

# the byron wave

thebyronwave.com.au

Community news for Byron Bay and surrounds

Issue 13 | December 2023



**HAPPY**  
*Holidays*  
from the team at  
**Harcourts**  
P 6686 1100 [harcourtsnr.com.au](http://harcourtsnr.com.au)

BALLINA  
BYRON BAY  
LISMORE

# amir prestige

## Grand Summer Auction Event

### WHY IS THIS THE PERFECT MOMENT TO BUY OR SELL?

The current stable interest rates have created an ideal financial climate, elevating your chances of making strategic investments or securing a profitable sale on your home. Imagine capitalising on this advantageous environment, where your real estate and financial dreams can become a reality!

We've seen a surge in inquiries from qualified buyers in Sydney and Melbourne, adding vitality to our dynamic marketplace. This, along with our proven track record, showcases our ability to deliver outstanding results.

Our recent Grand Auction Events, with sales surpassing \$130 million, underscore the value of these occasions. This unique blend of factors presents an unmatched opportunity for both buyers and sellers. Whether you're seeking your dream home or pursuing a lucrative property deal, we're here to navigate this thriving real estate landscape with you.

**Don't miss your chance to immerse yourself in this vibrant market! Secure your spot at our exclusive event by registering now at [www.grandsummerauctionevent.com](http://www.grandsummerauctionevent.com).**



REGISTER  
NOW



SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO

*Get in touch with us today!*

P | 02 6680 72075 & 6 / 5 BYRON STREET, BYRON BAY, NSW 2481

[amirprestige.com.au](http://amirprestige.com.au)



Dear Readers

In this edition of *The Byron Wave*, we celebrate our first birthday. We are so grateful for the unwavering support of the Byron Shire. It is your stories that make up the heart and soul of our community, and for that, we thank you. Within these pages, there is something for everyone – particularly as we enter the festive season.

You will find our local legend – Mary Gardner, whose dedication to documenting our natural environment has left an everlasting imprint on our town. Though she has passed, her legacy lives on through a collection of works. We also share the first hand account of a young neurodivergent local as he sheds light on his independence holiday experience with a local respite service.

Thank you for being an integral part of our magazine's journey, sharing stories that echo the heartbeat of our Shire.

Merry Christmas and see you next year.

Charla Rallings, Editor.

### Contact us



Got a story? Get in touch.

Phone: 0432 285 223

Email: [editor@thebyronwave.com.au](mailto:editor@thebyronwave.com.au)

### Follow us

Join our community for all the latest.

  [thebyronwave](https://www.thebyronwave.com.au)

Website | [thebyronwave.com.au](https://www.thebyronwave.com.au)

### Advertise with us

Get the word out.

Advertising: Northern Rivers Media Pty Ltd

Email: [sales@northernriversmedia.com.au](mailto:sales@northernriversmedia.com.au)

Phone: 0412 461 559

### Publisher



Email: [milt@northernriversmedia.com.au](mailto:milt@northernriversmedia.com.au)

Address: PO Box 407, Lennox Head, NSW

Phone: 0412 461 559

### Managing Editor

Kate Parry

Email: [editor@theballinawave.com.au](mailto:editor@theballinawave.com.au)

Phone: 0424 610 732

### Cover photo credit

Location: Tallow Beach

Photographer: Wil Styles

Instagram: @wilstyles

### 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

Editorial content does not necessarily reflect the views of the Publisher. Care is taken to ensure accuracy at the time of print. No liability will be taken for inaccurate information provided by contributors or advertisers. We take no responsibility for the content or images within.




**PROTRACTOR**  
VERSATILE TERRAIN SOLUTIONS

**SLASHING - MOWING & MULCHING**

**GIVE US A CALL**

**0407 126 056**

**PROTRACTOR**  
SPECIALISING IN SLOPING AND UNEVEN BLOCKS

[bookings@protractor.com.au](mailto:bookings@protractor.com.au)

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

## Do you suffer from Knee, Ankle or Foot Pain ?

"We can help you get your spring back in your step!"

