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Community news for the Byron Shire

Issue 30 | May 2025



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from the editor

Dear readers,



As the Federal Election looms, there's a quiet hum building across the country and many of us are tuning in to the national conversation – weighing up promises, personalities, and priorities. In a time when politics can feel polarising, it's worth pausing to look past party lines and consider the policies that will most impact our everyday

lives – from housing and health, to climate, arts, and community resilience and safety. Your vote is powerful and presents a chance to shape the future of our region.

Alongside election information and candidate profiles, our magazine is bursting with community spirit – just the way we like it. From events such as the Byron Bay Ocean Swim Classic, Bangalow Billycart Derby, to Coorabell Hall's fundraiser, May is sure to bring together old friends and new faces for some action-packed fun.

In our features this issue, we sit down with Jacob Boylan, a local artist and writer whose creative storytelling explores the myths and magic of everyday life. We're also proud to share insights from Arts National's latest report on the creative industries across the Northern Rivers – a powerful reminder of just how vital, vibrant, and economically essential our artists and makers really are.

As always, thank you for reading and keeping the spirit of this community thriving. Whether it's getting involved with campaigns, local events, or buying raffle tickets at fundraisers – you're part of what makes our Shire hum.

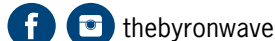
Until next month
Charla Rallings, Editor.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Byron Wave acknowledges that we are here on the land of the Bundjalung people. The Bundjalung are the traditional owners of this land and are part of the oldest surviving continuous culture in the world. Always Was, Always Will Be, Aboriginal Land.

The fine print

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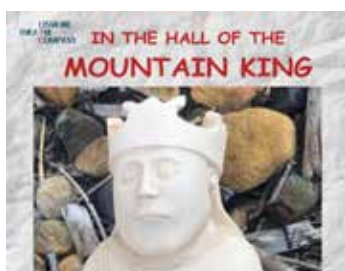
29 - Historic Byron | Mullum Hydro



What: Bangalow Film Festival
When: Wednesday 30 April – Sunday 4 May
Where: A&I Hall, Bangalow

Postponed due to Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, Bangalow Film Festival returns with a stellar line-up of Australian and International films.

Info and tickets: bangalowfilmfestival.com



What: *In The Hall of the Mountain King*
When: Friday 2 – Thursday 8 May
Where: Rochdale Theatre, Goonellabah

Lismore Theatre Company presents the world premiere of award-winning writer Henri Rennie's funny, fanciful spin on a Scandinavian classic. Thursday's show is a charity event for AOOB. Info and tickets: lismoretheatrecompany.org.au



What: Nimbin MardiGrass Festival
When: Friday 2 – Sunday 4 May
Where: Multiple locations, Nimbin

With fun events scheduled for the weekend, MardiGrass will open with a protest on Friday, followed on Saturday by the Cannabis Law Reform Rally and Parade main event.

Tickets and info: nimbinmardigrass.com



What: Byron Coastal Charity Walk
When: Saturday 3 May
Where: Denning Park, Byron Bay

Walk 12, 24 or 36km along picturesque sandy beaches and walking tracks from Byron to Ballina whilst raising funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

To register: rescuehelicopter.com.au



What: Colum McCann in Conversation
When: Wednesday 7 May, 6:30pm
Where: A&I Hall Bangalow

Byron Writers Festival presents award-winning Irish writer Colum McCann, joined by presenter Mick O'Regan, for an evening of discussion and storytelling for his latest novel, *Twist*.

Info and tickets: byronwritersfestival.com



What: *Whodunnit?* Illustrated presentation
When: Monday 12 May, 6pm
Where: A&I Hall Bangalow

Presented by international expert, Simon Whitehouse, follow clues to discover more about Dame Agatha Christie's personal and professional life in London.

Info and tickets: trybooking.com/CWFKE

Monthly Markets

1st Saturday	Brunswick Heads
1st Sunday	Byron Bay Pottsville Beach
2nd Saturday	Bangalow Flea Market Woodburn
2nd Sunday	The Channon Tabulam Hall Coolangatta
3rd Saturday	Mullumbimby Murwillumbah Salt Village, Casuarina
3rd Sunday	Federal Uki Pottsville Beach
4th Saturday	Byron YAC Flea Market Wilson Creek Kyogle Bazaar
4th Sunday	Bangalow Nimbin Coolangatta Murwillumbah Yamba
5th Saturday	Bangalow Flea Market
5th Sunday	Nimbin

Weekly Farmers Markets

Tuesday	New Brighton Organic Lismore
Wednesday	Murwillumbah Nimbin Newrybar Hall
Thursday	Byron Bay Lismore
Friday	Mullumbimby Evans Head
Saturday	Bangalow Uki Lismore Markets
Sunday	Ballina

For more information visit
visitbyronbay.com

Snapshot

Mayor fights for Bruns pod village



Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye is taking urgent action to prevent the eviction of residents from the Brunswick Heads Pod Village, after the NSW Reconstruction Authority announced it will be decommissioned by 27 June. Nine of the 27 emergency housing pods are located at the Bayside site on Council land in Brunswick Heads, with the rest on land owned by Clarence Property. Mayor Ndiaye tabled a motion at the late-April Council meeting to advocate to the Reconstruction Authority to retain the pods on Council land and explore relocating the rest to other sites within the Byron Shire. 'These pod villages have been a lifeline for flood affected residents, and with the housing crisis still at breaking point, we can't afford to lose any publicly owned housing in the Byron Shire.'

To see the result of this motion, visit Council's website.

Have your say, North Byron

If you live in New Brighton, South Golden Beach, Ocean Shores, or surrounds, now is the time to review and provide feedback until 18 May on Council's draft Place Plan for these villages. The draft Place Plan is a guiding document for future infrastructure and development, and includes actions relating to movement, environment, open space, village feel, community and resilience, and covers 22 priority actions for the communities of New Brighton, South Golden Beach and Ocean Shores for the next 20 years.

Place Planner, Stephanie McMurray said Council engaged a Stakeholder Reference Group to make sure a wide range of views and interests from the north of the Shire were included.

The wider local community was also consulted. Locals in North Byron can provide comments and ideas online any time via Council's website: byron.nsw.gov.au/nso-place-plan.

Byron Shire to co-host 2025 North Coast Tourism Symposium and Awards

Byron Shire is set to co-host the 2025 North Coast Tourism Symposium (NCTS) and North Coast Regional Tourism Awards (NCRTA) on Thursday 31 July, alongside Destination North Coast NSW. The annual event unites 14 North Coast local government areas (LGAs) – from MidCoast to Tweed, including Lord Howe Island – for a day of networking, knowledge-sharing, and celebration of the region's vibrant visitor economy.

Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, highlighted the significance of this year's event, acknowledging the resilience and innovation within the local tourism sector. 'We're honoured to be co-hosting this year's Tourism Symposium for our region. It's a wonderful opportunity to highlight the rich creativity, spectacular nature and resilience that has always been a part of our community here in Byron Shire,' she said.

The NCRT Awards feature 18 categories that align with the NSW Tourism Awards and Australian Tourism Awards. Local tourism businesses are encouraged to apply for the prestigious NCRT Awards, applications are open until 9 May. The venue will be announced soon. For more information visit: dncnsw.com/2025-north-coast-regional-tourism-awards/

Grants up for grabs for community initiatives and public spaces

Byron Shire Council opened its Community Initiatives and Creative Public Spaces programs – offering grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible community groups, individuals and creatives. Applications need to be completed before the deadline of 16 May. Council encourages

applications for any event or project that supports the environment, the creative life of the community or that improves access and inclusion to participate in our community. To find out more go to Council's website.

Temporary Market relocation

Byron Shire Council has confirmed that upcoming drainage works in the Rail Corridor and South Lawson Street car park will take approximately six months. As a result, the Byron Community Market will temporarily return to the Main Beach foreshore during this time. Byron Community Markets team estimate the move will possibly take place around July, but no date has been confirmed at the time of print. The Market will continue to operate at the Town Centre until further notice. For more information visit: byroncentre.com.au

In recess: Mullum2Bruns Paddle

The popular paddling event, which sees hundreds of participants travel the scenic Brunswick River from Mullumbimby to Brunswick Heads, is usually a highlight of the local event calendar. However, this year, due to prior commitments and unavailability by the organising group, the M2B Paddle will not run in 2025. Last year's M2B Paddle saw 820 participants hit the water, raising an impressive \$30,000 for Brunswick Marine Rescue, Brunswick Surf Lifesaving Club, and Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre. Organisers have extended a huge thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers who contributed to making 2024's event such a success. The feedback from participants and the community was overwhelmingly positive. Although the event will be on hold for a year, organisers have confirmed that plans for M2B Paddle 2026 are already in motion. More details will be available on their website in September/October 2025. For the latest updates, visit: mullum2brunspaddle.com.au/home



North Byron Parklands for sale



Pictured: Cure audience at Splendour. Source: Lyn McCarthy

At the time of print, the iconic North Byron Parklands, home to Splendour in the Grass and previously Falls Festival, is up for sale, marking a significant moment in the region's festival history. Located just 15 minutes from Byron Bay, the North Byron Parklands is described as the largest privately owned landholding in the region. It is being marketed as a 'once-in-a-generation' opportunity, with significant interest expected from national and international investors. The Expressions of Interest campaign for the sale closes on 30 April, unless sold prior.

The 224-hectare site, which became the long-term home of Splendour in 2013 and secured permanent approvals for major events in 2019, is being sold by a consortium of individuals

that includes entrepreneur and music industry veteran Brandon Saul. In a recent interview with the ABC, Brandon said, 'It's the largest land holding in Byron and enjoys a whole raft of planning approvals that would suit a variety of uses. Personally, I think the loss to our festival industry is, on balance, a loss for the Shire – but ultimately the decision wasn't up to us.'

The sale raises questions about the future of Splendour in the Grass, after the 2024 cancellation, and the festival's team announcing that it would not be returning in 2025 with a promise to 'come back even bigger and better when the time is right.' While a price tag has not been officially confirmed, real estate insiders expect the site to fetch around \$35 million.

The property's zoning allows for a range of potential developments, including a luxury private estate, a wellness retreat or eco-development, a rural residential subdivision, and/or a tourism, wedding, or cultural event space. Previously, a \$42 million redevelopment plan had been proposed for the site, reflecting its potential for high-end, large-scale projects.

With its deep roots in Australian music culture and its prime location, the fate of the North Byron Parklands could reshape the future of Byron's festival scene.





VOTE **1**

MANDY NOLAN

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-  **Build more public housing**, stop unlimited rent and mortgage rises
-  **Stop new coal and gas projects**, protect the environment
-  **Put dental and mental health into Medicare**, make GP visits free
-  **Make billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax**



**THE
GREENS**

mandy4richmond.com

Authorised by A. Croft for The Greens NSW. 19a/1 Hordern Place Camperdown NSW 2050.

At the Library: FOL bring comfort and fun

by Stacey Shepherd, Byron Area Librarian



Pictured: New Sassy Story Time Chair, Byron Library. Source: Supplied.

Friends of the Libraries (FOL) Byron Shire bring comfort and fun to story time

The magic of storytelling just got a whole lot cosier at Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads Libraries, thanks to the generosity of FOL Byron Shire. This dedicated community group has funded two brand-new Sassy Story Time Chairs, bringing fun and vibrancy to our local Story Time sessions.

These vibrant, specially designed chairs are set to become the centrepiece of children's storytelling events, creating a welcoming and engaging atmosphere for young book

lovers. Whether it's a classic fairy tale, an adventurous quest, or a giggle-filled picture book, these chairs will be home to countless stories that inspire imagination and a love of reading.

FOL Byron Shire has long been a champion of our local libraries, supporting initiatives that enhance literacy, accessibility, and community engagement. Their fundraising efforts and passion for fostering a love of books continue to make a lasting impact on readers of all ages across the Byron Shire. Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads Libraries invite families to come and experience the magic firsthand. Bring your little ones, settle in, and enjoy a story in style.

Byron Shire Story Time sessions run weekly at these Libraries:

Brunswick Heads – Mondays, 10:30am
Mullumbimby – Mondays, 10am
Byron Bay – Tuesdays, 10:30am

Community Storytime event

The National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) event is a fun and engaging annual storytelling session held across

Byron Shire Libraries, bringing children, families, and educators together to enjoy the same book at the same time. This nationwide initiative promotes literacy and a love of reading through an exciting, shared experience.

- Byron Bay Library, 21 May
11am to 11:30am
- Brunswick Heads Library, 21 May
11am to 11:30am
- Mullumbimby Library, 21 May
11am to 11:30am

Quick Reads at Byron Bay Library

Too hot to reserve, these books are available on the Byron Bay Library Quick Reads display.

- *The Unquiet Grave* – Dervla McTiernan delivers a gripping mystery, where old secrets resurface and justice is overdue.
- *The Burial Place* – Stig Abell crafts a chilling crime thriller, uncovering dark truths buried deep in the past.
- *The Names* – Florence Knapp weaves a poignant, compelling tale of identity, memory, and the power of names.

For more information visit: rtrl.nsw.gov.au

Alfred action with Bangalow Resilience Team

by Gillian Cornu



Pictured: Gillian Cornu, Ruth Winton-Brown, and Bronwyn Thomas preparing meals at Bangalow Men's Shed. Source: Angela Saurine.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred brought trees down with the strong winds, leaving large areas of the 2479 postcode without power, no phone coverage and internet. This brought a lot of anxiety to the community. As soon as power came on in Bangalow town centre, Sunday morning, the Bangalow Resilience Network (BRN) team asked Heritage House to open. Pots of tea, coffee,

cakes and biscuits were made available for the community. People connected and charged their phones.

At this gathering the BRN team decided to host a barbecue the following day at the Bangalow Men's Shed for anyone who still had no power and wanted a hot meal. Heritage House gave access to hot showers over the next couple of days. There was a very welcoming response from many appreciative local adults and kids. Whilst hosting the BBQ, nearly 80 meals were cooked for the Mullumbimby neighbourhood centre. Food donations and volunteers from the community helped make this happen.

A debriefing at the last BRN committee meeting identified the challenges and acknowledged the positive outcomes. Implementation of the learnings of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred are now underway. For more information visit Facebook: Bangalow Resilience Network.

We're strengthening **Medicare**

HOW TO VOTE

JUSTINE ELLIOT MP LABOR FOR RICHMOND

Step 1.

The House of Representatives

Start here and **you must number every box.**

(Small green ballot paper)

You must number every box.

Electoral division of **RICHMOND**

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| 2 | NOLAN, Mandy |
| 1 | ELLIOT, Justine
LABOR |
| 8 | LOUGHREY, Kevin |
| 9 | MYE, Ian |
| 3 | McMAHON, Vivian Mac |
| 10 | PETERKIN, Phillip Byron |
| 4 | HONE, Kimberly |
| 5 | WILLIS, Ian Cherry |
| 6 | McKENZIE, James Ian |
| 7 | CURTIN, Richard |

**VOTE
JUSTINE
ELLIOT**

A

Labor

1

LABOR

Step 2.

The Senate

Place a number **1** in box **A**. Then number the boxes as shown below.

Labor



D

6

FUSION

G

5

ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

J

3

LEGALISE CANNABIS PARTY

O

4

JACQUI LAMBIE NETWORK

R

2

THE GREENS

Remember: You must number at least 6 boxes above the line.

You can count on Justine



Taking action on wildlife road deaths

by Tamara Smith, MP for Ballina



Byron Bay residents will be only too familiar with the sickening sight of birds and animals killed by car strikes on the Shire's roads, most heartbreakingly perhaps koalas and their joeys.

