled, Eco-Friendly and Fair Trade Products - your shopping choices really make a huge difference to families and their communities worldwide!

Conventional cotton farming uses 25 per cent of all the world's chemicals and also uses more water than any other crop.

Organic Cotton has a distinct soft feel and energy about it - grown in India, Turkey and Africa (a little now in Australia too) usually by small family farms and communities working together, where the choice to not use chemicals on the crop also stops them being indebted to the chemical agricultural companies.

**In the Main Street of Murwillumbah, 02 6672 7070.**



## kingscliff holistic health

clinic & dispensary

Naturopathy, flower essences & herbal medicine • Remedial massage & relaxation massage • Acupuncture & Traditional Chinese Medicine • Reiki healings & Reiki certificate programs • Other modalities available

*We have a range of crystals, books and jewellery for sale. Gift vouchers are always available. Come in and browse.*

3/88 Marine Parade, Kingscliff • 02 6674 4866 • khhc@aapt.net.au

## Waves

Womens Fitness

**New to Kingscliff!**



Circuit training, cardio and weight training

Unlimited visits, memberships from just \$17 per week



*The workout that fits your lifestyle in a relaxed atmosphere*

Open 6 days • Shop 12 Azura Arcade, 60 Marine Parade, Kingscliff  
 02 6674 8810 • www.waveswomensfitness.com.au



# ZUMBA

ZUMBA FAR NORTH COAST

www.zumbafarnorthcoast.com Facebook: Zumba Far North Coast

**FOR CLASS DETAILS CONTACT BELEN 0401 858 242**



All-level cardio and total body workout

**MONDAY 6.30PM**

Mur'bah Santhya Sai Primary

**TUESDAY 6.30PM**

Ocean Shores Anglican Church

**WEDNESDAY 10AM**

Pottsville Community Hall

**WEDNESDAY 6.40PM**

Murwillumbah Parish Hall (Express class)

**THURSDAY 7PM**

Cabarita Raiders Hall

**FRIDAY 6.30PM**

Casuarina Rec Club (Members \$6 express class)



Resistance for toning and the privacy of water

**TUESDAYS 6.30PM**

Casuarina Rec Club

**WEDNESDAY 6PM**

Oasis Pool Banora Point



Lower impact, great for beginners

**MONDAY 9AM**

Murwillumbah Autumn Club

**MONDAY 6.30PM**

Pottsville Primary

**WEDNESDAY 11AM**

Casuarina Rec Club (Creche available, please book)

### STUDENTS CLASSES

Want Zumba at your School?

Call for more info

**SHAKE THAT BODY OFF IN 2011!**

**WHY ZUMBA WITH ZFNC?**

- No dance experience required
- All levels catered for high- and low-impact classes
- Easy-to-follow routines
- Feel-good environment
- Total body workout
- Weight loss and figure toning
- Open to all ages and sizes

### JOIN OUR PARTY ANYTIME!

No need to pre-book or know how to dance! All classes are \$10 casual, and kids are \$7. Class passes are available - 10 for \$80 or 5 for \$45. See you there!

### DON'T FORGET TO BRING:

- water - plenty of it
- shoes - the less tread the better
- sweat towel - you'll need it!
- come a few minutes early and get into the vibe

**ORGANIC REVOLUTION**

FAIR TRADE ECO-FRIENDLY CHEMICAL FREE

- Organic Cotton
- Yoga Pants
- Sanitary Items
- Mens Boxers,
- Singlets
- Baby Bibs,
- Clothing
- Nappies Toys,
- Slings
- Bassinet Cot
- Sheets

**6672 7070**  
Main Street of Murwillumbah

**CRYSTAL LIGHT BED**  
from BRAZIL

**RELAX, ENERGISE & REVITALISE**  
FOR APPOINTMENTS PH. LIBBY 0438 145 972

# what's new



## CLEAN AND GO GREEN

With the new Electrolux vacuum range, you can now help the environment while doing your housework. Electrolux is the latest company to jump on the recycling bandwagon and we think they deserve a pat on the back. Their "Vac from the Sea" range is made up of plastic waste recycled from the ocean. Not only are they environmentally-friendly, but these vacuums also come in five funky patterns. With these vacuums, you can clean with a conscience. Electrolux clearly got the memo that recycling is cool, and we're happy that now cleaning has a feel-good factor.

trendspotting.com.au  
content source: <http://newsroom.electrolux.com>  
image source: [www.greenzer.com](http://www.greenzer.com)



## Interior Design Course

### Interior Design course running in Byron Bay

**When:** Starts 1st Feb, 2011 – one month course  
**Time:** 10am-1pm, Tues & Thurs (AM classes) – NEW!  
6pm-8pm, Wed & Thurs (PM classes)  
**Where:** Byron Bay Community Centre  
**Tutor:** Meriel Shaw (TAA Trainer and Designer)  
**Cost:** \$450 p/p (PM class) / \$550 p/p (AM class)  
**Bookings:** 02 6684 5292 / [merielshaw7@gmail.com](mailto:merielshaw7@gmail.com)

**STARTS 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY!**

*Come and visit*



Visit our **NEW BORN TWIN Baby Monkeys**

Enjoy Breakfast, Lunch, Afternoon Tea or Coffee & Cake with the animals!

Open 10am - 4pm throughout the School Holidays except Thursdays

Cnr Numinbah Rd & Crooks Valley Rd  
Crystal Creek, NSW

[www.parrotgarden.com.au](http://www.parrotgarden.com.au)

Ph: 02 6679 1214

ENTRY TO THE ANIMAL EXHIBITION IS FREE FOR ALL OUR CAFÉ CUSTOMERS!