### General Podiatry Services

- Ingrown Toe Nails
- Dry Cracked Heels
- Fungal Nail Treatments
- Diabetic Assessments
- Home Visits Available



Jo Pollett - Senior Podiatrist



Matt Frogley - Director and Senior Podiatrist



Jim Walker - Senior Podiatrist

**We accept Health Funds and Medicare Care Plans from your GP**

Monday - Friday: 9am-5pm  
02 6687 7717  
info@coastpodiatry.com.au

coastpodiatry.com.au  
1/64 Ballina Street, Lennox Head



From the Editor ..... 3

This issue ..... 5

Around town ..... 7

Birthday message ..... 8

News..... 10

Community..... 12

Property..... 24

In Focus ..... 28

Local Legends ..... 30

Historic Byron..... 35

Travel..... 37

Lifestyle ..... 38

Family ..... 42

Education ..... 44

Arts ..... 48

Health and wellbeing ..... 50

Environment ..... 52

Pets and animals..... 54

Sport ..... 56

Entertainment..... 58

Horoscopes..... 62

Entertainment answers ..... 63



**28** In Focus  
A relaxing respite



**30** Local Legends  
Mary Gardner



**35** Historic Byron  
Bangalow Heritage House



*Make your job EASY!*

The best hire equipment available  
**KEN OATH!**

**Go The Bay!**

**4 Centennial Cct** (The Byron Arts & Industrial Estate)  
**Byron Bay** Ph **02 6639 8600**

Also located in **Lismore**

# Healthcare Reimagined

Bringing together the region's most respected and progressive practitioners to deliver a new standard in patient-centred healthcare.

First Light Healthcare is currently accepting new patients across both Byron Bay and Ballina clinics.



FLH



Dr Tonya Coren  
Byron Bay/Ballina



Dr Hugh MacLeod  
Byron Bay/Ballina



Dr Lara Devlin  
Byron Bay



Dr Pramuk Jayatilake  
Byron Bay



Dr Emma Harvey  
Byron Bay



Dr Sarah Konsten  
Byron Bay



Dr Charles McDonald  
Byron Bay



Dr Kelly Hawke  
Byron Bay



Dr Harriet Sandison  
Byron Bay



Dr Stuart Glastonbury  
Byron Bay



Dr Jo Adendorff  
Ballina



Dr Gareth Holland  
Ballina



Dr Rob Sheahan  
Ballina



Dr Virsha Ker  
Ballina



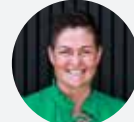
Dr Wee Sian Ong  
Ballina



Dr Tim Peacock  
Ballina



Dr Elizabeth Hicks  
Ballina



Dr Laura Taylor  
Ballina



Dr Felicity Booy  
Ballina



Danni Turner  
Physiotherapist



Andrew Olsen  
Physiotherapist



Mark Goetjes  
Osteopath



Nicola Cook  
Hand Therapist



Kate Goswell  
Women's & Men's  
Pelvic Health  
Physiotherapist



Rebecca Buckley  
Exercise Physiologist



Matthew Buckley  
Exercise Physiologist



Gabrielle Coulthurst  
Accredited Dietitian



Elizabeth Margules  
Psychologist



Dr Jan Peter Siefken  
Psychiatrist



Dr Tony Cakar  
Specialist Paediatric  
Dentist



Dr Tim Wood  
Sports & Exercise  
Physician



Dr Candice Silverman  
Laparoscopic Surgeon



Dr Paul Amailuk  
Oral & Maxillofacial  
Surgeon



Dr Michael Facek  
Orthopedic Surgeon





**What:** LIL' CHEEKY  
**When:** Sundays 10 and 17 December, 2pm  
**Where:** Brunswick Picture House

Our family friendly circus bonanza is back for the last time in 2023. A family-friendly cabaret with circus, comedy, a good dose of hijinks and surprise. The kids will love it and so will you. Tickets and info: brunswickpicturehouse.com



**What:** Pink Floyd's, *The Dark Side Of The Moon*, Quad Experience  
**When:** Thursday 14, Friday 15 December, 7pm  
**Where:** Byron Theatre