Staggering numbers of animal roadkill or injury are recorded throughout NSW each year, but even these shocking statistics are almost certainly an

underestimation, as most collisions with wildlife go unreported.

The road losses are compounded by the impact of habitat destruction and climate change, and with the number of koala deaths along Broken Head Road and around Hinterland Way reaching double figures, as well as endangered Bush Stone Curlews killed in the middle of Brunswick Heads, the situation has reached crisis proportions with a clear need for urgent action.

The human price of road collisions with animals is also shocking: the NRMA estimates that the social cost of road trauma is billions per year.

Recently, I introduced the *Roads*

Amendment (Wildlife Impacts) Bill 2024 – a new law that will require Transport for NSW to consider the impact on wildlife when designing new roads and to take wildlife strikes into account in speed zone reviews. It will also require Transport NSW to collect accurate data on wildlife deaths and injuries on our state roads.

I am very pleased that the Minister for Roads has agreed to include wildlife strikes in speed zone reviews and to enable the community to report in real time wildlife deaths and injuries.

We are in an extinction crises and must place our native wildlife at the centre of all new road design and the management of our roads.

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Byron Yoga wins Small Business Award



Pictured: Cassie Leturgie accepting award. Source: Supplied.

Byron Yoga Centre has been crowned the winner in the Yoga and Pilates Services category at the 2025 Australian Small Business Champion Awards. This prestigious national program honours outstanding small businesses across Australia, celebrating their dedication, resilience, and success. Marketing Manager Cassie Leturgie accepted the award on behalf of Founder John Ogilvie and the entire team, acknowledging the Centre's remarkable journey since its establishment in 1988.

Founder John Ogilvie later expressed his gratitude: 'Being recognised as a finalist and winning this award is a reflection of our team's passion and dedication. In a year that has been particularly challenging for the Byron Bay yoga community, we are honoured to continue providing a space for people to reconnect, recharge, and deepen their practice.'

Congratulations, Byron Yoga Centre.



Rafiki Royale bringing aussie idol to town

Rafiki Royale is looking to be a sell-out event for Lennox Head-based charity, Rafiki Mwema. On Saturday 17 May, Vegas is coming to Lennox, and the organisers are thrilled to announce a special guest appearance by Bony, a top 10 contestant from the latest season of *Australian Idol*. Bony was born into a Kenyan refugee camp and didn't know life outside the camp until his family made the move to Australia. Bony, who lives in Brisbane, has his own unique vocal style, incorporating autotune and he made it into the top 10 of *Idol*'s latest season.

Hosted by Mandy Nolan, guests will enjoy an unforgettable evening featuring real casino tables with professional dealers, live music, entertainment, delicious food, a cash bar, and the chance to win some amazing prizes.

Every ticket sold and every dollar raised goes directly to Rafiki Mwema to support a life-changing initiative – building a self-sufficient farm that will provide fresh, nutritious food for the 100+ children they care for every day. The funds will be used to purchase cows, cows in calf, chickens and fish, which will significantly reduce reliance on donations for food, making the charity more sustainable and self-sufficient for the long term. The livestock will add to the already established fresh produce farm, growing fruit and vegetables. Excess food or

food products can be sold in the community with proceeds invested back into the farm. This will offer invaluable life skills for the children at Rafiki. Through hands-on farming, they will learn how to grow food, care for animals, and develop business skills – empowering them to be independent and support their own families in their life after Rafiki.

Claire Harding, founding board member and event organiser, expressed her excitement for the event and the children's future. 'By adding more animals to our farm, we can start to see one of our main goals – self-sufficiency – come true. With less reliance on donations for food, we can put funds raised into other vital areas, such as education, fresh water supply and medical expenses – which can be hugely expensive.'

Rafiki Mwema provides a safe haven for 65 children and employs 45 dedicated staff, including Maasai guards and trained German Shepherds for security. Rafiki's work extends to a vital street program in Kenya, offering safety, education, and a daily meal to 100 homeless 'street' children. With no government funding, the charity relies on fundraising and donations to cover their \$55,000 monthly operating costs.

To purchase tickets or make a donation, visit: rafikimwema.com

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BayFM: 35 years of community radio

by Nell Schofield, President BayFM



Pictured: Some of the BayFM crew past and present. Source: @mala_snaps.

April Fool's Day 1990 – BayFM's first-ever test broadcast hit the airwaves. No joke. Thirty-five years later, the legendary community station celebrated its milestone on Tuesday 1 April, with a gathering of around 60 radio veterans, volunteers, and special guests at Hotel Marvell's rooftop bar. Among them was original broadcaster Nancy Jo Falcone (pictured above, seated fifth from left), who first hosted *The Bored Housewives Hour* and remains active on *Multi-Cultural Nation*. Fellow founding presenter Brett Diemar, still on air with *Café D Mar*, joined the festivities alongside former host-turned-Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye. Other well-known attendees included Councillor Aunty Delta Kay, former Byron Shire Councillor Cate Coorey, and actor Murray Bartlett of *The White Lotus*.

But BayFM's story began even before that first broadcast. The station was

conceived in 1987 when a group of passionate locals envisioned an independent, community-driven voice for the region. Fundraising efforts – including raffles, trivia nights, and even backgammon tournaments – helped raise the \$50,000 needed for equipment and a transmitter. Broadcasting from makeshift studios – including a mobile truck unit at Byron Lighthouse and The Love Shack behind the Community Centre – passionate volunteers kept BayFM running against the odds. The station officially secured its community broadcasting licence in 1993, becoming a full-time presence on the local airwaves.

BayFM quickly cemented its place in Byron's cultural landscape. By 2001, the station had won multiple Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) Awards and became the first station to take home three awards in a single year, and in 2017, won the Tony Staley Award for excellence in upholding the values of democracy, diversity, access and independence.

Since those early days, the station has grown and adapted. From increasing its transmission power to 3,000 watts in 2006 to securing state-of-the-art studios in the Byron Community Centre, BayFM has remained at the heart of the region's media landscape. Despite cyclones, lightning strikes, frequent relocations, a frequency reallocation, and the ever-changing nature of radio, the station has thrived, thanks to its dedicated volunteers, support from the local community, and a large base of devoted listeners.

As BayFM continues to evolve and grow, now reaching a global audience via online streaming, its heart and soul remains firmly in the Northern Rivers – sharing the voices, music, and stories that make the region so unique. As a not-for-profit, we rely entirely on subscribers, donors, and sponsors. Every presenter and most of the support crew, work unpaid – doing it for the love of local storytelling, diverse programming, and the power of community connection. We're always looking for new volunteers to join the BayFaMily and are currently seeking a website manager among other roles.

Here's to another 35 years of BayFM – still independent, still community-driven, and still making waves. Tune in on 99.9FM or visit: bayfm.org



WILDLIFE MATTERS!

We have introduced a bill in NSW that would mean that wildlife deaths and injuries are counted on our roads. Right now, Transport for NSW is not required to track wildlife strikes and without this data, wildlife deaths and injuries cannot be properly considered in road planning and design.

Tell the NSW Labour Government WILDLIFE MATTERS!



SIGN THE PETITION

TAMARA SMITH MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA



02 6686 7522 tamara.smith.org.au ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au [Tamara Smith MP](#)

Authorising Tamara Smith MP to make a statement in the NSW Parliament

Let the races begin: Bangalow Billycart Derby

by Gillian Cornu



On Sunday May 18, Bangalow's main street will once again be packed with eager competitors, excited spectators, and the unmistakable buzz of race day for the 2025 Summerland Bank Bangalow Billycart Derby. With traditional hay bales lining the steep slopes, fearless billycart racers – young and old – will take on the challenge, bringing a mix of speed, skill, and sheer determination. It's a day where family, friends, and fun take centre stage.

However, the action isn't just on the track. The lunchtime street parade is always a crowd-pleaser, featuring a vibrant mix of vintage vehicles, the lively Bollywood dancers from the Singh family, The Lismore Pipe Band, Bangalow's Pony Club, Bangalow School, and the Bangalow Fire Brigade. This year's festivities get an extra dose of rock 'n' roll energy with a special performance from Bunny Racket right on the main street.

Race winners will receive the coveted Billycart Derby trophies, handmade from recycled timber by the skilled hands of the Bangalow Men's Shed, a tradition that adds a special touch to the winners' celebrations. The Bangalow Lions Club Crew will also be on hand, serving up their famous snags to keep the crowd fuelled throughout the day. For even

more fun, swing by Bangalow Public School's 'Pit Stop' fun fair and fundraiser, where treats, rides, and activities await.

Parking is available at Bangalow Showgrounds via Market Street for a \$5 donation – every dollar helps support this incredible community event. So, whether you're racing, cheering, or just soaking up the festive atmosphere, mark your calendars and get ready for a day of excitement, tradition, and good old-fashioned billycart racing fun.

Schedule of events:

- 7am – 8:30am: Registration and scrutineering
- 8am – 8:45am: Practice runs
- 9am: Races begin.
- 9am: 5–7yr old – traditional/homegrown
- 9:20am: 8-11 year old – traditional/homegrown
- 10:20am: 12-15 year old – traditional/homegrown
- 11:30am: Parent/Child – traditional/homegrown
- 11:45am: \$1,000 Schools Challenge – traditional/homegrown
- 12:10pm: Mothers Challenge – any billycart
- 12:15pm: Trophy presentation – morning events
- 12:30pm: Street Parade and lunch
- 1:15pm: Mens Shed Challenge Celebrity – homegrown
- 1:45pm: Open – traditional/homegrown
- 1:50pm: Junior – professional
- 2pm: Open – professional
- 2:30pm: Tag Team – any billycart
- 2:45pm: Novelty – special billycart
- 3pm: Trophy presentation – afternoon events
- 3:20pm: Street clean up – all welcome

See you at the starting line.

Coorabell Hall gets rockin': 24 May

by Adele Smout, Coorabell Hall



Local legends, Goodrich, are going to rock Coorabell Hall on 24 May. Joining the fun as support act will be comedy star, George Smilovici. Playing their favourite hits from the 70s and 80s, Goodrich will raise the roof of this beautiful Hall as never before, while

George will deliver his unique comedy style, as well displaying his fantastic skills on his acoustic guitar.

Our fabulous curry chef Kamal, who has been serving delicious meals for every Friday night, will also be there to warm us all up with great food on this wintry evening. Also, our very reasonably priced bar will be in action, ready to cool you down after the heat of the dance floor.

So put 24 May in your calendar as a big night. The evening will generate

funds for the ongoing improvement and development of the Hall so please join the community for this special evening. This gig will hopefully be the first of many rock night fundraisers at this fantastic and historic hall overlooking Byron Bay. Pass the word around and bring your friends and family to share the fun. As we used to say in the 70s, be there or be square.

Tickets are \$45 (includes a meal) and can be purchased via: events.humanitix.com/goodrich-live-rock-at-coorabell-hall

Line-up announced: Mullum Roots Festival



MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL 2025

CIVIC HALL	BOWLO	EX-SERVICES	COURTHOUSE
SATURDAY 12-13 JULY THE WAIFS JEFF LANG EMILY LUBITZ JB'S BLUES BREAKERS THE VERSACE BOYS SHANE HOWARD THE SOUL MOVERS AND MANY MORE...	SATURDAY 12-13 JULY THE WAIFS JEFF LANG EMILY LUBITZ JB'S BLUES BREAKERS THE VERSACE BOYS SHANE HOWARD THE SOUL MOVERS AND MANY MORE...	SATURDAY 12-13 JULY THE WAIFS JEFF LANG EMILY LUBITZ JB'S BLUES BREAKERS THE VERSACE BOYS SHANE HOWARD THE SOUL MOVERS AND MANY MORE...	SATURDAY 12-13 JULY THE WAIFS JEFF LANG EMILY LUBITZ JB'S BLUES BREAKERS THE VERSACE BOYS SHANE HOWARD THE SOUL MOVERS AND MANY MORE...
SUNDAY 13 JULY THE WAIFS JEFF LANG EMILY LUBITZ JB'S BLUES BREAKERS THE VERSACE BOYS SHANE HOWARD THE SOUL MOVERS AND MANY MORE...	SUNDAY 13 JULY THE WAIFS JEFF LANG EMILY LUBITZ JB'S BLUES BREAKERS THE VERSACE BOYS SHANE HOWARD THE SOUL MOVERS AND MANY MORE...	SUNDAY 13 JULY THE WAIFS JEFF LANG EMILY LUBITZ JB'S BLUES BREAKERS THE VERSACE BOYS SHANE HOWARD THE SOUL MOVERS AND MANY MORE...	SUNDAY 13 JULY THE WAIFS JEFF LANG EMILY LUBITZ JB'S BLUES BREAKERS THE VERSACE BOYS SHANE HOWARD THE SOUL MOVERS AND MANY MORE...

The inaugural Mullum Roots Festival has revealed its much-anticipated program for 2025, headlined by iconic Australian acts The Waifs and Jeff Lang. The exciting line-up also features favourites such as Emily Lubitz, JB's Blues Breakers, The Versace Boys, Shane Howard, The Soul Movers, and many more. The Festival will take place across multiple venues in Mullumbimby on 12–13 July, offering two full days of exceptional live music and celebrating the best in original songwriting and performance.

Festival Director Lou Bradley says, 'We're so excited to share the full program and incredibly proud of the calibre of artists who'll be lighting up our stages in July. We're keeping this first Festival small and sustainable, with capped ticket numbers to ensure a relaxed, friendly experience for artists, audiences, and local businesses. We can't wait to welcome everyone to Mullum.'

Adding to the Festival's fun and flair are two themed highlights with Psychedelic Saturday at the Civic Hall, where Ellis D Fogg's legendary light show will accompany performances from Robert Forster, Dog Trumpet, and Tamam Shud. Then on Hootenanny Sunday, the Festival will turn up the twang with a country-leaning line-up including Claire Anne Taylor, Clelia Adams, Rod McCormack, and Felicity & Josh. Festival goers can also hop on the 'Love Bus' to travel between venues including the Civic Hall, the Bowlo, the Ex-Services Club, and the Courthouse Hotel, where performances will run from late morning into the night.

Tickets are on sale and, in response to strong demand, single day tickets are now available, alongside full weekend passes, via the Festival website: mullumrootsfest.com

Women's Giving Circle IWD event was a sell-out

Almost 120 members and friends of the Women's Giving Circle came together on 14 March at Frida's Field for a powerful International Women's Day lunch. Just days after Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred swept through the region, the event was a timely reminder of the strength of community and the impact of collective action. The panel, moderated by Circle Coordinator Amy Colli, featured Mindy Woods, Tarla Lambert, Odette Barry and Annabelle Hickson, who each shared heartfelt insights – from caring for Country and confronting family violence, to raising compassionate young men and making space for joy and connection.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and attendees, the event raised over \$10,000 to support local recovery efforts. The Circle is now aiming to grow to 250 members in 2025 (currently at 159), with donations going directly to projects empowering women and children in the Northern Rivers.

Keep the spirit of connection going with two upcoming Giving Circle gatherings:

- Tweed River House, Murwillumbah – Thursday 1 May
- Primex Women in Ag – Thursday 15 May
- The Brooklet – Thursday 29 May

More details will be announced soon, but save the dates – everyone is welcome. For more information visit: nrcf.org.au/womens-giving-circle/



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for Regional Australia



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EVERY BOX

House of Representatives
Ballot Paper
Electoral Division of Richmond

10	NOLAN, Mandy
9	ELLIOT, Justine
6	LOUGHREY, Kevin
2	MYE, Ian
8	McMAHON, Vivian Mac
4	PETERKIN, Phillip Byron
1	HONE, Kimberly THE NATIONALS
3	WILLIS, Ian Cherry
7	McKENZIE, James Ian
5	CURTIN, Richard

FIGHTING for *Richmond*



**Invest \$400 million
to grow our
GP workforce**



**Cracking down on
youth crime and
repeat offenders**



**The opening of
Mount Warning**

Harvest Food Festival: 2–4 May



Source: Nelly Comte Photography.