## Parrot Garden Cafe

The Parrot Garden Cafe at Crystal Creek is a great place to relax with a cuppa and enjoy delicious meals amidst the lovely parrots, blue and gold Macaws, alpacas and ponies. The Cafe's animal exhibition has recently expanded to include the Common Marmoset Monkeys. These small and very adaptable primates are native to Brazil, South America. At the Parrot Garden Cafe these little monkeys and their newborn twin babies are exhibited in a purpose built enclosure allowing visitors close up viewing. Entry to the Animal Exhibition is free for all our Cafe customers.

2 Crooks Valley Rd, Crystal Creek, phone 02 6679 1214.

## Discover the wildlife and antiquities of Africa

There is nowhere else on earth quite like East Africa. Enjoy incredible experiences, including the famous migration of the wildebeest on the game-rich plains of the Masai Mara and the millions of pink flamingos covering the Rift Valley's soda lakes.

In August, Lifestyle Travel will escort a deluxe small group tour to this spectacular region, with the 23-day itinerary also taking in Egypt. Bookings have only recently opened; however, with a strict limit of only 18 passengers, availability will not last.

Visiting the world's best big-game parks at the optimum time of year, the tour is perfectly timed to witness one of nature's most breathtaking natural phenomena. The vast plains of the Masai Mara are dense with big game. You'll get plenty of opportunities to tick off the 'Big Five' as you travel in total comfort, and also meet the Masai people in their remote bush villages, experiencing their incredibly rich tribal culture. Step back even further in history to the time of the ancient Pharaohs when visiting Egypt – a land imbued with mystery and intrigue. On a deluxe seven-day Nile River cruise, you'll discover even more of Egypt's legendary antiquities.

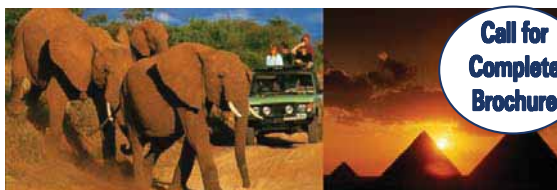
Fully escorted from Brisbane, this exclusive 23-day itinerary features the very best of African wildlife and Egyptian treasures, in total Five Star comfort. The all-inclusive tour price of \$13,820 ex Brisbane includes deluxe accommodation throughout, comprehensive sightseeing and almost all meals.

The tour is exclusive to Lifestyle Travel and a detailed brochure is available by calling 07 5599 2929.

## EAST AFRICA & EGYPT

World's Best Wildlife & Antiquities of Ancient Egypt

### BRILLIANT DELUXE COMBINATION TOUR



Call for Complete Brochure

**BEST EAST AFRICAN GAME RESERVES**  
Amboseli, Lake Nakuru, Samburu, Great Rift Valley, Masai Mara

**ANTIQUITIES OF ANCIENT EGYPT**  
Cairo, Giza, Luxor, Edfu, Kom Ombo, Aswan  
7 Day Deluxe Nile Cruise

Departs 26 August 2011 – Escorted ex Bris  
23 Fantastic Days from \$13,820pp

Includes: All flights ex Brisbane, deluxe accommodation, comprehensive sightseeing, most meals, plus services of the best guides and Tour Escort. Conditions apply, subject to change.

**Lifestyle Travel - Ph (07) 5599 2929**

Beachcomber Arcade, 122 Griffith St, Coolangatta

## Mad Millie at Border Brewing

Mad Millie is showing the whey with home cheesemaking kits. Real cheesemaking is back! Mad Millie is the newest company established to help novices become expert cheesemakers in their own kitchens.

The brand has been built up surrounding the common complaint today that cheese has become boring and bland. 'People are wanting to know more about their foods and the ingredients and processes which have been used,' says Saskia Thornton, Mad Millie's Category Manager. With Mad Millie, people can control what they are eating by learning how to make it themselves. From this people can also get a tastier, unprocessed product which they are proud to share!

The company has developed a series of take home cheese kits which enable you to make anything from Feta and Halloumi to Camembert and Blue cheese. Each kit has easy to follow instructions and is further supported by an interactive website containing online forums and video tutorials.

The brand is already in popular demand in New Zealand and has just been launched in Australia. The cheese kits are now available at the Tweed's local agent in Border Brewing Supplies, where Sue and the team will have all the equipment and advice to get you started.

Contact Border Brewing for more info on 07 5524 5089.

## Interior Design Courses

Have you always wanted to be an Interior Designer? Are you about to renovate your house and need advice on how to approach such a large project or wish to have a career in Interior Design, then this course is for you. This fun and informative four week introductory monthly course covers the following:

- Principles of design
- Kitchen + bathroom design
- Lighting + electrical plans
- 2011 colours and finishes
- Excursion to design showrooms
- AM + PM classes available.

These courses are run by professional designer and TAA trainer Meriel Shaw, who has taught Interior Design in Sydney and the Gold Coast for the last three years.

Starts February 1st, 2011.

To book your place, call Meriel on 02 6684 5292 or email to [merielshaw7@gmail.com](mailto:merielshaw7@gmail.com).

Venue: The Byron Bay Community Centre.

Mad Millie showing the whey with home cheesemaking kits

Mad Millie

Become an expert cheesemaker in your own kitchen! Make cheeses from Feta and Halloumi to Camembert and Blue Cheese  
Beginners Italian cheese kit \$29.90 (great starting point)



Now available at Border Brewing Supplies Phone 07 5524 5089  
8/1 Machinery Drive, Tweed Heads South









## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

### Get your Chi Chi on

Greg and Rose Powell make up the dynamic duo that is **Chi Chi**. Greg, a professional musician, actor and presenter has been seen across Australia in many commercials and a recently released feature film *Spud Monkey*. Chi Chi have the fantastic ability to read a crowd and play what their audiences want to hear. See them **Friday** in the **Main Bar, Currumbin RSL**.