Experience this iconic album in its original quadraphonic mixing by the prolific Alan Parsons. Friday's event will be followed by live music. Tickets and info: byroncentre.com.au/theatre



**What:** Community Christmas Party  
**When:** Friday 22 December from 4:30pm  
**Where:** Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

Come along for some Christmas cheer, shopping, wildlife experiences and much more at the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Tickets and info: byronbaywildlifesanctuary.com.au



**What:** SUN ROOM, debut Australian tour  
**When:** Friday 29 December  
**Where:** The Northern, Byron Bay

Combining garage with the iconic SoCal surf sound, this 4-piece Californian band will excite with flavours of 70s classic rock, 80s new wave, and a decent serving of surf thrash. Tickets and info: thenorthernfb.oztix.com.au



**What:** Soul Street  
**When:** New Years Eve, 31 December  
**Where:** Jonson Street and Denning Park.

Soul Street is a free, zero-waste, family-friendly event with live music, performers, street dining, and kids' activities from 4pm to 9pm. For more info visit: byron.nsw.gov.au



**What:** *Overweight Lightweight* by Dave O'Neil  
**When:** Thursday 4 January, 2024, 7:00pm  
**Where:** Byron Theatre

Comedian Dave O'Neil brings his new stand-up show to Byron after playing to sold-out audiences at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Tickets and info: byroncentre.com.au/theatre

### Monthly Markets

1st Saturday	Brunswick Heads
1st Sunday	Byron Bay Pottsville Beach
2nd Saturday	Bangalow Flea Market Woodburn
2nd Sunday	Lennox Head 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	Lennox Head Nimbin

### Weekly Farmers Markets

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

### Byron Twilight Markets

Every Saturday, Railway Park, Byron Bay  
 Between 4pm – 9pm, until April 2024

**For more information visit  
[visitbyronbay.com](http://visitbyronbay.com)**



**To all our contributors, readers and advertisers, thank you.  
Without your support there would be no *Byron Wave*.**

#### FROM THE PUBLISHER



In mid 2022, as our 'new baby' *The Ballina Wave* was approaching its first birthday, we made a decision to 'complete the loop' in the Northern Rivers by launching *The Byron Wave* in December 2022.

We believed that it was the right time to offer an alternative community publication for the Byron Shire. Our formula was the same as our sister publications of *The Ballina Wave* and *The Lennox Wave*. No politics. No ranting and raving. Just embracing the lives, aspirations, triumphs and challenges of the Byron Shire community. In doing so, it was important for us to ensure all of the towns in the Shire have a voice, from Mullumbimby to Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads to Bangalow, Suffolk Park, and of course, Byron.

The acceptance of *The Byron Wave* in our first year from the community has been wonderful and humbling. Each month our community comes together and submits terrific, relevant local news and stories. To that we add what we hope are interesting feature stories and other articles of interest under the guidance of our wonderful Editor of *The Byron Wave*, Charla Rallings. Thank you Charla for your tireless focus, enthusiasm and creativity.

So as we celebrate our very first birthday, thank you to our community for believing in, and supporting us. And of course there would be no *Byron Wave* without the support of our advertisers. Thank you to each and every one who has joined us on this journey. We look forward to another great year serving the wonderful Byron Shire community.

**Milf Barlow, Publisher, Northern Rivers Media**





A big congratulations to *The Byron Wave* on its one year anniversary. So good to see a local publication providing quality journalism. Well done, to the whole team.

**Mayor Michael Lyon, Byron Shire Council**

Congratulations to the incredible team at *The Byron Wave* for a whole year of successful local journalism. I am so proud of the independent and community-minded media landscape we have in this electorate.

**Tamara Smith, MP for Ballina**

An incredible new addition to *The Wave* publications, congratulations on your first year of many supporting the community and businesses in our region.

**Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital.**

Happy 1st Birthday *Byron Wave* and thank you for creating a wonderful space to showcase all the exciting things that happen here at Byron Bay Public School. We love being part of the Byron Bay community which is home to most of our students, their families and many of our staff.