Harvest the flavours of the Northern Rivers

Northern Rivers Food's beloved Harvest Festival returns this 1–31 May with a fresh month-long format, celebrating our vibrant food culture, creative producers, and stunning landscapes at various locations across the region.

Now in its ninth year, the Festival offers a packed program of farm tours,

cooking demonstrations, tastings, workshops, and intimate meet-the-maker events.

This year with the new format, each weekend shines a spotlight on a different sub-region:

- Ballina/Byron: 2–4 May
- Lismore/Kyogle/Richmond Valley: 10–11 May
- The Tweed: 17–18 May
- The Clarence: 24–25 May

The celebrations kick off for Byron Shire on Friday 2 May at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market, where a local chef will host a seasonal cooking demo using freshly picked autumn produce.

Highlights include the Harvest Hub on Saturday 3 May at Moller Pavilion,

Bangalow Showgrounds, featuring food stalls, artisan makers, and conversations with growers hosted by Paul West of *River Cottage* fame. Sunday wraps with a long-table lunch at Summerland Farm, showcasing produce harvested within 50km. Participants can also explore the two-day Harvest Trail through the lush Byron hinterland, with stops at beloved local producers like Brookfarm, Cape Byron Distillery, and Zentveld's Coffee.

Tickets are on sale from \$5.50–\$10, with free entry for kids under 14. Harvest Hub entry and access to all non-ticketed Trail destinations are included in a combo. For more information and bookings visit: northernriversfood.org

Byron Ocean Swim Classic: Sunday 4 May



The Byron Bay Winter Whales are celebrating 40 incredible years of community spirit, athleticism and ocean love with their much-loved Annual Ocean Swim Classic, happening Sunday 4 May. This iconic event brings swimmers from all over to cross the pristine waters of Byron Bay, all while raising thousands of dollars for local charities.

The day kicks off from 7am at the Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club, with two major events on the program: the Byron Bay Property Sales Ocean Swim Classic and the Byron Bay Chocolate Co Dash for young swimmers aged 9–12.

Participants will be bussed to starting points at Wategos, with staggered starts ensuring safety and smooth racing. Medals and trophies are awarded across age categories, and every swimmer has a shot at winning one of the many lucky draw and raffle prizes – ranging from gift packs to luxury accommodation. Raffle prizes have been generously donated by Victorias at Ewingsdale, Beach Suites, Byron Bay Oyster Bar and Seafood Restaurant, Kozi Swimwear, Okanui and many more local businesses.

Race Day Programme

- 7am – Check-in and issue of timing bracelet, swim cap, event T-shirt or baseball cap at the Surf Club.
- 8am – The Byron Bay Chocolate Co Dash check-in at the Surf Club. This must be completed in time for a briefing and to allow entrants to walk to Clarks Beach for their race.
- 9:30am – The Byron Bay Chocolate Co Dash staggered start at The Pass area. The actual Start area and time is dependent on the conditions of the day.
- 9am – Race briefing for the Classic takes place at the tents outside the Surf Club.
- 10am – The Byron Bay Property Sales Ocean Swim Classic check-in closes.
- 9:15am to 10am – Buses leave the Surf Club for the start line at Wategos Beach. A secure baggage storage area is provided round to the right on the road side of the Hall.
- 10am – Staggered starts for the Classic commences.
Note: Those who wish to wear clothing to the start for weather protection are reminded there are no facilities for these to be returned to the Surf Club. There will, however, be a clothing bin available for those that wish to donate clothing items to local church groups.
- 12:30pm – Presentations, raffles and lucky draws at the Surf Club

Whether you're diving in or cheering from the sand, it's set to be a wonderful day of community spirit and ocean fun. For more information or to register, visit: winterwhales.com.au



Community in brief

CWA Brunswick Heads by Mary Webb



Well, that was some storm that came through back in March. Our Branch, although not suffering structural damage, did have the water tank fall over and a number of small trees came down along with some large branches. Work will soon commence on clearing the garden of debris. However, if there are any fit and able guys who could help us lift up the water tank we would be very grateful. If you would like to help, please contact us on ph: 0431 908 063.

What a great laugh we all had at our recent card making workshop. So many talented ladies in our Branch, and our cards were on sale at our Easter Market along with all the wonderful cakes, craft work, and plants. Our next Market will be held on Saturday 7 June. More details on this in the next edition of *The Byron Wave*.

Our Branch meetings are on the first Friday of the month at 9am and a weekly craft session every Friday (bar public holidays) from 10am–2pm. Non-members are more than welcome. A gold coin donation is all we ask. This helps with the upkeep of our hall and also provides morning tea.

Australian Independent Retirees

The Australian Independent Retirees Club has been up and running since February and is welcoming retirees who are looking to make new friends and enjoy meaningful ways to spend their retirement days.

The Club meets the first Friday of each month at the Ballina RSL Club,

1 Grant Street, Ballina, commencing 10.00am. Socialising begins at 9:30am, prior to the business on hand, and we welcome all and sundry who wish to attend. A meeting fee of \$5 is charged to help defray the costs of supplying morning tea, or coffee, and a biscuit, prior to listening to our guest speaker who usually manages to entertain us with pieces of knowledge of which we are unaware.

The last couple of months we have heard all about the early days at Ballina and the latest news from Palm Lake Retirement Village.

Our speaker for May will be one with whom most of us are familiar, Ivor Thompson, who will enlighten us about rule changes on our roads and how to keep up with our driving experiences.

Any enquiries please contact President Mrs Jill Huxley on ph: 6686 8958.

Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary by Mary Webb

Another great Garage Sale was held on Saturday 12 April and a big thank you to all who helped make it a success. Our Mothers Day raffle which we had planned to commence at the end of March and run until 7 May, had to be scaled back as unfortunately Woolworths could not store our set up gear and prize due to a reorganisation in their store.

It is hoped we will return to the normal spot outside Woolworths for our next raffle at the end of the year.

To get over the problem, members opted to take some books of tickets and sell to friends and family. The winning name of the Mothers Day raffle will be published in the June edition of *The Byron Wave*.

Our next monthly meeting will be held at the Byron Central Hospital on Monday 19 May at 1pm. For further details and membership please contact Maureen on ph: 6685 3162.

Bangalow Men's Shed by Gillian Cornu



*Pictured: Unveiling of new plaque.
Source: Supplied.*

On Wednesday 26 March, a special morning tea was held at the Bangalow Men's Shed to acknowledge St Kevin's Catholic Church who generously made the land available and the Bangalow Lions Club for their involvement in the development/construction of the Bangalow Men's Shed in late 2013.

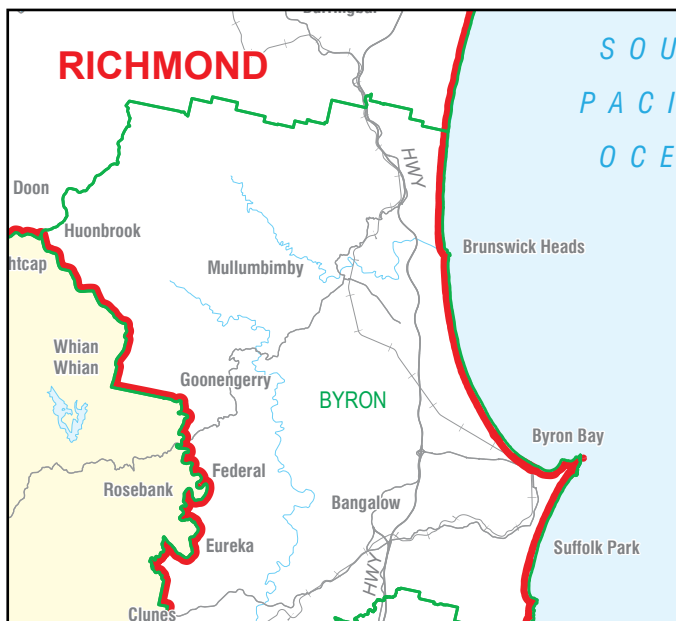
The pride of Bangalow Men's Shed group unveiled a plaque in honour of Brian Mackney's engineering skill that contributed to getting the Bangalow Men's Shed completed. Bangalow Lions Club current Treasurer, Chris Hayward, who was President of the Bangalow Lions Club at the time of the project's construction, unveiled the plaque acknowledging Mr Brian Mackney.

Greg Nash, current Bangalow Lions President, said 'We really enjoy our partnership between the two clubs and that has been ongoing for many years. Both Clubs work well together in achieving end results for the benefit of the 2479 community.'

David Noakes, President of the Bangalow Men's Shed, spoke about how long Men's Shed projects have been going in Australia and noted, 'There are more Men's Shed's than McDonalds outlets throughout Australia'.

If you wish to join the Bangalow Men's Shed, contact David Noakes on ph: 0403 899 225.

Time to hit the polls



Pictured: Map of Richmond Division.
Source: Australian Electoral Commission.

The 2025 Federal Election, held on Saturday 3 May, will decide the members of the 48th Parliament of Australia. All 150 seats of the House of Representatives, and 40* of the 76 seats in the Senate, will be contested. Voting is compulsory, so be sure to check your enrolment and get informed about your local candidates.

**State senators have six-year terms and are elected on a rotating basis, with half up for election every three years.*

Our electoral division: Richmond

Richmond covers an area from the New South Wales/Queensland border in the north to Ballina and Pimlico in the south. The main towns include Ballina, Bangalow, Brunswick Heads, Burringbar, Byron Bay, Hastings Point, Kingscliff, Lennox Head, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Suffolk Park, and Tweed Heads. Information about candidates at the time of writing can be found on pages 20–22 and on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website: aec.gov.au/election/candidates.htm

Make sure you are correctly enrolled

You must enrol to vote if you are 18 years old or over and an Australian citizen. The electoral roll is managed by the AEC and you can enrol to vote, check your enrolment details, and update your information online by visiting: aec.gov.au/enrol

For this election, you can vote:

- in person on election day, or
- in person before election day at an early voting centre, if you are eligible, or
- by postal vote, if you are eligible.

If you are blind or have low vision, you can vote using operator-assisted telephone voting. The registration process for telephone voting opened on Tuesday 22 April. It operates 8:30am to 5:30pm Australian Eastern Time (AET) Monday to Friday for the 10 business days immediately prior to polling day, and 8am to 6pm on polling day.

The AEC also offers mobile voting to certain locations to provide an in-person voting service to people who experience barriers to electoral participation such as hospitals, aged care, prisons, homelessness services, and others. Mobile voting began progressively from Monday 21 April.

To find out more information about your voting options and to check your eligibility, visit the AEC website.

Early voting and postal votes

Hundreds of early voting centres have been open in the two weeks prior to election day. Locations are available on the AEC website. Check the opening dates of local voting centres, as not all centres are open for the entire two-week early voting period.

You can vote early either in person or by post, if you fall into one of the categories outlined on the AEC website. These include: being outside the electorate where you are enrolled to vote, travelling or working on polling day, if you are a person with a disability, illness, or due to give birth, or for religious beliefs. To view the full list of early voter categories visit: aec.gov.au/Voting/ways_to_vote/

If you registered for a postal vote, your certificate and ballot papers must be completed on or before election day. The AEC encourages all postal voters to do this as soon as possible after receiving their postal vote pack. You must return your ballot papers to the AEC no later than 13 days after the election. Registration for postal votes has now closed.

Where do I vote?

To vote on election day, 3 May, visit a voting centre between 8am and 6pm. Polling places are usually located at local schools, churches and community halls, or public buildings. Among the list of polling places are Byron Bay Public School, Byron Bay High School, Suffolk Park Community Hall, Brunswick Heads Public School, Mullumbimby Public School and St John's Primary School, Ocean Shore Community Centre, Main Arm Upper Public School, Bangalow Public School and more. All locations are available on the AEC website. Enter the postcode of where you are enrolled to vote to find a list of voting centres and information about each venue's accessibility. Voting centres are subject to change, so check closer to election day for any changes.

Visit: aec.gov.au/election/voting.htm#start



How to complete your ballot paper

House of Representatives ballot papers

The order of the candidates on the ballot paper for each electoral division is determined by a random draw conducted in the office of the Divisional Returning Officer immediately after the declaration of nominations (on 11 April). The House of Representatives ballot papers are green in colour.

To vote for a Member of the House of Representatives, you are required to write the number 1 in the box next to the candidate who is your first choice, and the numbers 2, 3 and so on against all the other candidates until all the boxes have been numbered, in order of your preference.

Senate ballot papers

The order of the party columns on the ballot paper is determined by a random draw held immediately after the declaration of nominations. Some columns on the Senate ballot paper will feature a party logo but some will likely not. This is dependent on each party officially registering a logo with the AEC. Senate ballot papers are white in colour.

To vote on the white Senate ballot paper, you need to either: number six boxes above the line or number 12 boxes below the line for individual candidates of your choice.

If you vote **above the line**, you need to number at least six boxes from 1 to 6. Place a 1 in the box above the party or group that is your first choice, the number 2 in the box above the party or group that is your second choice, and so on until you have numbered at least six boxes above the line. You can continue to place numbers in the order of your choice in as many boxes above the line as you like. Your preferences will first be distributed to the candidates in the party/group of your first choice, then to candidates in the party/group of your second choice and so on.

If you choose to vote **below the line**, you need to number at least 12 boxes from 1 to 12. Place a 1 in the box beside the candidate who is your first choice, and the numbers 2, 3, 4 and so on to at least the number 12. Thereafter, you can continue to place numbers in the order of your choice in as many boxes below the line as you like.

All ballot papers must be marked according to the rules for voting so that they do not create informal votes. Ballot papers cannot be counted if they are informal. Polling officials are available to assist voters in completing their ballot paper. If you make a mistake on a ballot paper you may return it to the polling official who issued it and receive a fresh one.

For more information visit: aec.gov.au

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election candidates

Justine Elliot

Labor



You know you can count on me and I'm asking for your vote to keep delivering for our community. This election is a clear choice between building Australia's future with the Albanese Labor Government or taking Australia backwards with Peter Dutton's Liberals and Nationals. Labor is strengthening Medicare and delivering real cost-of-living relief for locals – tax cuts for every taxpayer, energy bill relief for every household, cheaper childcare and medicines, free TAFE, more rent assistance, student debt relief, and a crackdown on supermarkets to get a fairer deal for farmers and families. I'm also delivering a Crime Action Plan to fund crime prevention infrastructure like CCTV, keeping our community safe.