### Everything is just Beautiful

It's strange, the things a man will hear in his own heartbeat when the mad, bad world of expectation and compromise is safely locked outside. Listen. **The Beautiful Girls** have been a long time underground. OK, there was one tour of Brazil, the odd show here and there. But since Mat McHugh wound up touring his solo album, *Seperatista!*, in March 2009, he's been a virtual recluse, digging deep for new sound and meaning downstairs in his home studio on Sydney's northern beaches. What he found surprised and thrilled him. 'The weird thing is I don't even like much reggae,' says the singer-songwriter and

burns it up on slide guitar. He uses a loop system to layer his music, which combined with wicked harmonica and drumming with his feet provides a full, infectious sound to grab the crowd's attention. His focus is on original material with left-of-centre covers dispersed throughout each set. If you're into raw blues with driving riffs, wailing guitars and snarling vocals then Mark Easton is the bluesman for you. This is dirty white trash blues by a one man band on steroids at the **Australia Tavern, Murwillumbah Friday**.

### Punching above the line

**Punchline** from Brisbane provide electrifying entertainment for all audiences and are one of the most versatile and exciting cover bands in Queensland. For Punchline professionalism is paramount and they have performed various gigs around Australia and overseas.

Punchline's lead singer, Jeunesse, has a very versatile voice that is nothing less than spine tingling. Matty provides vocal support and is exhilarating on lead guitar. Aaron on bass along with Michael on drums accomplish a deep groove and provide the band with a very strong rhythm section.

They are an energetic band who'll leave the crowd begging for more with a song-list consisting of Top 40, rock, classics, funk and the occasional hint of jazz and blues. They have become a firm favourite at **Currumbin RSL**. See them in the **Main Bar on Saturday**.

### A touch of the Brothers' Blues

Blues Brothers fans across Australia are rejoicing! The incomparable **Official Blues Brothers Revue** from America returns by popular demand for another national tour downunder and Wayne Catania and Kieron Lafferty, aka Jake and Elwood, are on a mission to deliver a dynamic and authentic Blues Brothers show. Sanctioned by Dan Ackroyd and The John Belushi Estate, this live concert combines the comedy and hits from the original 1980 hit film *Blues Brothers* and pays homage to Chicago's rich history of blues, gospel and soul music. You can catch them at **Twin Towns Saturday**.

Joining the Blues Brothers Revival on tour is gifted vocalist



### Hello? Anybody out there?

Two unique Australian bands will be sharing the **SoundLounge** stage to create a night of music that will be certain to leave an indelible trace on your memory. The Queensland based **Mckisko** makes subtle and beguiling sounds with poignant lyrical content that leaves listeners exhilarated. For the first time, they will be sharing a double bill with Melbourne band, **Hello Satellites**. Hello Satellites is the musical project of Melbourne musician Eva Popov. Eva's beautiful vocals are perfectly matched with the distinctive drumming of Mark Gretton (Touch Typist), bassist Pete Emptage, and multi-instrumentalist Cat Kohn. Together with producer Nick Huggins, Hello Satellites have created a subtle and exciting sound that features ecstatic flashes of pop reverie, full of handclaps, layered vocals and string sections. Hello Satellites will launch their gorgeous new single *Heartbeat Fast As A Rabbit* at this gig on **Friday**.

visionary of a radically evolving roots-rock ensemble that began infiltrating the world stage some seven years and four albums ago. 'But the reggae I do like, I love, love, love.'

The exotic passion that stirs the souls of Mat and his rhythm compadres, Paulie B and Bruce Braybrooke, begins to drip like some rare and potent elixir from the opening beats of their new album, *Spooks*.

Mat estimates that he discarded around 30 songs before they began to fall in the right direction. First to stick was the album's lead single, the edgy electric party starter, *Don't Wait*. Next was the brassy dub number, *Rockers!*, inspired by his love of the 1978 Jamaican film of that name. Then the work began. See the result at the **Coolangatta Hotel on Friday**.

### On the east with Easton

**Mark Easton** is a high octane one man blues machine who



**SAE INSTITUTE BYRON BAY**  
 CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS & DEGREES IN:  
**AUDIO ENGINEERING**  
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**OPEN DAY**  
 JANUARY 29TH 11AM - 3PM  
 373 EWINGSDALE ROAD, BYRON BAY



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FOR MORE INFO  
 VISIT: [www.sae.edu](http://www.sae.edu)  
 CALL: 1800 723 338



Here you will find some of the best local dining on offer. Restaurant owners take note: Good Taste provides you with the chance to tell your customers more about your business with ample room for that extra information that may not fit in a small advertisement. Great introductory rates are on offer. Call 02 6672 2280 to find out more.