**Byron Bay Public School**

A heartfelt thanks to *The Byron Wave*. It's so important to have diverse sources of local media. Congratulations on a fantastic first year.

**Cr Sarah Ndiaye, Byron Shire Council**

Rotary Byron Bay says a huge congratulations to *The Byron Wave* on its first anniversary. We are so grateful for the chance to connect with community through your pages and love the content you share.

**Byron Bay Rotary**

Wishing *The Byron Wave* Magazine, a heartfelt congratulations on their first anniversary. Your commitment to capturing the essence of Byron has been a source of inspiration, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you in the years to come.

**Byron Community Centre**

Happy first year anniversary to *The Byron Wave*. Thank you for supporting our CWA Branch in Brunswick Heads throughout the year. Your magazine has kept us all in the know about what is going on and has brought our individual communities closer together. How lucky we are to live in this most beautiful part of the world. Best wishes for the future success for many years to come.

**CWA Brunswick Heads Branch**

Congratulations and a very happy first birthday to the fantastic team at *The Byron Wave*. In just your first year *The Byron Wave* has proven to be such an important community source of local news, events and information. Thank you for being a strong voice for our region and I wish you all the best into the future.

**Justine Elliot, Federal MP for Richmond**

We at Byron Bay Preschool really appreciate *The Wave* because your magazine and its stories raise up children and families and educate our community.

**Byron Bay Preschool**

Reaching the community through *The Byron Wave* has been an avenue for connection to ideas and learning at the Library! Thanks for supporting Byron Area Libraries achieve this. Happy 1st Birthday *Byron Wave*.

**Byron Bay Library**

Congratulations, *Byron Wave*, on reaching your first milestone! Mullum High is thrilled to celebrate your first birthday with you. Wishing you continued success and many more years of achievements ahead!

**Mullumbimby High School**





## Council news

### Byron Shire Council 2022/2023 Annual Report

The recently released 2022/2023 Byron Shire Council Annual Report is now accessible to the public online, showcasing the Council's endeavours over the past year ending on 30 June, 2023. Highlighting the collaborative efforts between staff and Councillors, the report reveals that out of the 399 identified actions, Council achieved an impressive 80%, a notable improvement from the 73% in the previous year.

Key accomplishments featured in the report involve the unveiling of the \$2.6 million Byron Bay Skate Park at Jarjumirr Park and the replacement of several causeways and bridges. Additionally, substantial road improvements were made on various routes, including The Pocket Road, Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby, South Golden Beach roads, Main Arm Road, Midgen Flat Road, and Whian Road. The report also recognises the Dogs in Public Spaces Strategy, advancements in the Short Term Rental Accommodation planning proposal, and the successful inauguration of the Byron Shire Community Awards held during Local Government Week in August.

For the full report visit: [byron.nsw.gov.au](http://byron.nsw.gov.au)

### Byron Shire Council's Green Initiative: bid farewell to single-use plastic

Byron Shire Council is taking a strong stand against waste with its new Single-use Packaging and Materials Policy. The policy takes a comprehensive approach, targeting various single-use items, including cups, plates, cutlery, and straws, irrespective of their 'compostable' or 'biodegradable' labels. Applicable to staff, Councillors, and individuals utilizing or renting Council halls and spaces, including event venues and markets, the policy sets a bold precedent.

Balloons, glitter, and confetti will also be off-limits in Council spaces, aligning with the Council's mission to achieve zero waste to landfill. Danielle Hanigan, Manager Resource Recovery, urges the community to embrace reusable alternatives, highlighting the lasting impact of single-use items on the environment. She also emphasised the far-reaching impact of single-use items on the environment, stating, 'Single-use items are created without considering what happens to them at the end of life. We want people to look at reusable alternatives, resulting in less waste going to landfill, fewer emissions, and, importantly, less litter being washed into our waterways.'

The policy not only serves as a practical step towards environmental conservation but also seeks to instigate a broader community shift towards eco-friendly practices.

For more details and to share your thoughts, visit: [byron.nsw.gov.au](http://byron.nsw.gov.au).