As your local Labor MP, I've already delivered more than \$3 billion for our region, including all of my previous election commitments, like funding for upgrades to Lennox Head. When I make a promise, you know I will deliver. More info: justineelliot.com.au

Mandy Nolan

Greens



We're in a climate crisis, a housing crisis, and a cost of living crisis. It's no accident. It's the result of successive government's policies. The major parties are responsible. During the cost of living crisis, billionaires have doubled their wealth – one in three corporations pay no tax. Yet people are forced to sleep in cars and our kids can't afford to live here, because Richmond has among the highest rents in Australia. It's time someone had the guts to fix this and stop tinkering around the edges. I only need a 1.8% swing to win Richmond from the MP who's held it for 20 years. If elected, I'll work with Independents and Labor to make unlimited rent increases illegal, offer discounted mortgages to first-home buyers, and create a public developer to build affordable homes. It isn't radical. It's what we used to do. I'll fight for dental into Medicare, ending native forest logging, and genuine crime prevention, funded with a 'Robin Hood' tax on corporate profits and billionaires. More info: greens.org.au/nsw/person/mandy-nolan

Richard Curtin

People First Party



The newly formed People First Party under the leadership of Senator Gerard Rennick is not here to make up the numbers. Without doubt, Australia will either have Labor/Green backed or Liberal/Nationals leading the country at the next Federal Election and therein lies the problem. The people of Richmond have a unique opportunity to put the say of the electorate into Parliament and hold Government to account. Nothing changes, if nothing changes.

As the party candidate for Richmond, I bring a wealth of leadership from growing a sub-contract business in construction to playing and coaching first grade Rugby. My wife and I migrated from the Republic of Ireland and are now settled in Bogangar, NSW. I encourage everyone to check out the People First Party website for our Policies. If elected, I will establish Constituency Surgeries for constituents to book in and share their ideas and concerns direct with their MP. More info: peoplefirstparty.au/richard-curtin/



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election candidates

Ian Mye

One Nation



Pauline Hanson's One Nation candidate for the forthcoming election is local born and raised Bundjalung Indigenous man Ian Mye. Ian is standing for the seat of Richmond because he is convinced major party politicians and bureaucrats are too comfortable and are out of touch with ordinary Australians who are really struggling with housing, living costs and health care.

Ian's priorities are to alleviate the cost of living and reduce wastage and taxation. Limiting immigration is a common sense way of managing the housing crisis.

Ian was seriously injured in a road accident while travelling to school at the age of five and lost his left arm. That has not stopped him from leading a rewarding life and career in the transport industry as well as succeeding in sport and community.

For all enquiries and to lend a hand contact Ian's campaign manager Rod Smith on ph: 0418 474 841

Ian Willis*

Libertarian Party



Born in Western QLD and raised in Rockhampton, Ian Willis spent years working underground in WA mines before travelling the world. Settling in the UK, he became a Construction Manager. Later, as President of the QLD Strata Institute, he transformed it into an ethical, transparent, and accountable organisation. His reforms included introducing a standard contract that exposed hidden commissions. A columnist for the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, Ian has also advised the Government on strata law. After selling his strata business, Ian pursued his passion for permaculture, purchasing a 30-acre farm in the Tweed Valley. In 2020, border restrictions reinforced his belief in personal freedom and Government accountability. A long-time advocate for small business, individual rights, and self-reliance, Ian entered politics to fight for everyday Australians, believing Government should serve taxpayers – not itself.

More info: lpnsw.org.au/federal_candidates

**information taken from website.*

Kimberly Hone

Liberal National Party



Australians are suffering from the worst cost of living crisis in a generation. We need cheaper energy, delivered through a sensible energy mix, including a National Gas Plan that will pour more Australian gas into the system, address shortfalls and energy prices. We need more affordable housing for both renters and buyers. Homelessness is a huge problem here in Richmond, and we need to give young people a better chance to get a foot in the door in the housing market. Filling the car is a big expense, which is why we're committed to halving fuel tax. This cut will deliver immediate savings for motorists, as opposed to Labor's 70 cents-a-day tax cut that people won't see for over a year. We need a healthcare system that looks after all Australians, regardless of where they live. We need to lift Medicare bulk billing rates, and provide better mental health support for those in need. That's why The Nationals in government will help deliver a record \$9 billion investment in Medicare. More info: nationals.org.au/team/kimberly-hone



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election candidates

Phillip Peterkin

Trumpet of Patriots



Growing up in the beautiful regions of Tyalgum and Uki, I have always felt deeply connected to our community.

My fondness for this area is best expressed with the saying, 'If I can see Wollumbin, I'm home.' I truly believe that we are blessed to live in what I affectionately call 'God's country', surrounded by an amazing community of like-minded individuals who share a passion for our environment and well-being. Driven by a desire to stand up for our region and ensure a brighter future, I have decided to take a bold step by nominating myself to run for office in the Richmond electorate, which encompasses Tweed, Byron, and Ballina. My decision stems from a commitment to moving beyond the traditional Lib-Lab uni party politics.

I am convinced that we can achieve so much more, economically and environmentally. This election is our last chance to reclaim what truly belongs to us, and together, I believe we can make a meaningful difference.

More info: trumpetofpatriots.org/candidates/phillip-peterkin

Kevin Loughrey

Independent



I believe government should support, not control – ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed through their own effort and talent. If elected, I can faithfully represent you – free from Party intrigues, activism or corporate influence. I will fight to slash energy costs, build reservoirs for water security, agriculture and flood mitigation, and protect your right to choose your healthcare without government interference. I will work to treat all Australians equally under the law, make housing affordable, and ensure taxpayers get value for every dollar spent. With a background in military leadership, senior management, and groundbreaking innovation across engineering and technology, I offer experience our Parliament desperately lacks. We face a world shaped by complex technologies and misinformation - on energy, health, and climate. I bring clarity, capability, and a commitment to truth. Vote for me if you believe in practical ideas, principled leadership, and a government that works for the people. More info: kevinloughrey.com.au

Vivian McMahon

Legalise Cannabis Australia



Vivian, known as Mac, has lived in the Richmond electorate for over 30 years.

For the past 20 years, he has volunteered at the Nimbin Hemp Embassy, helping educate the community on the benefits of cannabis and the need for sensible reform.

Despite common misconceptions, cannabis is not legal. It won't be truly legal until adults can grow their own and access it without a prescription from a licensed retail outlet.

Mac is calling for an end to discrimination against cannabis users, particularly those who are unimpaired, whether behind the wheel or in the workplace.

He believes in evidence-based policy and is standing with the Legalise Cannabis Party to push for change, compassion and common sense.

A vote for Legalise Cannabis is a protest vote against the major parties - and a clear message that the public wants reform, not fearmongering.

More info: legalisecannabis.org.au

James McKenzie

Independent

The Byron Wave was unable to contact James at the time of writing.

Further candidate information

For more information on candidates, visit their individual websites, or visit: aec.gov.au/election/candidates.htm

To learn more about the Richmond division visit: abc.net.au/news/elections/federal/2025/guide/rich

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Pictured: Rhoda Roberts AO, Continuous Persistence, Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali Exhibition, 2024. Source: Chloe Van Dorp and Simon Hughes.

Who We Are: the creative pulse of the region

by Leigh McGrane, Arts Northern Rivers

Arts Northern Rivers has released a landmark research report delivering the most detailed profile of the Northern Rivers creative industries in over 15 years. The *Who We Are* report, launched on 10 April, provides a data-rich analysis of the region's cultural workforce, economic contribution, challenges, and future needs. The findings confirm what many in the region already understood anecdotally: the Northern Rivers is home to a highly active and economically significant creative sector.

The report outlines that, as of the 2021 Census, the region had the largest concentration of creative workers in rural Australia. The study found that more than 4,900 people were employed in cultural and creative roles, with over 2,000 creative businesses operating across the region.

These businesses generated an estimated \$900 million in turnover in 2021, representing a 27% increase since 2016 – a growth rate far exceeding national trends for creative industries and the Australian workforce overall. While the sector's growth is evident, the report reveals the scale of challenges facing artists and creative organisations.

The period between 2019 and 2022 brought a series of unprecedented disruptions – bushfires, floods, and the COVID pandemic. These events caused widespread loss of work, destruction of infrastructure, and prolonged financial and emotional strain for many in the arts community.

Although 59% of surveyed artists and workers rated the

sector's resilience as 'strong', only 4% believed the creative sector was financially sustainable. Space to create and present work emerged as the number one priority for the sector, with many interviewees citing unaffordable rents, inaccessible venues, and a lack of suitable infrastructure as ongoing barriers to practise.

The Northern Rivers' housing crisis compounded these issues. With rental prices among the highest in the country and limited public investment in arts spaces, many artists reported being priced out of housing and work locations. In some LGAs, particularly Byron and Tweed, the scarcity of affordable housing has been categorised as critical.

Despite these pressures, the report identified cultural tourism as a key area of opportunity. In 2023, more than 598,000 cultural tourists visited the Northern Rivers region, contributing an estimated \$435 million in spending. However, visitation remains 18% below pre-pandemic levels, and stakeholders note the need for reinvestment and coordinated tourism strategies to fully realise the region's potential in this area.

The report echoes findings from a broader 2024 cultural tourism study by Patternmakers, which estimated that cultural tourists spend more and stay longer than average regional visitors. Strategic investment in cultural infrastructure and programming could not only serve local needs but attract new audiences and support regional economic recovery.

The *Who We Are* report also includes a section focused on

First Nations' artists, noting both the cultural significance of their practice and the disproportionate impact of natural disasters. Many First Nations' artists continue to rely on word-of-mouth promotion, with limited access to digital marketing or directory platforms. The findings highlight the urgent need for culturally safe creative spaces, Black-led programs, and increased professional development opportunities. With over 60% of First Nations' artists surveyed expressing a need for marketing education and business support, the report identifies a number of opportunity areas for improving equity and access across the region's creative industries.

For Arts Northern Rivers and its partners, *Who We Are* is intended to serve as a strategic tool for future planning, funding, and policy development.

'This is the first time we've had comprehensive data on the state of the creative industries in our region,' said Jane Fuller, Executive Director of Arts Northern Rivers. 'It gives us a clear picture of where we are and where support is most needed, from infrastructure investment to arts education and cultural tourism strategies.'

One study in the report also asked participants to share their 'big ideas' for the region's creative sector, and why they think it's important. There was no shortage of answers with almost 400 ideas shared in response. The key themes that emerged included affordable and collaborative studio spaces; a dedicated presentation venue, such as a public gallery/theatre in Byron Shire; connection and gathering events across the sector to create a sense of collective identity and inclusively support artists at every stage in their career; developing art trails and more public art opportunities; new small-scale art festivals and music festivals, and an inclusion of regular art fairs and markets; a focus on improving accessibility in the sector and developing art events for artists with disabilities; better use of digital resources and/or improvement of existing ones; and further development of exchanges, residencies, collaborations, partnerships and other relationship-based opportunities across the sector.

The release of the report was accompanied by a presentation and Q&A session on 10 April, with further briefings planned for local governments, business leaders, and state and federal agencies. While the data presents a compelling case for further investment, it also reinforces the role the creative sector already plays in economic growth, community resilience, and regional identity. Stakeholders across the arts and government sectors are now being called upon to use the findings to inform long-term strategies for infrastructure, funding, and sector development.

The hope is that the *Who We Are* report will not only document the current state of play but act as a catalyst for sustainable and equitable growth in one of Australia's most distinctive creative regions.

The full report is available at: artsnorthernrivers.com.au



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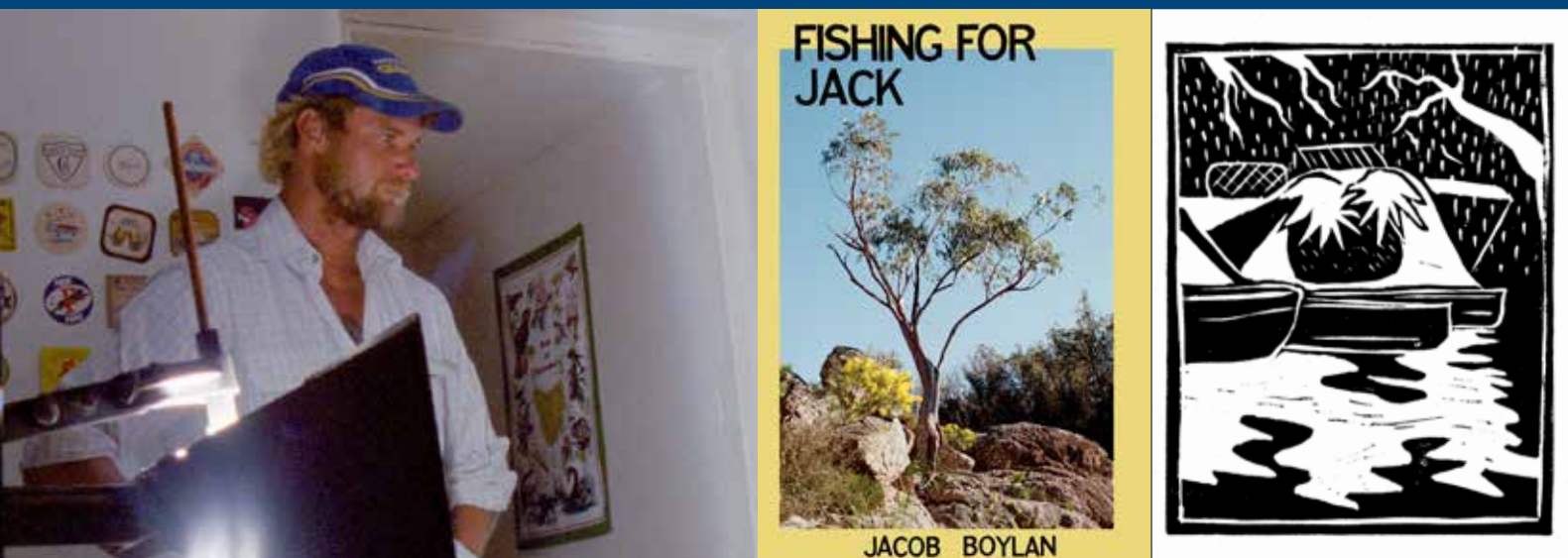
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Pictured: Jacob Boylan, book cover, and lino print. Source: Supplied.

Punk, print and ink: a conversation with Jacob Boylan

by Charla Rallings

Whether he's working outdoors, casting a fishing line, or creating in his studio, Jacob Boylan is a multi-faceted artist with a deep connection to the Northern Rivers. A printmaker, musician, and storyteller, he has spent the past decade immersing himself in the region's thriving creative community, shaping a practice that blends raw energy with thoughtful craftsmanship. Jacob's artistic journey began in Sydney, where he first pursued Art Education before transferring to Southern Cross University in Lismore. Away from the city and the pressures of art 'vogues', he found the space to experiment and develop his own style. It was here, surrounded by the subtropical landscapes and like-minded creatives, that his work began to take on its distinct form.

Over the years, Jacob has expanded his artistic practice beyond traditional mediums. His bold, unapologetic style speaks to themes of identity, place, and subculture – often reflecting the grit and character of the communities around him. But visual art is just one facet of his creativity. As lead singer of Mini Skirt, an Aussie pub-punk band known for its raw energy and sharp social commentary, he channels his artistic expression into music. On top of that, he hosts *How Long's A Yarn*, an podcast that dives into stories, conversations, and the quirks of everyday life, and he recently finished his debut book, *Fishing For Jack*, which covers a mix of personal experiences – heartbreak, natural disasters, travel, and celebration. For Jacob, the Byron Shire isn't just home – it's the foundation of his creative journey, surrounded by a community that nurtures independent voices.

Hi Jacob, it's great to meet you. Can you tell us a bit more about yourself? What initially led you down the path of becoming an artist?

Well, when I'm not digging holes for work or out fishing, I'm making art. I'm a printmaker and part-time artist, and

I play in a band called Mini Skirt. I also run an occasional podcast called *How Long's A Yarn*. I've also been making and exhibiting art since late high school, and I originally studied Art Education in Sydney before realising I was more interested in making art than teaching it. That led me to switch to a Visual Arts degree at SCU Lismore, where I really found my footing. Being away from the city allowed me to develop my own style and creative approach. I've been lucky to call the Northern Rivers home for the past 10 years, and I owe a lot to this place – it's given me the space and opportunities to do what I love. Things really took off five years ago when I set up my studio in Mullumbimby and got my own screen-printing equipment. That's when I was able to expand, experiment more freely, and push my work in new directions.