BYRON BAY	<p><b>Santos Trading Warehouse</b> Mon-Thurs 9 to 5 Fridays 9 to 4 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 3/7 Brigantine Street, Byron Arts &amp; Industry Park (02) 6685 5685</p>	<p>Small enough for personal care, large enough to offer competitive prices. Santos has been supplying high quality biodynamic, organic, natural foods, and healthy products since 1975. We continue our commitment to sourcing as locally as possible. Santos is the home of Rainfed Rice—zero irrigation, certified biodynamic, as local as you can get, and the most delicious rice you're likely to find. Visit <a href="http://rainfedrice.com.au">rainfedrice.com.au</a> for more info, or visit our online store at <a href="http://santostrading.com.au">santostrading.com.au</a>. Eat well.</p>	<p><b>Sheoak Shack</b> 64 Fingal Rd, Fingal Head Ph 07 5523 1130 Wed &amp; Thurs 11am-5pm, Fri &amp; Sat 11am-10pm &amp; Sun 9.30am-5pm <a href="http://www.sheoakshack.com">www.sheoakshack.com</a></p>	<p>If you are looking for delicious food, coffee or romantic sunset cocktail on the riverbank, the Sheoak Shack is the beach shack for you with a funky laid back daytime vibe or a party atmosphere with live music on Saturday nights. This gallery/cafe showcases the work of high quality local artists and is available for private functions... more Byron than Byron, in sleepy Fingal Head.</p>	FINGAL HEAD
COOLANGATTA	<p><b>O-Sushi</b> Coolangatta Showcase on the Beach 07 5536 5455  Byron Bay Woolies Plaza, Jonson St 02 6685 7103 <a href="http://www.osushi.com.au">www.osushi.com.au</a></p>	<p>Winner of the 'Favourite Japanese Restaurant all over Qld' in the I Love Food competition 2010. Eat in or takeaway. Licensed. Open 7 days 11am till late. O-Sushi is a modern Japanese restaurant guided by a philosophy that incorporates traditional values of providing the best possible service combined with fresh wholesome food.</p>	<p><b>FINS</b> Salt Village, Kingscliff 02 6674 4833 <a href="mailto:dining@fins.com.au">dining@fins.com.au</a> Dinner 7 days Lunch Fri, Sat &amp; Sun  GOOD FOOD GUIDE CHEFS HAT EVERY YEAR SINCE 1998</p>	<p>Perfect Christmas gift ideas for your friends and family... a gift voucher for dining in Australia's most awarded regional restaurant Fins. Personally signed copies of Steven Snow's best seller cook book <i>Byron Cooking and Eating</i> also available.</p>	KINGSCLIFF
CURRUMBIN	<p><b>Alleys</b> Currumbin RSL Club Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Open 7 days lunch and dinner 07 5534 7999 <a href="http://www.currumbin.com.au">www.currumbin.com.au</a></p>	<p>Celebrate Australia Day and enjoy delicious 'true blue' Aussie bush tucker specials at Alleys plus be entertained by the 'Bushfire Band' from 12pm.  <b>Winner - Best Club Restaurant 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Clubs QLD Awards)</b></p>	<p><b>Tweed River Art Gallery</b> cnr Tweed Valley Way and Mistral Road, Murwillumbah Open Wed-Sun 10am-5pm 02 6672 5088</p>	<p>The Gallery Café combines art with fresh food and wine. Enjoy having lunch at the beautifully appointed licensed café with indoor and outdoor seating and magnificent panoramic views over the Tweed River and Border Ranges. View the art and treat yourself to delicious cakes and great coffee. A fabulous venue for special events, office parties and wedding receptions. Group bookings essential.</p>	MURWILLUMBAH
		<p><b>Mt Warning Hotel</b> Open 7 days 10am till late Bistro open daily 1497 Kyogle Rd, Uki 02 6679 5111</p>	<p>One of the region's great old country pubs. Delicious food, bistro open for lunch everyday from 12-2pm, dinner Thursday to Sunday from 6-8pm. Children's playground, relaxing beer garden. Curry night on Thursday, raffles and member's draw on Friday, punter's draw on Saturday and on Sunday there is a delicious roast.</p>	UKI	

**CHI CHI CURRUMBIN RSL FRIDAY**

**Evelyn Duprai**, who shows she is a true soul sister in her show-stopping tribute to the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin. Evelyn's portrayal of the famous American songstress is captivating. Like Aretha, her sensational voice brims with passion, intensity and class in songs such as *Respect* and *Think*. In a few short years, Evelyn's career has skyrocketed. She has worked with the who's who of the Australian music industry, including the James Morrison Orchestra, Paul Mac and Silverchair, and was an official backing vocalist on Australian Idol. She has clearly earned her status as one of the most sought after female vocalists in this country. Don't miss Wayne and Kieron's Blues Brothers Revue, along with Evelyn Duprai and a world-class band,

**EVELYN DUPRAI WITH THE BLUE BROTHERS TWIN TOWNS SATURDAY**

in their extraordinary performance of some of the best loved music of all time. **Twin Towns Saturday.**

**Talking to the other side**  
Australia's own female version of John Edward, **Carmel Wright** passes on the messages from both sides connecting people with friends, loved ones and relatives that have passed over. Carmel, a nationally acclaimed medium and clairvoyant has, for many years, written and published articles regarding her work with the spirit world. Known as 'The Lady that Speaks with the Dead'. See her at **Twin Towns on Saturday.**

**That ol' Black Magic**  
One of the must-see bands of the Queensland club circuit has to be the spectacular **Black Magic**. Their combined energies see them performing covers from a variety of famous artists such as Earth Wind and Fire, The Temptations, Tom Jones, Herbs, and much more. Add glittering costumes and you have one of the best shows. Black Magic performers are all celebrated recording and TV artists in their own right and will continue to cast their brand of magic on Australian audiences for many years to come. **Sunday** in the **Main Bar** at the **Curumbin RSL**.