### Mullum Recovery Centre recognised

The Mullum Recovery Centre, established in the aftermath of the devastating floods of February and March 2022, has earned recognition as a finalist in the NSW Resilient Australia Awards 2023. While it didn't secure the top spot in the local government category, being acknowledged as a finalist highlights the significant contribution the Centre made in facilitating community access to vital recovery services.

Operating from March to August 2022 at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall, the Centre served as a crucial hub where flood-affected residents could gather information, receive support, and find solace. It offered formal assistance and provided a comforting and inviting environment. Mayor Michael Lyon praised the collaborative efforts between Council, the Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre, Resilience NSW, and various local and national organizations that played a pivotal role in setting up and managing the Mullum Recovery Centre. He emphasised that this Centre serves as a model for recovery initiatives across Australia and expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved for their unwavering commitment and dedication.

For more information, visit: [byron.nsw.gov.au](http://byron.nsw.gov.au).

**CP CRAIG PARRY photography**

\*10% off ALL ARTWORK AND FREE SHIPPING with code: WAVE2024

WEBSITE

\* 10% OFF UNTIL 1ST OF FEBRUARY 2024 - FREE SHIPPING AUSTRALIA ONLY



## EV pole chargers for two Byron streets



*Pictured: Mayor Michael Lyon at EVX pole charger on Wordsworth Street. Source: EVX.*

To tackle Electric Vehicle (EV) charging delays, Byron Bay has been included in a one-year kerbside charging trial with the installation of two EVX Polechargers on Childe Street, Belongil and Wordsworth Street. The initiative comes from EV infrastructure company, EVX, who have rolled out multiple Australian-made kerbside chargers to regional Australia in conjunction with Essential Energy.

Departing from the conventional rapid

charging stations near highways, these kerbside EV chargers allow users to power up while at their destination for an hour or more. This infrastructure plays a crucial role in addressing congestion at other charging facilities, especially during peak holiday periods.

CEO of EVX, Andrew Forster, highlighted the significance of augmenting charging infrastructure in Byron Bay, due to the growing number of EVs on Australian roads. 'Byron Bay is one of the state's most loved road trip holiday destinations, but to date, the charging infrastructure hasn't met the demand – particularly during key holiday periods where we are seeing queues at rapid charging stations along the main highways, up and down the coast.'

Mayor Michael Lyon, expressed gratitude for the initiative, emphasising the charging stations' alignment with

the Council's sustainability strategy and climate change goals.

EVX's kerbside chargers are easily installed on existing utility poles, with minimal impact on the local electricity grid. They utilise smart AC charging technology and can be added to power poles without major civil works.

The charging process incurs no joining or membership charges, with costs set at \$0.50 per kWh. Users can access chargers via the EVX Australia app, where availability is displayed, and charging begins by scanning the QR code on the charging point. The chargers use the industry standard type two charging cable available for all EVs, and the charging rate will vary depending on vehicle specifications and battery utilisation.

For more information visit: [evx.tech](http://evx.tech)



**Yasmin Dulley**

Principal Solicitor

[yasmin@byronfamilylaw.com.au](mailto:yasmin@byronfamilylaw.com.au)



BYRON

Family Law

**FREE INITIAL  
CONSULTATIONS**

Your local boutique family law firm for divorce, separation, parenting and children, and property and financial matters.

We support you and your family to not only survive but thrive following separation.



**Jordyn Jones**

Senior Associate

[jordyn@byronfamilylaw.com.au](mailto:jordyn@byronfamilylaw.com.au)

· 18 Parkes Ave, Byron Bay · 02 6687 2774 · [byronfamilylaw.com.au](http://byronfamilylaw.com.au) ·



# Bigger Backyard opens up business opportunities

by Business NSW Northern Rivers

Business NSW Northern Rivers has launched a new initiative aimed at stopping the leakage of business spending to places outside of the region and expects to see a multimillion dollar return if we do more business to business trade inside the Northern Rivers.