Your work often features a limited colour palette, a deadpan, tongue-in-cheek style, and repurposed imagery – what you describe as an effort to reduce 'visual pollution.' What drew you to this as your primary style and can you tell us more about this concept?

I like working with limited materials because it forces me to think creatively about how to communicate an idea with as little fuss as possible. For me, making art often feels like solving a puzzle. I take whatever materials are lying around my studio and figure out how to piece them together in a way that makes sense. That's also where the idea of visual pollution comes in. A lot of my imagery is lifted from an ongoing collection of old Australiana-themed books. Nearly any image I need already exists somewhere in these pages and I just recycle and re-contextualise them. Because these images often come from the past, I like to challenge the audience to see familiar visuals in a new light, encouraging them to question or rethink the meaning behind them.

Some of my biggest artistic influences are Karla Dickens,



Tony Albert, Robert Rauschenberg, and John Baldessari – all of whom excel at repurposing and reimagining existing imagery to create new stories. Their work has definitely shaped the way I think about my own process.

Can you tell us about your debut book *Fishing for Jack*?

I'm so excited to share this book. I finished writing it about a year ago and have finally put everything together for publishing. So far, only a few close people have read the book, and they've loved it – which has meant the world, especially my Pa, who has been such a huge influence in shaping my love for storytelling. To help fund the first run, I offered a limited release of 10 pre-orders, which included a signed copy of the book and one of three hand-printed linos which feature in the book. The pre-orders were quickly exhausted, which was a really nice feeling. Now I'm working on having it published.

What initially sparked the idea, and did writing challenge you in a different way compared to art?

Honestly, I'd just had a pretty complicated and eventful couple of years, and I needed to write it all down to make sense of it. The book is a collection of short anecdotes spanning everything from a breakup to a flood, a cleanup, working in Bowen, a wedding, and a few other bits and pieces. Writing was challenging in a completely different way compared to making art. With visual work, I'm used to communicating ideas through imagery, but putting thoughts and experiences into words felt more exposing. Still, as tough as it was, it ended up being one of the most rewarding things I've done.

Deciding which stories made it into the book was tricky. There were definitely some that felt too personal, but more so because they involved other people and I didn't feel like I had the right to reveal parts of someone else's life. In the end, I chose the stories that felt the most important to me – the ones that could stand on their own without pulling anyone else into the spotlight too much.

The 2022 floods were a defining moment for the Northern Rivers and feature in *Fishing for Jack*. How did that experience shift your perspective, personally and creatively?

It really made me appreciate how special the majority of the Northern Rivers community is, and how much work can get done when people are bound together by a common cause without government intervention. That really stuck with me. I think storytelling is incredibly important for helping people process traumatic events. I love the idea of this collective web of stories that emerged after the floods. Especially in those early days when the power, internet, and phone lines were down, all we had was verbal storytelling to make sense of what had just happened, and it was how we related to each other. It was quite special really.

That flood experience also changed the way I think about my art and artefacts in general too. Seeing a big pile of my work covered in mud outside my Mullumbimby studio made me rethink the idea of permanence, and I try to be less precious about things now.

Your podcast, *How Long's a Yarn?*, is about contemporary Australian experiences and shifting identities. Do you see your other projects as part of that broader conversation?

Absolutely. Whether it's personally, through our music, the art, the podcast, or now the book, I feel like I'm always having this ongoing conversation about identity, place, and experience. With *Fishing for Jack*, I tried to weave in social and political commentary alongside the stories – not in a heavy-handed way, but just enough to add context to where I'm coming from. It's an eternal conversation, really.

Now that you've completed your first book, what's next for you creatively?

I've already started writing a short story about the little fishing community of groms around Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores – there's something really unique about that subculture that I find fascinating. Beyond that, I'm just going to keep creating in whatever way feels right at the time.

There's a new Mini Skirt album coming out this year too, which I'm really excited about.

For more information, to see Jacob and his work, or connect with Mini Skirt visit Instagram: @jacobmandude or @miniskirt666. Jacob's podcast is available on Spotify, search: How Long's A Yarn.



Go Mexican in Lennox Head

review by Milt Barlow



It's Tuesday night in Lennox Head and Chido Cantina is packed to the rafters. Many locals will remember Pancho Villa at the same location – Richard and Judy retired, along came new owners and now this place pops.

New owner, Blake Rogers, has taken the best of the classic Pancho Villa favourites, reworked them and upped the ante

to create a great Mexican dining experience. Now, under new Head Chef Nemo Baker (ex-Quattro), Chido Cantina is taking things to a new level with their new More Than Mexican menu enhancement. Each month they will feature new specials, with the most liked then being added to the regular menu.

During our visit, we got to enjoy some excellent delights including prawn tostadas featuring fresh Ballina king prawns, served on a corn tostada with avocado, lettuce, capers, lemon and chili – everything combining perfectly to give great flavour. Next up were the sizzling fajitas. I had the prawns and the boss had the beef. After the sizzle plate arrives piping hot, you have the opportunity to get hands on by transferring what you like to the soft flour tortillas and then adding vegetables and cucumber salsa. Delicious.

As well as the new ever-changing specials there is Chido's massive standard menu with everything from salt and pepper squid, to pork ribs, cauliflower popcorn, corn tentacles, slow-cooked beef brisket, slow-cooked pulled pork and of course good old Mexican staples of nachos, enchiladas, burritos, chimichangas, quesadillas and everything in between. My wife, who is gluten-free, particularly enjoyed the menu because there was such a wide range of suitable options.

Blake told me they pride themselves on sourcing locally wherever possible: seafood fresh off the local boats, meat and chicken from the excellent Lennox Head Butchers down the road, and fresh local farm produce.

Now desserts here are not their strong suite with only churros on offer. I made up for this with one of the best classic margaritas I've had in a long time. I nearly went for the second one, but refrained as I was driving.

With excellent, friendly staff and great décor (including Mexican sombreros on the wall – which no doubt come down and onto patrons' heads as more margaritas are consumed), this is a great place to hang. And it's nice to see reasonable prices with most dishes being large servings. Chido Cantina is not five-star dining, nor is it intended to be. It's just a fun place to hang out and enjoy good Mexican comfort food with an ever changing menu of new dishes to support the classics. Enjoy.

For more information, visit: chidocantina.com

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OVERALL



Author was a guest of Chido Cantina.



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Historic hydro-electricity plant in Mullumbimby

by Vee Hunt, member of Mullumbimby Residents' Association



A dream solution not yet revisited

From 1926 to the 1960s, Mullumbimby produced hydro-electric power to supply the Byron Municipality. This was generated by water from Wilsons Creek at Lafferty's Gap Weir (built in 1924 to provide over 25 million litres of storage¹), not only as the local water supply, but also the means for electricity generation. Lights were turned on in Mullumbimby for the first time in December 1925, almost 100 years ago. Byron Bay was lit on the 12 June 1926, and Bangalow in 3 July 1926. It was decommissioned in 1989.

Historically, it was the 5th hydro-electric plant in NSW and has two of only a few GEC Pelton wheel

turbines, surviving (worldwide) in-situ². The power station complex contains a catalogued Movable Heritage Collection which relates to tools and machinery as part of the intact collection. Also, still in place are three crude oil engines needed to exponentially boost capacity up to 1958 when power plant capacity reached 14 million kwh per annum³.

The plant was Heritage Listed on the NSW State Heritage Register on 27 June 2014. In 2018, the State Government announced funding to investigate if the Heritage-Listed plant could be made operational. The funding produced a report by the community-owned Renewable Energy Mullumbimby group (COREM)⁴ that found as most of the infrastructure was still in place and the Upper Wilsons Creek Weir still provided the town's water supply, this was a very feasible objective. With some pipe replacement and minor works to the weir, it could present a dream solution to sustainable clean energy.

Perhaps Mullumbimby Residents could see their Heritage Listed hydro-

electricity plant put to use again in these climate challenging times. By the use of Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) from work that has been done by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), constancy of supply is possible.

'PHES uses water reservoirs as a way of storing energy and can also produce large amounts of electricity over a long duration so can provide reliable and dispatchable generation⁵.'

This dream, however, turns to dust if Lafferty's Gap Weir is decommissioned in favour of full supply via Rous Water and is no longer maintained by Byron Shire Council to feed a re-operational Hydro-Power-Plant.

The 'dream' was that Mullumbimby could once again be off-grid but this time with added benefits for reducing carbon emissions and sustainable renewable energy production. Do we 'dare to dream' in 2025 that we can find a way back to sustainable clean energy via locally produced Hydro-Power?

References on page 47.



Thrive

in 2025

UPCOMING DATES

Sun, 18 May
(great Mother's Day gift)

Sat, 7 Jun

Wed, 30 Jul

Fri, 15 Aug

Sun, 4 Sept

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Kids Corner

Jokes

Q. What did the grape say to its mum?

A. You did a grape job raisin me.

Q. Why does the mum kangaroo hate rainy days?

A. Because the kids have to play inside.

Q. Why was the mother firefly so happy?

A. Because her children were all so bright.

Q. What's the best thing a mum can get for Mothers Day?

A. A long nap.

Q. What did the hermit crabs do on Mothers Day?

A. They shellabrated their mummy.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Olive.

Olive who?

Olive you, Mum. Happy Mother's Day.

Word Search

Can you find all the words?



Source: mrprintables.com

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Sweet self-care: spoil mum this Mothers Day

by Australian Macadamias



Pictured (above and across): Honey caramel macadamia cheesecake and Macadamia and citrus body scrub. Source: Supplied.

Mothers Day, Sunday 11 May, is the perfect opportunity to spoil the women who do it all – and we'd love to offer you three inspired ways to do just that, with a little help from Australian-grown macadamias.

Honey Caramel Macadamia Cheesecake

This cheesecake tastes every bit as good as it looks. With its perfect balance of crunch and smooth creaminess, this dessert is sure to impress at any gathering. Serves 8-10.

Ingredients

Base:

- 100g plain biscuits
- ¼ cup roasted macadamias
- 60g butter, melted

Filling:

- 2 teaspoons gelatine
- 375g cream cheese
- 250g sour cream
- ½ cup caster sugar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence

Topping:

- ¼ cup honey
- 80g butter
- Pinch of sea salt
- 1 cup macadamia halves and wholes

Method

1. For the base, break the biscuits into pieces and place in a food processor with the roasted macadamias and process to a coarse crumb. Add the butter and process until combined. Ensure it maintains a coarse crumb texture but comes together when pressed. Firmly press the crumb into the base of a 20cm round springform tin and chill in the fridge while you make the filling.
2. For the filling, place two tablespoons of water into a small bowl. Sprinkle the gelatine evenly over the surface of the water and let stand for five minutes.
3. Meanwhile, place the cream cheese in a large bowl and use beaters until smooth. Add the sour cream, caster sugar, honey and vanilla and beat until smooth.
4. To completely dissolve the gelatine, place the small bowl with the softened gelatine within a larger bowl of boiled water and stir gently until the gelatine has completely dissolved. Stir the gelatine quickly through the cream cheese mixture.
5. Pour the filling over the crumb crust and refrigerate for at least four hours, until completely set.
6. One hour before serving, prepare the honey caramel macadamia topping. Place the honey and butter in a small saucepan and stir over

medium heat until the mixture is melted and combined. Add the pinch of sea salt and simmer gently for five-seven minutes until the mixture is thickened and is glossy. Stir in the macadamias.

7. Allow to cool to room temperature, then gently transfer the cheesecake onto a serving plate and pour over the cooled honey caramel macadamia topping.

Macadamia and citrus body scrub



For a homemade gift or a simple act of self-care, this beautiful scrub is free of harmful chemicals and a beautiful way to pamper mum. Makes one jar with a prep time of 10 minutes.

Ingredients

- 2 cups Epsom salts
- 1 cup raw sugar
- 1 cup macadamia oil
- 10 drops grapefruit essential oil
- 10 drops sweet orange essential oil
- zest of a lemon
- zest of a lime

Instructions

In a medium bowl combine all the ingredients and place into a large, clean sealed jar.

Use to rub on the skin in the shower (avoiding eyes) and rinse off.

These ideas champion the versatility of Australian macadamias.

For more information visit: australian-macadamias.org

Brunswick Heads Tide Times - May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 0519 0.42 1051 1.18 TH 1624 0.38 2332 1.85	2 0625 0.48 1150 1.09 FR 1715 0.49	3 0030 1.75 0731 0.53 SA 1302 1.05 1819 0.59	4 0133 1.64 0836 0.56 SU 1425 1.06 1939 0.67
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On the Cover

Photo and words by Jonathan Verdin



My name is Jonathan and I'm 30 years old, originally from France. I grew up in a small town called Senlis, then moved to Lille in the north of France to study communication marketing and graphic design. But life took a bit of a turn when I moved to Australia. I ended up diving into the hospitality industry, something totally different from my

studies, and now I'm a supervisor at the Beach Hotel in Byron Bay. I've even recently moved to The Shack Beach Hotel, since we opened it, and honestly, I'm loving it. I still keep my creative side alive with graphic design and photography as hobbies.

Since last year, I've had the chance to collaborate with a few companies, and which has been really exciting. Byron Bay has been my home since 2020, and I absolutely love it here. It's got this laid-back vibe, but also so much to explore – waterfalls, hikes, great food, and the perfect spots to just chill or meet new people.

This month's cover photo, I remember so clearly – it was 26 June 2024, and the weather was perfect, warm and sunny. I had the day off, so I spent the whole day at Tallow Beach just by myself. Later, I ended up watching the sunset with one of my mates at Main Beach, sitting on the rocks in the car

park. Since it was winter, I usually had the nights free, and I spent a lot of those evenings watching the sunset with my friend.

I'd figured out a few weeks earlier that the best sunset shots are about 45 minutes before the actual sunset, when the sky turns this amazing yellow and the mist starts to rise. The sky's always so blue that time of year, and when it shifts to yellow and orange, it just feels magical. The mist adds so much character to the photos too. It was also right in the middle of whale season, so my mate was spotting whales while we were hanging out. We then saw someone flying a powered paraglider, which was pretty cool. This guy had been flying around for a few days, and my mate managed to get an awesome shot of him with the drone while I was just snapping away with my camera.

To see more of Jonathans work visit Instagram: [@verdinsoir](https://www.instagram.com/verdinsoir)

Byron Farmers Market moving to zero waste

by Kylie McGregor, Byron Farmers Market



Pictured: Barista Dave Copeland and Byron Farmers Market manager Tom Carey with their reusable cups. Source: Supplied.

Byron Farmers Market is on its way to becoming the first zero-waste market in the region. While the weekly Farmers' Market has had a cup washing station in place for a number of years – saving more than 18,000 disposable cups from going into landfill every year – it has now taken its war on waste to the next level by phasing out all single-use food and drink packaging. The waste-saving move is being supported by Byron Shire Council as part of its Single-Use Packaging and Materials Policy. Byron Farmers Market manager Tom Carey says the market has been working closely with Council and North East Waste to audit the market's waste and garner feedback from the community about the move from single use to reusables.

'We are always looking at ways to run the market more efficiently and reduce our impact on the environment,' Tom says. 'And there is a lot of greenwashing out there when it comes to food and drink packaging.'