**THE BLUES BROTHERS REVUE TWIN TOWNS SATURDAY**

**TWEED RIVER ART GALLERY**  
MURWILLUMBAH

**On display until 23 January 2011**

**The Border Art Prize**  
A joint initiative of the Gold Coast Art Gallery and the Tweed River Art Gallery, developed to support the endeavours of artists living and working in Northern New South Wales and South East Queensland  
**Sewing Circle: Belinda Smith**  
Explore motherhood through a range of handmade and found objects relating to domestic life

**Out of the Box: Solander Works on Paper**  
Presenting a vibrant snapshot of time and place in contemporary New Zealand printmaking with a display of artworks by 26 artists  
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P: 02 6670 2790 F: 02 6672 7858  
W: [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/artgallery](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/artgallery)  
Open 10am-5pm Wednesday-Sunday - Free admission

**satursday beachside breakfast 8am-10:30am**  
all meals cooked to order

**FREE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

FRI 14 JAN	HAPPY DAZE KARAOKE	7:30PM - 11:00PM
SAT 15 JAN	HAPPY DAZE KARAOKE	7:30PM - 11:00PM
SUN 16 JAN	SHOW ME THE LYRICS	4:00PM - 8:00PM
MON 17 JAN	ROBBIE ROSEN LUND	12NOON - 3:00PM

Marine Parade, Kingscliff NSW 2487  
Phone: 02 6674 1404 Fax: 02 6674 0089 Email: [www.kbbc.com.au](http://www.kbbc.com.au)

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Kingscliff Beach Club practises Responsible Service of Alcohol Rules



# CINEMA GUIDE

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54 Minjungbal Drive,  
South Tweed Heads  
**07 5523 3321**  
www.amcmovies.com.au

**BCC, Coolangatta**  
Coolangatta  
Shopping Resort  
Griffith St  
(Cnr Warner St)  
Coolangatta  
**07 5536 9300**

**Murwillumbah Regent Cinema**  
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Murwillumbah  
**02 6672 8265**  
www.cinemaregent.com

**Cinemax Cinema**  
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Kingscliff  
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program guide

**THURSDAY**  
6am Planet Luv Glitter  
9am Arts Canvass Karena  
11am The Bohemian Beat Riddhi  
12pm Baby Boomers Lunch  
Alan the yesterday man  
2pm Audio Chocolate Rich  
4pm Future Classics Matt Meir  
6pm Crossroads Paul Martin  
8pm Cruisin For A Bluesin Honeydripper  
10pm The Booty Call Olylama & Lainie  
12am On The One Mr Mantiki

**FRIDAY**  
6am That Friday Feeling Nicky  
9am The Spin Cycle Karin Kolbe  
11am Not The Comedy Show  
Paul & Danno  
12pm Whirled Music Phil Hurst  
1pm Fab Wah Tom T Jet  
2pm Grooveyard Teesha  
4pm Strictly Vinyl (Happy Days) Inchie  
6pm Chop Suey Rachi  
8pm Submerged/ Down & Out  
Sj Clone Pab & Slinky  
10pm Café Royal Al Royale  
12am T.G.I.F Switch

**SATURDAY**  
6am Buffet Breakfast Chilla  
8am Musical Kaleidoscope Jill  
10am Cowboy Sweetheart Carrie D  
12pm Blues From The Bay Anthony & Ken  
2pm Paris Cat Alley Lulu  
4pm Intersecting Cultures  
Angela Rowland & Phoenix Bee  
5pm Justice & Miss Chi Justine & Ancika  
6pm Random Rhythms Ashgirl  
8pm Diggin In The Archives  
Undertaker & Joan of Ark  
10pm Neo Disco Uberman  
12am Ice Pick Tango Billy Chills

**SUNDAY**  
7am Colours of Byron Des  
10am Jazz Moods Jean Brown  
12pm Omnibus RG Pedicine & Les Schmidt  
2pm Radio Latina Yolanda & Beta  
4pm The Bay Lounge Aqua  
6pm Roots And Kulture D J Selector  
8pm Broken Heart Road Peggy & Fulton  
10pm Sounds of Africa Massaganda

**MONDAY**  
6am Morning Mix Kabes  
9am The Lighthouse Lounge  
Andy Travis  
11am Belly Belly Sisters  
12pm Pregnancy Birth & Beyond  
Nicole Foder  
1pm Inspiration Rose  
2pm Q's Jazz and Blues Quentin Watts  
4pm Cruizy Beats DJ Cruizy  
6pm Grailey Whole Celtic Show  
Margaret Wyatt  
8pm Around The World Sammy Ibrahim  
10pm Freedom Run Jimmy & Callum

**TUESDAY**  
6am Cock a Doodle Doo Lou  
9pm Love Life & Laughter Pavitar  
11am Byron Business Phil Daly  
12pm Soul Fyah Shakona  
2pm The Music Garden Michael Brereton  
4pm Theme Park Lyn McCarthy  
6pm Post Modern Backlash  
Hudson Birden  
8pm Radio Mundial Steve Snelgrove  
10pm Shels Place Shel

**WEDNESDAY**  
6am Catch and Grab Holly Holster  
9am 2481 Undone Nicqui Yazdi  
11am Go Earthcare Ros Elliott  
12pm Suara Indonesia  
Francesca, Kirana, Judy  
1pm Passport Tegs & Adsy  
2pm The Junkyard Stuey  
4pm Cowgirl In The Sand Mel  
6pm Bongo Gum Brett Diemar  
8pm Free Range Rhythms Elixza  
10pm The Freq Consortium Interval

www.bayfm.org Phone: 6680 7999

# GIG GUIDE

The Tweed Echo has the most comprehensive entertainment gig guide in the area. For your free listing, email gigs@tweedecho.com.au or phone us on (02) 6672 2280. Deadline is noon Tuesday prior to Thursday's publication.

## THURSDAY 13 TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 6PM LONE WOLF FACE PAINTING
- CUDGEN LEAGUES DAVO
- STUDIO 44 ARTSPACE, FINGAL HEAD 1PM
- WINTERNATIONALE & JUSTIN TWOHILL
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6PM VEENIE'S - SMOOTH & GROOVE FRIDAY

## GOLD COAST

- BILAMBIL SPORTS CLUB OPEN MIC AND JAM NIGHT
- CLUB BANORA 6PM LONE WOLF FACE PAINTING
- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 8PM PHIL EIZENBERG'S OPEN MIKE NITE
- THE PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA - JJJ UNEARTHED JASON DELPHIN
- GECKO HOUSE, CURRUMBIN ECO-EXPLORER FOR KIDS

## FRIDAY 14 TWEED

- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB THE MOORISH IDOLS
- CLUB BANORA 7PM CHRIS PALMER
- CUDGEN LEAGUES CLUB DAVE CAVANAGH
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM BILL JACOBI
- LATTITUDE 28 DEG 6PM PHIL EIZENBERG
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM HAPPY DAZE KARAOKE
- AUSTRALIA TAVERN MURWILLUMBAH MARK EASTON
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES

- CLUB, 6.30PM TREVOR RIX
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 7PM SURFSUP
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM CABOOSE
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 12 NOON ROBBIE ROSENLUND 7.30PM ADRENALINE

## GOLD COAST

- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS
- CURRUMBIN RSL 7PM CHI CHI
- CURRUMBIN SOUND LOUNGE 7.30PM HELLO SATELLITES SUPPORTED BY MCKISKO
- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA HOUSE PARTY
- THE PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA LOCAL GROOVE CATS - G.A.S BAND
- SURFERS BEER GARDEN VENUS ENVY
- TWIN TOWNS 8PM ADAM BRAND

## SATURDAY 15

- CABARITA BEACH SPORTS CLUB RUSSELL HINTON
- CLUB BANORA 7PM LEITH STUART
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM HAPPY DAZE KARAOKE
- LATTITUDE 28 DEG KINGSCLIFF 6PM PHIL EIZENBERG



MARK EASTON AT THE AUSTRALIA TAVERN FRIDAY

- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB FRIDAY 6.30PM JAYNE HENRY
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 6PM ANTHONY CLASSEN
- SALTBAR KINGSCLIFF 8.30PM FRIDAY TUFF
- SHEOAK SHACK 7PM BILL JACOBI
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 7.30PM THE EAGLES TRIBUTE BAND

## GOLD COAST

- CURRUMBIN RSL 7PM PUNCHLINE
- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA SURECUT KIDS MONTHLY PARTY
- THE PATCH LOUNGE COOLANGATTA DAN MADA HITS THE FUNKY NOTES!
- SURFERS BEER GARDEN DOWNLODE
- TWIN TOWNS ANZAC ROOM 7.30PM CARMEL WRIGHT - MEDIUM
- TWIN TOWNS 8PM THE OFFICIAL BLUES BROTHERS REVUE

## SUNDAY 16 TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 11.30AM LEITH STUART, 1.30PM GLENN BRACE
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2PM VASUDHA & JEM DUO
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 4PM GEOFF RAYNER

- SPHINX ROCK CAFE 2PM COLIN BULLOCK & LUKE VASSELLA
- UKI MARKETS 10AM BILL JACOBI
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 5PM CRAIG SHAW

## GOLD COAST

- CUDGEN HEADLAND SLSC 3PM JON J BRADLEY
- CURRUMBIN RSL 1.30PM BLACK MAGIC
- KIRRA SPORTS CLUB 4PM HAVE-A-GO-KARAOKE
- NEVERLAND COOLANGATTA EASY SUNDAYS
- SURFERS BEER GARDEN SUNDAY SESSIONS

## MONDAY 17 TWEED

- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS CLUB 12 NOON ROBBIE ROSELUND
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM ROBBIE ROSENLUND

## TUESDAY 18 TWEED

- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM DAVID LEE

## GOLD COAST

- TWIN TOWN 10.30AM HAPPY DAYS 'RELIVE THE MAGIC' TOUR

## WEDNESDAY 19 TWEED

- CLUB BANORA 6PM RICHARD O
- TWEED HEADS BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM DON WHITAKER

COMING SOON

JANUARY 21 TWIN TOWNS JIMEOIN

JANUARY 21 THE SOUND LOUNGE FAMILY VACATION

JANUARY 25 COOLANGATTA HOTEL KEVIN BORICH'S 'PARTY BOYS'

FRIDAY 28 THE DUTCH TILDERS BLUES REVUE CURRUMBIN SOUND LOUNGE

FRIDAY JANUARY 28 CONDONG BOWLING CLUB LES WILSON'S SWING FORCE BIG BAND

SUNDAY 30 THE DUTCH TILDERS BLUES REVUE CONDONG BOWLS CLUB

CURRUMBIN RSL FEBRUARY 4 FIONA O'LOUGHLIN

COOLANGATTA HOTEL FEBRUARY 5 DOC NEESON BAND

FEBRUARY 11 MASON RACK BAND'S NEW ALBUM SET LAUNCH COOLANGATTA HOTEL

FROM FEBRUARY 12 GOLD COAST REGIONAL ART GALLERY, 'OFFSPRING', A NEW EXHIBITION BY FIONA KENNEDY-ALTOFT

MARCH 4 COOLANGATTA HOTEL ASH GRUNWALD

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Thur 13 Jan DJ Harvey & DJ Garth + Buzz  
Fri 14 Jan Loot & Plunder + Daniel Webber & Ryan Rushton  
Sat 15 Jan Easy P + Rhys Bynon  
Sun 16 Jan Discrow

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# Service Directory

**DEADLINE:** For additions and changes to the Service Directory is 12pm Monday

**LINE ADS:** \$80 for 3 months or \$280 for 1 year prepaid

**DISPLAY ADS:** \$35 per week for colour display ad. Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.

**ACCOUNTS & BOOKINGS:** 02 6672 2280

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# Noticeboard

## Volunteers needed

Would you enjoy sharing your parenting experience with new parents and families? Do you have a couple of hours each week to spare? Do you know someone who may be interested? The Family Centre is looking for people from all walks of life that have an interest in: supporting and encouraging families in their parenting role; providing emotional and practical support; assisting families to access health and community services. Our valued team of volunteers receive ongoing training and professional support. Also, volunteering brings benefits to your health and wellbeing. For further information call Yvonne, volunteer home visiting service co-ordinator on 07 5524 8711.