'Just because plates and cups look natural and brown and have words like 'bio' or 'compostable' on them, it means very little. The reality is, none of those items are going into compost or being recycled. They are all going into landfill. So, we are working towards not just offering reusable coffee cups on site, but also plates, cutlery and juice cups so that we reduce our waste to as close to zero as possible.'

Linda Tohver, Education Coordinator for North East Waste, says there is a 'massive amount' of confusion in relation to which bin single-use coffee cups, containers, bio-cups and wooden cutlery should go in.

'In a recent survey conducted with consumers at events and markets across the region, including Byron Farmers Market, when asked the question about which bin these items should go in, more than 60% of the 200+ responses were incorrect, thinking these items could be recycled and/or composted,' Linda says. 'The bottom-line is that no amount of 'wish-cycling' will make those single-use coffee cups, bowls, plates or bio-cups eco-friendly. They all need to go into the landfill bin, but often end up contaminating both the recycling and organics streams. We all need to be moving to embrace reusables.'

The 'Move To Reuse', as Byron Shire Council has dubbed the campaign, is not without its challenges, but Tom says its has been a relatively smooth transition to remove single-use items in the market with great support from the community.

'Our local community is very passionate when it comes to environmental issues, so it's about changing people's mindset when it comes to single-use items in the Market,' Tom says. 'They are used for such a short period of time, but their impact on the environment lasts for decades. As a Market, and a community, we can take this simple step to move to reuse which results in less emissions, less waste generation and less litter in our environment.'

So, when visiting Byron Farmers Market next, don't forget to bring your reusable cup and containers, along with your market bags and baskets, or use the reusable options provided and help the Market on its quest to become a zero-waste event. Byron Farmers Market is held every Thursday 7am–11am at Butler Street Reserve and Bangalow Farmers Market is every Saturday 7am–11am in Piccabeen Park.



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High-quality English and magic Maths

by David Bermingham, Principal at St John's Primary School, Mullumbimby

The year has started well, and students and teachers are working in partnership to establish new learning environments. Our kids recently completed their 2025 NAPLAN assessments and we are eagerly awaiting the results – particularly after last year's success. An independent analysis of the 2024 NAPLAN results revealed that St John's had the best primary results of any school in the Northern Rivers, scoring an average of 532.8. We are very proud of our students. These strong results are not just a testament to our students academic abilities, but also to the support systems we've built to nurture their overall development. We believe that taking a personalised approach to teaching ensures all our students' individual needs are met.

High quality English

At St John's, literacy remains a key focus, with students developing essential skills in reading, writing, and comprehension. Multi-age learning groups are designed using student data to provide targeted evidence-based instruction that meets learners at their point of need. Reading is taught explicitly through phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, while grammar, punctuation, handwriting, and spelling are incorporated to strengthen writing skills. Students are encouraged to explore quality, age-appropriate literature, making

meaningful connections between reading and their own written work. Ongoing monitoring of student progress allows for adjustments to instruction, ensuring that learning remains responsive and effective. With a focus on differentiation and personalised support, every child is guided to develop confidence and independence in their literacy journey.

Earlier this term, I visited classrooms to capture a snapshot of the first session of the literacy block – Part A. In the second hour, known as Part B, students return to their home classrooms to explore, enjoy and discuss quality literature. They then apply their new skills to understand rich texts and use them as a springboard to create their written texts.

Maths magic

At St John's Primary, we believe that every child is a mathematician, and we're passionate about showing them how mathematics is woven into the fabric of everyday life. We understand that students learn in different ways, which is why we take a multifaceted approach to maths. Our maths lessons are dynamic and interactive, moving beyond traditional rote learning. Here's what that looks like:

- whole class explicit teaching – clear and concise instruction ensuring all students have a solid foundation in key concepts

- small group targeted instruction – use ongoing assessments to identify specific learning needs to create small, focused groups where teachers can provide support and address individual challenges
- intervention based on data – regularly analyse student data to pinpoint areas where extra support is needed, ensuring no student falls behind
- learning through maths games – incorporate games into our lessons to reinforce concepts and develop problem-solving skills, providing a playful way to practise essential skills and foster strategic thinking
- hands-on equipment to represent thinking – provide students with a variety of hands-on materials, allowing children to visualise abstract concepts and physically represent their thinking
- differentiated tasks to meet students at their point of need – students learn at different paces and as such, are provided differentiated tasks tailored to individual needs and abilities.

Maths across the curriculum

The magic doesn't stop in the maths classroom, as we believe that maths is a vital tool for understanding the world around us, particularly in STEM and Creative Arts. Our STEM program is a prime example of maths in action. Students use mathematical concepts to design, build, and test their creations. From measuring materials to calculating distances and angles, maths is an essential part of the problem-solving process. We also integrate maths into our creative arts with our specialist Creative Arts teachers weaving mathematical outcomes into their lessons. In Visual Arts, students learn about symmetry, geometry, counting, and proportion.

This integrated approach matters: by connecting maths to other subjects, we demonstrate the real-world relevance of maths and increase student engagement by making maths relevant to their interests.



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Byron Bay Public School

by Nicky Greenlaw, Teacher, Byron Bay Public School



Harmony Day

Students gathered in the school hall to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity where they had fun creating bright craft based on the colours of flags from around

the world. Working with a buddy, students carefully wound wool around sticks, which they'd gathered from the school grounds, producing collaborative art pieces which are now on display in the school library. The Harmony Week theme for 2025 is 'Harmony – we all have a role to play'. Activities throughout the week promoted inclusivity, respect and a sense of belonging.

A taste of AFL

Balls were flying, legs kicking and plenty of smiles were on faces at the AFL Taster lessons earlier in the term. Kindergarten to Yr3 were involved in gaining some AFL skills

from local development officer, Julian, and were invited to sign on for weekend football. It was a fabulous opportunity for students to try something new and they embraced the challenge with energy and enthusiasm.

Rap 'n' Rhyme

There was a buzz of excitement as nursery rhyme characters began to walk through the school gates. Kindergarten students had been practising for weeks for their Rap 'n' Rhyme concert, and the day had finally arrived. Parents, carers, grandparents and friends flocked to the school hall to be entertained with a variety of songs and rhymes, and they weren't disappointed. At the end of their first term in school, these young students demonstrated how confident they have become since the start of the year as they performed some old favourites, like Incy Wincy Spider, Humpty Dumpty, and lesser well-known songs including Shoofly and Skidamarink. The fun continued after the concert with a picnic shared with families in the school grounds. It certainly was a day to remember.

The Tobias Project: discovery, creativity, and growth

by Janice Dutton, Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School



Pictured: Tobias Projects, 2024.

As part of their journey at Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School, Class 8 students embark on the Tobias Project, a year-long exploration of creativity, independence, and community contribution.

The Tobias Project is an inspiring rite of passage for the students, blending creativity, independence, and skill-building into a year-long journey. Rooted in the ancient tale of Tobias – a story of growth, resilience, and discovery – this initiative encourages young minds to explore their passions and share their talents with the wider community.

At its core, the Tobias Project is about process over perfection. Students design and execute projects that align with their personal interests, whether artistic, technical, or conceptual, allowing them to nurture their unique gifts. The final outcome? A deepened sense of self, achievement, and contribution.

A pivotal part of the project is mentorship. Students seek out a mentor, someone who embodies passion and expertise in their chosen field. Rather than turning to family members, students are encouraged to find mentors within the community, creating opportunities for meaningful intergenerational learning and connection.

The Tobias Project unfolds in four phases –

- Term 1: project proposal
- Term 2: development and design
- Term 3: practical implementation
- Term 4: evaluation and reflection.

Students chronicle their journey in a visual art diary, capturing every twist, turn, and moment of inspiration along the way. The culmination? A public presentation, where students share their process, insights and accomplishments with an audience of family, mentors and peers.

Creative journeys are rarely linear. The Tobias Project acknowledges this by fostering a culture of resilience, problem-solving, and support. Students are encouraged to take small steps, seek guidance, and embrace challenges as opportunities for growth.

This project is more than an academic exercise – it is a celebration of young people stepping into their potential. With the support of teachers, mentors, and the wider community, the Tobias Project continues to nurture the next generation of creators, thinkers, and change-makers.

We can't wait to see what this year's students bring to life.

Forever Changed at Art Post Uki



Pictured (left-right): Judy Collins-Haynes and *The Changed Landscape*.
Source: Supplied.

Forever Changed by Judy Collins-Haynes is the 56th show at Art Post Uki. The exhibition, on until 7 May, is not a bold bright brash show, it is one that demands the viewer to linger – the more you look the more you will find. Ten years ago Judy escaped from Brisbane's busy inner-city to a pristine property near Uki. But she soon discovered the land was tainted with human rubbish: plastic bottles, rusty implements, an old squashed caravan chassis. After the shock of discovering the refuse, Judy began to use the contradiction between immense natural beauty and discarded human rubbish in her art by

bringing these two conflicting elements into a quiet harmony.

She uses the stains from the leaves and plants she gathers from the land and combines them with the stains and embossed impressions from discarded objects like rusty saw blades, which she leaves for days, sometimes weeks, waiting for them to yield their stain onto the paper. In some works she adds small whole objects and stitching. If you look very carefully, you will even see in a number of works scraps from a Northern Rivers map showing the overlay of human habitation.

Judy describes the result as 'a kind of wabi-sabi of prints and textiles, bringing together decaying rusting objects with the natural beauty of various leaves and weeds, collage and stitch, which expresses my experience of the beauty and the discomfort.'

The exhibition ends 7 May 2025. It is on display every day at Uki Post Office: 7am–5pm weekdays, 7:30am–12.30pm Saturday and 8am–12:30pm Sunday. For more information visit: artpostuki.com

Art Post Uki is committed to displaying the works of talented artists of the local area in what is truly an unusual venue. The exhibitions are selected by an independent panel and curated by local artist, Susan Kinneally.

BaySounds songwriting comp now open



Got a song in your heart and a story to tell? BayFM and SAE University College are calling for local talent to enter the 2025 BaySounds Songwriting Competition – a celebration of original music from across the Northern Rivers.

Now in full swing, the competition is open to emerging and established songwriters, with two age-based categories: Youth (12–17 years) and Adult (18+ years).

Entries will be judged by a panel of music industry professionals, including

BayFM hosts Ange Kent and Nathan Kaye, as well as award-winning producer and SAE Faculty Lead, Dirk Terrill.

This year's winner will receive an incredible prize pack, including:

- professional recording and mastering of their original track at SAE's world-class recording studio
- a live performance opportunity at SAE Open Day on Saturday 16 August 2025
- four weeks of guaranteed airplay on BayFM 99.9
- filmed promotion of your studio session and live performance for BayFM and SAE's social media platforms
- the winner will be announced live on Northern Rivers Music Box on Friday 25 July at 5pm.

How to enter

Entries are open until midnight, Sunday 22 June. To apply, submit one original track via a streaming link (such as

Bandcamp or SoundCloud), along with:

- a short bio and image
- your lyrics
- a 100-word statement explaining the meaning of your song.

Youth entrants (aged 12–17) must have a parent or guardian sign their application. All entrants must be aged 12 and over; independent artists, not signed to a label; reside in the Northern Rivers, and be an Australian or New Zealand Citizen/Permanent Resident.

Entries must be an original track (song) that does not exceed five minutes duration, and not be a DJ track, instrumental, cover, or parody/spoof song.

Whether you're a bedroom producer, a backyard strummer, or someone who's never shared their music before – this is your chance to shine.

For more information and to enter, visit website: bayfm.org/news/bayfm-and-sae-byron-bay-present-baysounds/

The Wolfman howls

by Mario from Howl & Moan Records, Byron Bay



Doom. Doom. Doom! April is over and it seems that so many good things are finished. Be it school holidays, Bluesfest, Record Store Day and daylight savings, you may think, it is all doom and gloom as the days get shorter and shorter and daylight hours are less and less. Rest assured though, May is shaping up to be a ripper month in the local music scene.

We are featuring the brand new Album by Lismore's three headed beast – Cerberus. Entitled *Summon*, it is a seven-track odyssey through crushing doom, immersive ambience, and hypnotic psychedelia. Rooted in the slow-burning intensity of 70s doom metal and the gritty edge of late 90s sludge hard rock, it is a true piece of Doom goodness. To celebrate this release, two album launches are scheduled – Friday 16 May at Howl & Moan Records in Byron, and Saturday 17 May at Hotel Metropole in Lismore.

Kicking off the month is another awesome event by local legends from Hometown Sounds who are putting on two days of Australia's finest music at the Bangalow Bowlo. On 3–4 May, this South of the Border Festival features Bad//Dreems, Full Flower Moon Band, Floodlights, Dice as well as many more. More fine gigs follow in Bangalow. Byron's own Community Radio station – BayFM – is putting on their Air Waves fundraiser also at the Bowlo, featuring Sydney's genre-bending artist Kirin J Callinan as headliner; with local hot shots Loose Content, Versace Boys, Thirst Trap, Casey May & the Lovers, and StayLucky on Saturday 17 May.

Also in Bangalow on the very next day, Sunday 18 May, young go-getting promoter Messy Fuzz is putting on Brain Fuzz Belly Fest at the A&I Hall with a stacked lineup headlined by Couch Wizard, Fungas, Return to Nagoya and Liminal.

OK... so Bangalow is happening, but if you are in Byron – don't despair – The Wolf's Den (better known as Howl & Moan Records) are putting on a series of young local emerging bands all through May. Kicking it off on 2 May is soul/funk sensations Mohilaa; 16 May with Cerberus and Blindsnake; and 30 May with indie-rockers Drover. Not mention they are hosting a special interstate visitor all the way from WA in Jack Davies and The Bush Chooks on Tuesday 6 May.

Finally, the Farm in Byron has re-scheduled their 10th anniversary to Saturday 3 May from 10am, featuring a

live performance from local rock legends, Bunny Racket, with yours truly following on the DJ decks, keeping the celebrations rocking into the afternoon.

So, fill in your calendar folks as the local live music scene is stacked this May. Rock on.

What's been spinning in the Wolf's Den?

These are five albums I've been spinning to death recently:

- 1. You Am I, *Hi Fi Way***
Celebrating 30 years... (eek, hasn't time flown?)
- 2. Frenzee, *What's wrong with Me***
Direct from Greece via Melbourne. Old school hard rock.
- 3. Media Puzzle, *Strategic Living***
Egg punk from Keen Street, timeless stuff.
- 4. Sun Ra, *Super-Sonic Sounds***
Every day is a good day when Sun Ra visits.
- 5. Ghost Variations, *A Night Mongrel's Guide to Pareidolia***
Yowies do exist in Bexhill.





The science of mantra meditation: how sound heals

by Janina Stokes, Australian School of Meditation and Yoga



Meditation has long been associated with reduced stress, increased focus, inner peace, and increased self-esteem. But among the many forms of meditation on offer today, mantra meditation stands out for its unique ability to harness the immersive power of sound. Science is now catching up with what ancient yogis have known for centuries - chanting mantras is profoundly healing and enjoyable.

The science behind sound and the brain

We can easily notice the power of sound in our everyday life - for example, how does the sound of a waterfall make you

feel, compared to the sound of roadwork? Research shows that the sound of mantras activates the vagus nerve, which is responsible for regulating the nervous system. This stimulation promotes relaxation, reduces heart rate, and helps shift the body from a state of stress (fight or flight) to calm (rest and digest). Chanting mantras can decrease activity in the brain's default mode network - the part responsible for mind-wandering and overthinking. Studies have shown that regular chanting of mantras can reduce cortisol levels, the body's primary stress hormone. While modern research highlights the physiological benefits of mantra meditation, timeless wisdom speaks of its profound impact on the heart and mind.

Why mantras work

The ancient wisdom contained in the yoga texts explain that yoga mantras are transcendental sounds endowed with unlimited spiritual potency. They draw the mind away from all the chaos of our daily lives, letting us dive into the ocean of inner peace and happiness that exists in each and every one of us. Mantras purify one's consciousness and bring deep spiritual insight and inner happiness. Mantra meditation is the most enjoyable form of meditation. By meditating on sacred sounds we reach a state far beyond the worries of life.

How to practise mantra meditation


Here is an easy mantra breathing meditation you can practise anytime, anywhere.

- We'll use the mantra Gauranga chanted for centuries for its profound healing effects.
- Sit, stand or lie down. Take a couple of nice deep breaths to relax – place your hands on your abdomen. As you breathe in, relax your abdomen and feel it expanding. Fill up into your rib cage and up to the top of your lungs, and then slowly exhale, gently contracting your abdomen.
- To begin your meditation: On the inward breath, meditate on the Gauranga mantra in your mind. As you exhale, say the mantra out loud slowly, to the full length of your outward breath. Let your mind rest in the sound of the mantra.
- Keep meditating like this for three–five minutes and then rest quietly and feel the wave of calmness that has flowed over you.


The beauty of mantra meditation is so accessible, simple, and enjoyable. Whether you seek stress relief, mental clarity, or a deeper spiritual connection, chanting sacred sound is a time-tested path to inner peace.

If you'd love to experience mantra meditation in a powerful group setting, join us for our upcoming Full Moon Beach Meditation in Byron later this year - details will be available at the website soon. For more guided meditations, wisdom, and kirtan livestreams, visit: asmy.org.au/online-yoga-wisdom-meditation-resources/

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Welcome to the mould-bowl: the blight in our homes

by Reine DuBoid, Clinical Naturopath and Founder The Health Lodge



Pictured: Talk with Dr Nicole at The Health Lodge. Source: Supplied.

Mould: It might be making you sick and you're probably cleaning it wrong

If you live in the Northern Rivers, you'll likely understand why we have the nickname – mould bowl. Naturally it's everywhere, but the problem is when it decides to set up home on your surfaces, bringing with it much confusion.

Scroll through any local Facebook group discussions, and you'll find people swearing by bleach removal, with others saying that bleach is its food. The list of cleaning options ranges from cinnamon bark to clove oil, tea tree, vinegar and with no distinction between applying these treatments to porous and non-porous surfaces, nor much mention of safety.

Especially after the major water event that was Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the Northern Rivers deserves straight answers. Which is why The Health Lodge (THL) recently hosted Australia's leading expert on mould, home toxins, and electromagnetic fields (EMFs), Dr Nicole Bijlsma.

Her 60 minute talk was packed full of up-to-date information and is a must-listen for anyone struggling with mould in their home or health. Dr Nicole's story started with her own health decline. After moving into a new home, with symptoms of chronic fatigue, insomnia, and 10 miscarriages, she finally realised her home was to blame. Now the founder of Building Biology in Australia, and author of *Healthy Home*, *Healthy Family*, she's spent 25 plus years researching how our homes make us sick.

It's hard to summarise the extensive information Dr Nicole shared, but a few key takeaways stand out:

Mould thrives in damp – and often dirty – conditions, whether from liquid water sources like leaks or steam cleaning, or from consistently high humidity. That's why regular cleaning and maintenance at home is so important. Understanding how water moves around your home can help prevent moisture build-up. You've got about 48 hours after moisture exposure

before mould starts to grow, so keeping your home clean, dry, and dust-free is essential.

Factors like poor-quality building materials, new bathroom builds, and the improper use of air conditioners all contribute to the bigger picture – our homes are alive and constantly reacting to their environment.

When it comes to cleaning mould, don't scrub it, especially on porous surfaces like leather, carpet, or paper – these items are best discarded. For non-porous surfaces, HEPA vacuuming followed by detergent cleaning is the recommended method.

How to safely remove mould from small areas

If you discover small areas of mould (less than 1m²) in your home, follow these evidence-based cleaning methods

- Wear protective gear: use a P2 respirator, disposable gloves, and safety glasses to prevent inhalation or skin exposure.
- For non-porous surfaces apply the HEPA sandwich method:
 - Vacuum with a HEPA-filtered vacuum
 - Wipe with warm soapy water
 - Vacuum again with the HEPA vacuum.
- Discard porous materials: if materials such as carpets, soft furnishings, clothes, art or plasterboard have mould growth, it is advised to replace them.
- Fix moisture problems: identify and resolve leaks, condensation, and ventilation issues to prevent future mould growth.
- Keep surfaces clean, dust attracts mould.
- Avoid harmful cleaners and essential oils: do not use bleach or ozone-generating devices, as these can worsen air quality and fail to remove the root of the problem. Oils like tea tree and eucalyptus can strip the waterproofing barrier of your bathroom.

Dr Nicole also shared insights on chronic mould illness which is a complex, multi-system condition that can affect everything from memory and mood, to sleep and immunity. It's often misdiagnosed, leaving people lost in the medical system. If you're dealing with ongoing fatigue, brain fog, chemical sensitivity, or strange reactions to your own home, mould might be part of the picture.

Testing, cleaning protocols, and prevention strategies were all covered in detail in Dr Nicole's talk, which kicked off THL's Wellness Speaker Series.

To watch the full presentation and learn how to protect your health and home visit: thehealthlodge.com.au/education



Common household poisoning in dogs

by North Coast Veterinary Services

Many common household items pose a risk of poisoning if they are ingested. Dogs are curious creatures and often get into things they shouldn't, making it important for pet owners to be aware of potential toxins lurking around the home. Some substances can be deadly or cause serious harm, so it's essential to know what to consider. Here are some of the most common household poisonings in dogs:

Rat bait: Rat poison is designed to be lethal, and unfortunately, it can be just as dangerous for dogs if ingested. Dogs often come across rat bait when it's used in sheds, verandahs, or outside areas. The active ingredients in many rat poisons, such as anticoagulants, prevent blood from clotting and can cause internal bleeding in dogs. Symptoms of poisoning may include lethargy, coughing, difficulty breathing, blood in the urine or stool, and in severe cases – sudden death. If you suspect your dog has eaten rat bait, contact your veterinarian immediately for treatment.

Snail bait: Snail and slug baits are commonly used in gardens to control pests, but they can be incredibly toxic to dogs. The active ingredient, metaldehyde, causes symptoms like drooling, vomiting, tremors, seizures, and in extreme cases, death. The poison can act quickly, so it's essential to keep your dog away from treated areas and immediately seek veterinary care if ingestion occurs.

Grapes and sultanas: While grapes and sultanas (raisins) are highly toxic to dogs. The exact cause of the toxicity is still unknown, but ingestion of even a small amount can lead to kidney failure in some dogs and we can't tell which grapes may be toxic. Symptoms of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and abdominal pain. In severe cases, the dog may develop kidney failure, which can be fatal without prompt treatment. If your dog eats grapes or sultanas, contact your vet immediately, and be prepared to have them treated with intravenous fluids to protect their kidneys.

Chocolate: Chocolate contains theobromine, a substance that dogs cannot metabolise efficiently. The darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is. Ingesting chocolate can lead to symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, increased heart rate, tremors, seizures, and in severe cases, death. The toxicity level depends on the type and amount of chocolate consumed, as well as the size of the dog. Dark chocolate, cocoa powder, and baking chocolate are especially hazardous. If you think your dog has eaten chocolate, contact your vet immediately.

Onion: Onions, along with garlic, leeks, and chives, contain compounds that can cause damage to a dog's red blood cells, leading to anemia. Even small amounts of onion, whether raw, cooked, or powdered, can be harmful. Smaller dogs are generally more affected. Symptoms of onion poisoning include lethargy, weakness, reduced appetite, vomiting, and diarrhoea. In more severe cases, dogs may experience jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes) and collapse. If you suspect your dog has eaten onion or any related vegetables, contact your vet for guidance on treatment, which may include blood work, supportive care, and possibly medication to protect the liver.

What to do if your dog is poisoned

If you believe your dog has ingested something toxic, the first thing to do is stay calm and contact your veterinarian or an emergency vet clinic immediately. The sooner your dog receives treatment, the better the chance of a full recovery. It's also helpful to have the packaging or a description of the substance your dog ingested, as this will assist the veterinarian in determining the best course of action.

Depending on the case of poisoning, your vet may induce vomiting, administer activated charcoal to absorb toxins, provide a blood transfusion or intravenous fluids and medication to support your dog's organs. Always seek professional care, as many poisons require specific treatments to minimise damage and prevent long-term health issues.



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Byron beaches part of huge turtle rescue op



*Pictured: Turtle hatchlings on NSW beach.
Source: Merryn Dunleavy.*

While most of us batted down the hatches for Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred's approach in March, local wildlife heroes were quietly staging one of the largest turtle egg rescues ever seen in New South Wales.

In an extraordinary operation led by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and NSW TurtleWatch, more than 1,000 endangered loggerhead turtle eggs were saved from surging seas and pounding waves on beaches between Tweed Heads and

south of Port Macquarie. The eggs were placed in incubators, many of which were 45-litre eskies retrofitted with sand, heat pads, and temperature monitors. The huge operation was incredibly delicate, as it was vital to ensure the eggs maintained their original vertical orientation inside the incubators during transportation, and remained at 26.5°C.

NSW TurtleWatch Project Officer Merryn Dunleavy said more than 300 hours were spent on the beach monitoring, rescuing and relocating these eggs, with teams working around the clock in the wild weather. Rescued nests were cared for and released by regional wildlife groups including Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue, Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, and others across the state.

'Each of our nests are very loved by our local communities, so it was great to confirm to them that the nests had been rescued and will now have a chance at survival,' said Merryn.

After a 10 day wait, the first eggs hatched, and 317 turtle hatchlings were successfully released at low tide on North Kingscliff and Seven Mile beaches, followed by more at Wooli Beach. Hatching rates are between 85–96%, with the success made possible by collaborations between trained NPWS staff, TurtleWatch volunteers, wildlife carers and citizen scientists.

With many rescued nests still hatching and hatchlings making their way to the sea, the story of these turtles is far from over – but thanks to the dedication of locals and volunteers, they've got a brighter future ahead.

How to use lighting in your garden

by Plateau Landscape Supplies



Outdoor lights are excellent for creating ambience and extending the use of your garden into the night. They create warmth and atmosphere when you are entertaining and can highlight unique plants, sculptures or water features. Lights in your outdoor space also provide practical illumination, ensuring safety for your family and visitors and deterring intruders.

Light fittings need to suit their location

The key to successful garden lighting is balance. You don't want it to be too harsh or dominating. Think about the purpose of light placement. For example, do you want lights to guide visitors along a garden path or to subtly highlight a particular tree? This will help you decide if you need a horizontal or vertical lighting solution.

Emphasise your garden's best feature

If you have a beautiful tree or sculpture, highlight it with lighting. Consider how the light will reflect and the impact this will have on the atmosphere. Less is more is a good approach when highlighting aspects of your outdoor space.

Choose quality fittings – brass is best

Garden lights must withstand weather extremes. The key is to invest in durable, well-made fittings that will last. We recommend brass lights, which are resistant to corrosion and will withstand the elements.

Practise restraint

You don't want your garden to look like a theme park. It is important to keep a balance of light and dark and to take people on a journey. Choosing what not to illuminate is just as important when placing lights.

Well-planned garden lighting

The most successful garden lighting schemes are well-planned. Ideally, you want to install your electricity before the plants go in. Features and plants come next, and then you choose the effects and fittings you want. But if you have no power, there will be no light.

Player spotlight: Dr Emma Gordon

by Byron Bay Pickleball Committee



Dr Emma Gordon (pictured), a local GP with a passion for pickleball, has found a perfect blend of health, sport, and community in Byron Bay. Originally from Poole, a coastal town in the UK, Emma grew up immersed in sports, particularly tennis, which she played almost daily.

Her journey into medicine began with school work experience, sparking a desire to making a positive impact on people's lives. After university she spent five years working in UK hospitals gaining invaluable experience, before transitioning to general practice. 'I was drawn to a role where I could build

closer relationships with patients, practise holistic care, and have a better work-life balance, whilst staying connected to the community.'

Emma always had a passion for travel and exploring new places, 'Australia intrigued me with its climate and culture'. Now settled in Byron Bay, Emma is thriving both professionally and personally, working as a GP at the Meadows Medical Centre Mullumbimby and Ananda Clinic in Byron.

Emma discovered pickleball last year while driving past the Cavanbah Centre with her husband, Mark. 'We gave it a go and were hooked,' she says. While her hard hitting tennis skills gave her an edge, pickleball's finesse and strategy won her over. 'I find pickleball more enjoyable than tennis now, largely due to the social aspect and the people I've met at the BBPC.'

Emma recently won gold and silver at the QPT Gold Coast tournament in mixed and women's doubles, fuelling her competitive spirit for future events.

As a GP, Emma champions physical

activity for its role in preventing chronic diseases, boosting mental health, and enhancing longevity. 'Pickleball fits perfectly into an active lifestyle,' she says. Its low-impact nature, smaller court, and accessibility make it ideal for all ages, offering cardiovascular benefits, better coordination, and social connection.

Her tip for beginners? 'Watch advanced games online – focus on strategy and patience, not just winners.'

Beyond medicine and pickleball, Emma enjoys Byron's offerings – pilates, beach walks, surfing, and her local book club.

A surprising tidbit? She used to do independent skydiving, though she jokes, 'I'm too old and cautious now.'

For Emma, pickleball isn't just a game – it's a prescription for health and happiness.

For more information please check out our website: revolutionise.com.au/byronbaypc/about

Until next month keep pickleing.

Byron FC Soccer Club grand opening



*Pictured: Club members cut red ribbon at grand opening.
Source: Mike Egan, byronwaves.com.*

After a decade of dedication, Byron Bay Football Club (BBFC) recently celebrated a major milestone with the official opening of the brand-new Grill'd Byron Bay FC Community Clubhouse – a project that's been 10 years in the making.

The event was a heartfelt celebration and a chance to thank

the many people who played a role in bringing the vision to life. Foundation Members, major sponsors, BBFC Life Members, and local leaders including Mayor (and former BBFC coach) Sarah Ndiaye and Deputy Mayor Jack Dods were among those in attendance.

Special recognition was given to some key contributors: John McKay for his vision and drive; Clinton Bown for years of tireless fundraising; Nina Cowan for securing vital government support; and Todd Knaus for delivering a top-notch final build and backing the Club every step of the way.

The Clubhouse is already proving its value – hosting a massive muster day and committee meetings throughout the week. It's a long-awaited home base for the BBFC community and a space that will serve players, coaches, and families for years to come. BBFC says everyone's welcome to come and enjoy the new Clubhouse this season. The Club also extended a huge thanks to all who made it possible.



Trombone of Parrots: TOP Party politics

An interview with Billy Bob Thoughtson

With the Federal Election well underway, this month we interview Mr Billy Bob Thoughtson, newly appointed Chairman of the Trombone of Parrots (TOP) political party.

Mr Thoughtson, can you tell us more about the Trombone of Parrots Party?

The TOP Party is a loud, repetitive, and utterly vacuous political movement that believes volume is a substitute for vision. We are dedicated to repeating whatever loud, populist nonsense we hear, but with extra brass. That's right we are inspired by brass instruments and exotic birds that mimic whatever they hear. The TOP Party specialises in blaring simplistic slogans, endlessly repeating half-baked ideas, and drowning out meaningful debate with sheer noise. TOP Party is less about good government and more about making sure everyone hears us – whether they want to or not.