## Mental health

Families and carers of persons with a mental illness are invited to attend support meetings at Tweed Heads Library, Brett Street, Tweed Heads on the first and third Mondays of each month (no NSW public holidays). Tweed Valley Mental Health Carers is a network of experienced volunteers offering mutual support and infor-

mation. Next meeting January 17 at 10am. Due to public holidays, this will be the only meeting for January. For info call 07 5598 6372.

## Eyesight improvement

The Tweed Heads Library is running a free information session at 10am on Tuesday, January 18, on improving your eyesight naturally, with Dede Callichy. Refreshments provided, all welcome. Bookings essential on 07 5569 3150.

## U3a Tweed Coast Information Day

Please come along and meet our Team Leaders and Management Committee to discuss class availability and enrolment for this year. A warm welcome is extended on Monday, January 17, 2011, 10.00am to 1.00pm at the Seventh Day Adventist Church Hall, 93 Phillip Street, Chinderah. Further information can be obtained from Margaret on 6672 5926 or Judi on 6674 2968.

## Family history

Tweed Gold Coast Family History & Heritage Association's Research room will reopen at 10am (NSW time) on Tuesday January 11. If you

wish to trace your family history and don't know where to begin come along to our room in the South Tweed Sports Club, Minjungbal Drive, South Tweed Heads. Research room is open Tuesday 10am to 7pm, Wed to Friday 10am to 4pm and Saturday 9.30 to 3pm. Enquiries Noelene Magrath 07 5599 8939.

## MRRA

The next meeting for the Murwillumbah Ratepayers & Residents Association will be held at the Autumn Club, Tumbulgun Road on Monday January 17 at 7.30pm. Mr Danny Rose, a Planning and Infrastructure Engineer from Tweed Shire Council, will give a talk on the Tweed Valley Flood Plain Risk Management Study. Come along and voice your questions or concerns. All are welcome.

## Murwillumbah and District Garden Club

The first meeting of the Murwillumbah and District Garden Club for 2011 will be held on Monday, January 24 at 7pm in the Jesse Macmillian Hall, Wollumbin Street, Murwillumbah. New members are most welcome. Come along and enjoy a chat and a cuppa. For more details contact President Len on 6672 2020.

## Food giveaways

New home for what was the food giveaway in Tweed, then temporarily at the PCYC, is now in their new home at 56 Caloola Drive, Tweed Heads West. Open on Mondays at 11.30am until 1.30pm NSW time. It is now run by Elevation Care and there will be plenty of food for struggling pensioners. Please bring your bags with you along with your pension or health care card. For more information ring 07 5507 6999.

## Nashos

The Gold Coast South-Twin Towns branch of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia will hold its general meeting on Sunday, January 16, at 11am DST in the Anzac Room, Twin Towns Services Club. New members welcome to attend. For info call John on 07 5535 2484.

## Prostate awareness

Prostate Awareness Twin Towns and Tweed Coast announce that our new meeting days are the third Friday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Friday January 21. The doors open at 9am NSW time; the meeting starts at 10pm at Tweed City Shopping Centre, in the community rooms (down the hallway,

to the left, from Woolworths). All welcome. Phone Ross 07 5599 7576. The speaker will be talking about stress and the power of the mind. Or visit [www.prostateawarenessaustralia.com](http://www.prostateawarenessaustralia.com).

## Holiday horse riding

At Midginbil via Uki, for 8 to 14 year olds, from 1 to 4 days, 9am-4pm each day. For info call Vicky on 02 6679 7074 or 0429 070 100.

## Justices of the Peace

Justices of the Peace, Tweed Valley branch resumes duty at Tweed Centro on Tuesday, January 18, and at Tweed City on Thursday, January 20. For info call Margaret on 07 5599 2975.

## Runners, walkers

Twin Towns Runners and Walkers meet every Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7pm (DST) Coolangatta beach front (opposite McDonald's). All ages, all levels of fitness. Make friends, get fit. For info visit [www.ttscrunchersandwalkers.org](http://www.ttscrunchersandwalkers.org) or phone 07 5599 1924.

**Murwillumbah on the Move** walking group meets at the Information centre (Budd Park) at 6.50am

Wednesdays and Saturdays for walks around town. All levels of fitness. 6672 1660.

## Respite care

All support group facilitators within the Tweed and Byron areas, are invited to a cooperative meeting to discuss common issues and problems, as well as to connect and network with each other. If you would like to participate please call Steve at Tweed Valley Respite on 02 6672 0900 or 0405 147 096, time and place yet to be decided.

## Exit

Exit International run meetings and workshops on end of life choices. If you wish to join or find out more information please ring Elaine on 0421 796 713.

## Historical society

Tweed Heads Historical Society's research centre and Tweed River Museum are open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11am-4pm and Sunday 1pm-4pm (DST). Groups and schools by appointment. Friends of the Tweed River Regional Museum have produced a calendar featuring historical photographs from the museum collection, \$10 each, call Liz on 02 6672 5660.

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# PROPERTY

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## Banks need to look at housing affordability, says First National

First National Real Estate says that interest rate hikes late last year demonstrate the increasing need for governments and the Big Four banks to work together to address the key issues of supply and demand and housing affordability.

'There seems to be so much debate going on about the market, but no real communication between the banks and the government, and between them they are the ones with the power to fix the property market problems,' Ray Ellis, Chief Executive of First National said.

'There is lots of finger pointing going on, but there is not any real discussion about what we can do to fix it.

'At the end of the day it is the home buyers and owners who suffer, while the banks keep making record profits and governments keep their heads in the sand,' Mr Ellis said.

'What they should be doing is looking to influence affordability and supply by reducing or abolishing stamp duties, abolishing exit fees, introducing more competition into the banking sector and looking at policies that will stimulate the construction industry.

'Instead, we keep putting up with inaction from the government and greed from the banks.'

Mr Ellis said he was particularly unimpressed by banks who deemed it appropriate to increase their standard variable rates by as much as 14 basis points above the RBA increase.

'What is most disconcerting about this is that it seems each of the banks is taking their turn at being the bad guy and being the first to lift their rate higher than the RBA increase.

'As one consumer interest group spokesperson said, if all the banks moved at the same time by the same amount, and



this was a horse race, you would have a steward's inquiry.'

But not even the prospect of a Senate enquiry into banking competition, or Parliamentary debate on legislation forcing banks to lift rates by no more than the RBA, is enough, according to Mr Ellis.

'Interest rates on their own are not the problem. We need to have a look at all the factors affecting the property market: planning approvals, interest rates, fees and charges, everything all at once rather than this piecemeal approach.

'New banking policies are called for but so is a national approach to planning, because ultimately it is the "mum and dad" property owners who will suffer the most.

'We need political leaders who have the fortitude and imagination to reform property taxes and the banking sector if there is any hope of addressing affordability issues.'

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More secret cables passing between Tweed Shire Council and other organisations, including the state government, have been intercepted by internet activists and leaked to *The Echo*. Our leaker, in grave peril of trumped-up charges by the governments of Australia, the USA and Sweden, says of the cables: 'Every sentence is interlarded with opaque and unnecessary jargon, every opinion is guarded by multiple qualifications and every conclusion is covered with a thick gel of verbiage apparently designed to hinder intelligibility and nullify responsibility.' Nothing new there then.

Maybe it's something to do with scientists in the UK believing they can correlate people's brain shapes with their political views. This is not a joke, promise. Their scans showed that conservative people have more tissue in the primitive backbrain area which is associated with emotional response, whereas left-leaning folk have less of that sort of tissue and more in the frontbrain neocortex where rational thought processes take place. Makes sense to *Backburner*.

As we recently reported, a resident was taken aback when council supremo Mike Rayner told him a complaint about a derogatory comment by a councillor wouldn't be investigated unless the complainant signed a so-called 'confidentiality agreement' promising not to go public with any details. The resident said he had never heard of a similar requirement by any other council and wondered why it was so. The new secrecy provisions are on top of the council's amended media policy stopping councillors from making anything public unless it's already been made public.

A reliable informant now tells



This striking photograph of the Natyashatki Dance Group was taken by Murwillumbah resident Robert Franzos. The group was performing as part of last month's Hare Krishna Kuli Mela Festival or Kuli Fest at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre. Hundreds attended the festival, which is produced by children attending Hare Krishna schools.

us Corporate Services chief Troy Green slipped in the confidentiality requirement as an addendum report last March after complaint magnets, Joan van Lieshout and Katie Milne, named certain councillors who were leading the charge, claiming their accusers were trying to discredit them. Mr Green said people on the receiving end of complaints needed to sign a statement promising not to disclose any details as a protection for whistleblowers, but made no specific mention of complainants being required to do the same. Alleged problems with Tweed's complaint handling process were highlighted by Liberal Party MLC Marie Ficarra who cited complaints against the two councillors as evidence of misuse of the complaints process. She used Parliament to accuse Kingscliff councillor Dot Holdom of being one of the leading players.

Trying to get the kids out of the house, away from the TV? Tweed River Regional Art Gal-

lery's annual school holiday creative workshops might just be the solution. The program, which got underway earlier this week, continues on Thursday with a grass animal workshop from 10am to 1.30pm. Children will have the opportunity to construct three-dimensional animals using a variety of grasses and other materials. A clay workshop will also be held next Wednesday (January 19), with children able to sculpt their favourite hero or villain. For more details contact the gallery on 02 6670 2790.

For the country at heart, Cudgen Leagues Club is hosting the 16th annual Bull and Bronc Spectacular this Saturday (January 15). Some 80 competitors from across NSW and Queensland will take part in several events, including open bull ride and bareback bronc. Local group Round Mountain Girls will play at the club following the rodeo. The event raises funds for the Cabarita Beach Pony Club, as well as other local sporting clubs. It all gets under way at 6.30pm.

For more information call 02 6674 1816.

As we went to press the Pacific, New England, Gwydir and Bruxner highways were all flooded at various points, and Brisbane was bracing for the worst. A Public Information Inquiry Centre for NSW has been opened to take calls from the public about the flood-affected areas in the north of the state. The number is 1800 227 228. For emergency flood and storm assistance contact the SES on 132 500 or visit their website [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au). Avoid unnecessary road travel and check closures with the RTA via [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au). Local info is also available through [www.myroadinfo.com.au](http://www.myroadinfo.com.au) which has input from seven local councils.

In the NSW Parliament the Rev Fred Nile is praying for the people in Queensland suffering from this act of God. More immediate assistance can be given through [www.qld.gov.au/floods/donate.html](http://www.qld.gov.au/floods/donate.html) and many other sites.

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