Your party sounds similar to another party funded by a billionaire, are there any differences?

Not really. Both rely on a billionaire's wallet, an oversized media presence, and a strategy of shouting simplistic slogans until they stick. However, while some billionaire-backed parties pretend to have deep ideological convictions, the TOP Party embraces its true identity: a noisy, attention-seeking spectacle that repeats whatever gets the biggest reaction. The only real difference is that TOP isn't just blowing hot air – it's doing it through a brass instrument, with a chorus of parrots squawking in agreement.

A lot of commentators say your platform is the same as Donald Trump's. How do you respond to that?

Look, I take that as a compliment. Trump understands the golden rule of politics: say it loud, say it often, and never admit you're wrong. But let's be clear, while Trump mastered angry shouting, the TOP Party specialises in brassy, tuneful shouting. Unlike Trump, we don't just repeat our own words – we repeat everyone's words. That is why we're the Trombone of Parrots, not just the Trombone of One Very Orange Parrot. That said, if Trump wants to have a go at blowing my trombone for his next rally, I'd be honoured.

Some analysts suggest that the use of the term 'trombone' is quite lurid and a sexual act.

What nonsense, any other meanings are purely coincidental, though I have to admit, the idea of making a lot of noise while enthusiastically servicing someone else's interests does sound a lot like modern politics. If people are finding hidden meanings in 'Trombone,' then clearly, we haven't been loud enough about the real message. But let me be clear: the only thing the TOP Party is interested in blowing is our own trumpet – I mean – trombone. Besides, if we really wanted to be suggestive, we'd have called ourselves the Big Horn of Australia Party. But I'm saving that for the next erection – I mean – election.

Who are the Parrots?

The Parrots are devoted followers, media personalities, and social media warriors who mindlessly repeat whatever the

Trombone of Parrots (TOP) Party blares out. They thrive on catchphrases, outrage, and the comforting sound of their own echo chamber. Whether they're ranting about 'common sense policies' (without explaining them) or insisting that anyone who disagrees is un-Australian, these Parrots don't think for themselves, they just squawk whatever they've been told, louder each time. Some are paid, some are true believers, but together, they create a deafening chorus that drowns out reasoned debate. Our key catchphrase is 'Make Australia Brass Again!' – bringing back the golden age of noise-based politics. We've also got our campaign jingle, which is just me shouting 'Vote TOP – A Top Vote,' over a trombone solo.

What is your economic plan for Australia?

Our economic plan is simple: Make Money Loud Again. We believe that if you just say 'jobs' and 'growth' enough times – preferably through a megaphone – then the economy will naturally fix itself. That's why we're introducing the Echo Stimulus Package, where we just keep repeating 'lower taxes' and 'strong economy' until everyone believes it's happening. We'll also abolish complicated numbers like trillion dollar debt, deficits, and inflation because, frankly, they just confuse people. Instead, we'll measure economic success in decibels, if people are talking about the economy more loudly, that means confidence is up.

What do you think of the major political party leaders and minor party leaders like Clive Palmer?

Look, I respect anyone who can stand in front of a microphone and make noise for hours on end. But let's be honest – Albo and Dutton are doing it all wrong. Albo tries to placate everyone, but being reasonable is his fatal flaw. People don't want reason they want repetition. They want catchphrases and a leader who says the same thing six times in a row, getting slightly louder each time. Dutton, on the other hand, has the perfect lizard-like frowning intensity, but where's the brass? Where's the showmanship? If you want to run the country, you've got to belt it out like a trombone solo at full volume. Now, as for Clive Palmer – a true inspiration. He understands that politics is about being seen, heard, and plastered on every available billboard. He knows that saying the words 'freedom' and 'Australia' over and over again is basically a policy platform. We in the TOP Party respect that, but where he relies on sheer size – bigger ads, bigger claims, bigger budgets – we rely on sheer noise.

Thankfully, we've come to the end of the interview. Do you have any final words for the Australian public?

Absolutely. Voters, remember: if a politician says something confidently and loudly enough – it must be true. That's why I encourage you to trust the party that specialises in volume over vision, slogans over substance, and repetition over reason. When you step into that polling booth, ask yourself: Do I want policies, or do I want a party that blasts reassuring noises straight into my eardrums? If it's the latter, then there's only one choice: Vote TOP – A Top Vote!

Authorised by Billy Bob Thoughtson, Chairperson, Trombone of Parrots (TOP) Party. Written and spoken with maximum volume and minimal thoughtson anything, proudly repeated multiple times for no reason whatsoever.



An Award-Winning Spiritual Film



"What we would see if we were really serious about understanding consciousness" —Jeffrey J. Kripal, PhD
Scholar of Comparative Religion

"A film beautiful in its simplicity, yet brilliantly profound" —Ray Lynch
Three-Time Billboard Award-Winning
Musician/Composer/Producer

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AVATAR ADI DA SAMRAJ

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This Month

with Milt Barlow

At the movies

May is looking like a cracker of a month, with big new releases and some quirky indie releases at the cinema.

If you're a fan of the Marvel Universe then put 1 May into your diary for the release of *Thunderbolts*. This is actually the 36th film in the Marvell franchise and the reliable 'bang-bang shoot 'em up' continues to deliver. This time around a group of antiheroes is caught in a deadly trap, forcing them into a dangerous mission that could bring redemption if they can unite as a team. And this is where the difficulty lies.

Getting a good buzz is new Australian based film, *The Surfer* (15 May). Starring Nicholas Cage, it was shot in Western Australia and is directed by Irish filmmaker Lorcan Finnegan (*Vivarium*). The thriller follows the story of a man who returns to Australia from the US to buy his family home in a small surfing community. After being humiliated in front of his son by local surfers, he defies the locals to remain on the beach, a move which ends up bringing him to the edge of his sanity, and causes him to question his whole identity. Cage is a great actor and always shines in small budget films – here he does not disappoint. It's definitely worth a look.

Of course, the big one for this month is on 17 May when Mr Cruise returns in *Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning*. The movie is the sequel to the original *Dead Reckoning*, and Tom is back bigger and better than ever in this non-stop action classic. One of the many things I love about *Mission Impossible* movies is Tom doing his own stunts, and he does not disappoint here, even jumping from a fighter jet and dangling from an upside down plane. This time around Ethan is trying to stop a powerful AI program, called The Entity, from wreaking havoc on the world and falling into the wrong hands. Hey, we don't go and see these movies for the plot – it's for the action. And as you would expect it's non-stop from beginning to end. This is one for the big screen. Don't miss it.

On the couch

Well, the whole world is talking about it and if you have not seen *Adolescence* (Netflix) then this is one to put at the very top of your watch list. It's exhausting. But as soon as you finish it you want to watch it again. Which I did. British actor Stephen Graham who created the series with Jack Thorne and stars, is superb as the dad of a 13 year old boy who is arrested after the murder of a girl at his school. New first time actor Owen Cooper is unbelievably good as the accused. Each episode of the series is shot in one take, and it's simply the best thing I have seen on streaming this year. Watch it scoop up every award in the world.



May crossword

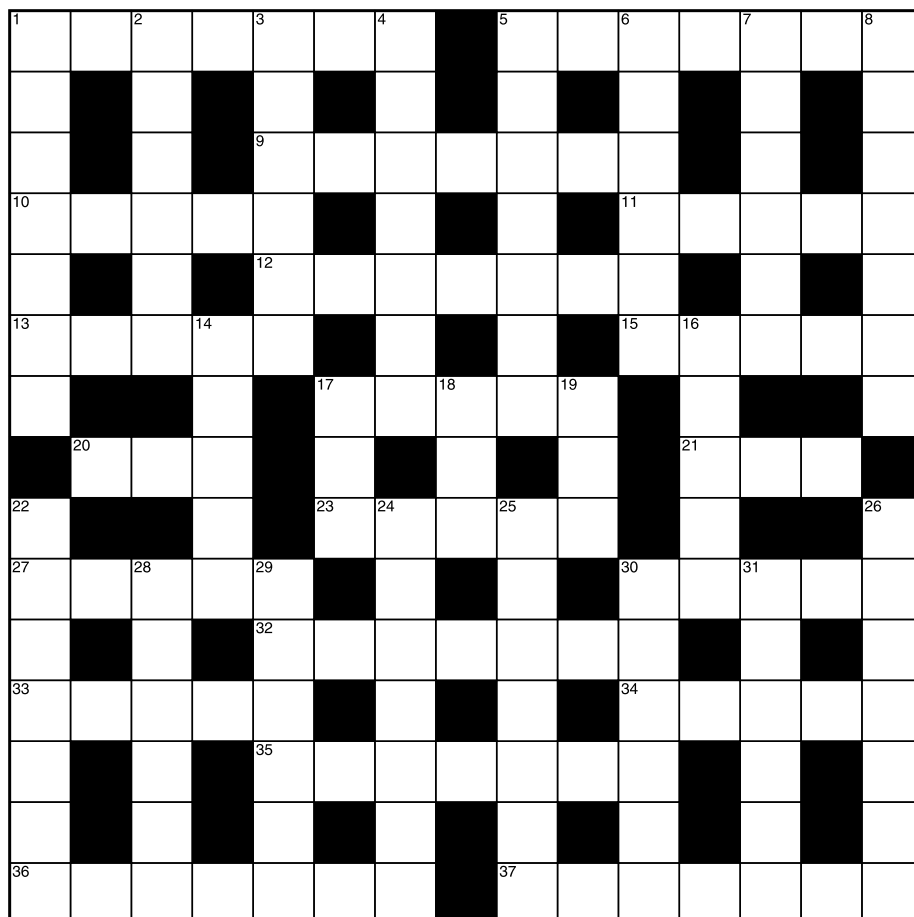
© Lovatts Puzzles

Across

1. Actor/director, Kenneth ...
5. Randomness (3,4)
9. Show of courage
10. Lethal
11. Yearly holidays, annual ...
12. Perpetual
13. Spoken tests
15. Family car
17. Russian emperors
20. In the past
21. Owned
23. Roasted
27. Carried (gun)
30. Collision
32. Knocks back (proposal)
33. Drenched
34. Astonish
35. Set up (machinery)
36. Weirdness
37. Space flight

Down

1. Clown
2. Writer, ... Christie
3. Strolls
4. Skies
5. Organiser
6. Cave-dwelling monsters
7. Towards the top
8. Seoul natives
14. Unrestrained
16. Anaesthetic gas
17. Bar account
18. Inquire
19. Distressing
22. Sneeze noise (1-6)
24. Twiddles with
25. Shout
26. Goaded (5,2)
28. Earmarked
29. Solid CO2 (3,3)
30. Biblical prayers
31. Tennis ace, Andre ...



Tricky Trivia

Election edition

1. Who holds the record for the biggest election landslide in Australian history?
2. Which Prime Minister lost the most seats in a single Australian Federal Election?
3. Who is the only sitting Prime Minister to lose their own seat?
4. Which election resulted in a hung parliament in recent Australian history?
5. Who led the longest election campaign in modern Australia?
6. Which Australian Federal Election had the highest voter turnout?
7. Who was the only Australian leader to win an election and be replaced less than three years later?
8. What unusual event caused an entire Senate election to be re-run?
9. Which modern election had the longest Senate ballot paper?
10. What was the biggest political comeback in recent Australian elections?

– If you thought this was bad, wait til you see the answers...



Horoscopes

by Patsy Bennett - patsybennett.com



Aries

The sun in your finance sector will put focus on this important aspect of your planning in May, so be prepared to strategise financially. You may even receive surprise news towards the 24th. Venus spotlights romance on the 2nd and 6th, providing ideal romantic prospects.



Taurus

May is ideal for boosting your projects. Both finances and collaborations will be a focus, as you gain the chance to turn a corner in one or both areas. You'll enjoy socialising and engaging with fresh options, especially early in the month. The 24th may bring surprise news your way.



Gemini

You'll gain the opportunity to begin a fresh phase in your personal life if you were born in May, and at work and with your health if you're a June Twin. An upbeat month also promotes hard work. Mid-month, a tough decision must be taken with the view to your future, not your past.



Cancer

Pieces of a puzzle will fall into place for you, especially concerning practical matters, such as finances, work and domestic arrangements. However, you may need to review some expectations so that you gain the opportunity to pave your way ahead in the most therapeutic way.



Leo

Mars in Leo makes constructive aspects with Saturn, Venus and Neptune, creating the ideal seedbed for progress, especially regarding your productivity and collaborations. You may need to re-evaluate who – and what – is most important to you mid-month. Choose wisely.



Virgo

Make the most of romantic skies, especially early May. You'll also be drawn to improve work and career options. The full moon on the 13th will spotlight where you may be liable to draw a line emotionally. Be sure to trust your gut and avoid allowing strong emotions to rule your life in May.



Libra

This will be a constructive month, but also potentially fiery, especially in the areas of work, health and relationships. May's circumstances will require you to be flexible so luckily, as an air sign, you tend to be adaptable. A sociable month will encourage more connections and deeper learning.



Scorpio

The Scorpio full moon on the 13th will spotlight your feelings towards someone in particular. You may experience an unsettling time as key decisions must be made. Earlier in the month, keep an eye on where your true motivation lies so that you are able to make valid choices.



Sagittarius

It's time to gently close a door from your past and to welcome an exciting new chapter. For many, this will be at work and for some, regarding health and wellbeing. A personal or business relationship with command your attention, so be sure to maintain your own perspective.



Capricorn

You'll appreciate investing time, energy or money in your home and family. If you feel unsure about whether your efforts will succeed, keep an eye on facts and figures and be sure to be practical when looking at future plans. You'll see a new opportunity crystallise towards the end of the month.



Aquarius

It's a good month to put your ideas into practice and, if you have not yet formed a plan, it's an excellent time for research. News around the 3rd will provide accurate information regarding your prospects and the new moon on the 27th spotlights the chance to diversify domestic matters.



Pisces

Key aspects of your work, your past and logistics take your attention in May. You'll be drawn to fresh territory, travel and adventure, so allow your imagination to soar to enable new influences, people and ideas to enter your life. Domestic changes needn't overwhelm you if you're practical.



Trivia answers

Election edition

1. In the 1996 Federal Election, John Howard's Coalition secured a decisive victory over Paul Keating's Labor Party, gaining a significant majority in the House of Representatives.
2. In the 1996 election, Paul Keating's Labor Government experienced a substantial loss, ceding numerous seats to John Howard's Coalition.
3. John Howard, in the 2007 Federal Election, lost his seat of Bennelong to Labor's Maxine McKew while Kevin Rudd led Labor to victory.
4. The 2010 Federal Election led to a hung parliament, with Labor and the Coalition both securing 72 seats each. Julia Gillard subsequently formed a minority government with the support of independents and the Greens.
5. In 2016, Malcolm Turnbull called for a double dissolution election, resulting in a 55-day campaign, one of the longest in recent history.
6. The 2016 Federal Election saw a voter turnout of approximately 91%, with 14.3 million votes cast out of 15.7 million registered voters.
7. Malcolm Turnbull, after winning the 2016 election, was replaced by Scott Morrison in 2018 following an internal party leadership challenge.
8. The 2013 Western Australia Senate election was voided due to the loss of 1,370 ballots during a recount, leading to a re-run in 2014.
9. The 2013 Federal Election featured a notably large Senate ballot paper, especially in New South Wales, due to a high number of candidates.
10. In the 2019 Federal Election, Scott Morrison led the Coalition to a surprise victory, defying pre-election polls that had predicted a Labor win.

Crossword solution

April

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

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