'We get so frustrated to see our business dollars going outside of the region when we have great products, services and suppliers right here in our own Northern Rivers backyard,' said Regional Director for Business NSW, Jane Laverty. 'We are in an economic crisis so every dollar that is currently being spent outside of the region is critically important to us in making the Northern Rivers regional economy stronger and more resilient. Every dollar we bring back into the region has a multiplier effect of three – so that is powerful. We have created a free, easy-to-use app – Bigger Backyard Northern Rivers – to support Business to Business procurement with every business clearly profiled in what can be easily accessed from your phone.'

The initiative was first created by Mrs Laverty in 2018 as part of the In Good Company Project, aimed at improving business confidence post the 2017 weather event, as a manual pledge-based activity with the idea of shifting business buying behaviours to be more regionally focused.

'I always envisioned we would take it to a technology-based application that would help to link businesses directly with each other, and for them not be beholden to a pay per click style search engine,' said Mrs Laverty. 'You want to be confident that you will find the product or service you are looking for from another Northern Rivers based business –

it's a twist on your buy local campaign but just for business – and we hope it will give businesses in our region a much needed boost.

'If you think about what you spend on the office basics like stationery or raw materials for manufacturing, through to business and professional services and trades procurement, business spending adds up. We think there is an easy shift to a local supplier but if you can't find what you are looking for we want to know so that we can either encourage that inclusion in the app or go about attracting new businesses into the area to provide that service,' said Mrs Laverty.

'In phase one of development we had a founding group of 150 business set up their business profile in the app and in this next phase, where we are promoting and connecting with the broader business community, we hope to get to 500 profiles and just keep growing.'

Businesses can get more information, register straight away or ask for help through the project webpage: [biggerbackyardnorthernrivers.com.au](http://biggerbackyardnorthernrivers.com.au) or by contacting the Business NSW Northern Rivers office on ph: 5631 8509.

'I am inviting all Northern Rivers businesses to be part of it. We also have larger businesses such as The Casino Food Coop, Norco, Southern Cross University, Summerland Bank, and others committing to using the app to increase their local product and services procurement. It is a great opportunity for small to medium enterprises to win new work just by being in Bigger Backyard Northern Rivers,' said Mrs Laverty.

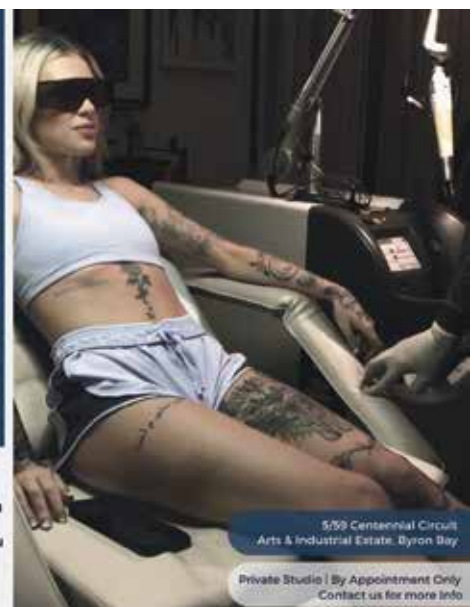
For more information visit: [biggerbackyardnorthernrivers.com.au](http://biggerbackyardnorthernrivers.com.au)

BYRON BAY'S NEW PREMIER TATTOO REMOVAL STUDIO

## BYRON ELECTRIC TATTOO REMOVAL

- Full Color Removals, Corrections & Fading
- State Of The Art Quanta Systems Laser Tech
- 13+ Years Tattoo Industry Experience and Skill
- Safe, Affordable And Results Driven!

sms 0406 188 060  
 info@byrontattooremoval.com.au  
 www.byrontattooremoval.com.au  
 @byrontattooremoval





## Big Walk to Sydney for local Jonny Woods



Local Jonny Woods, a dedicated Byron Council employee, has embarked on an awe-inspiring journey to raise funds for cancer research and support. He's set off on a 900km Big Walk to Sydney, tracing the pristine and often remote beaches of New South Wales, with a noble goal to raise funds for Cancer Council NSW.

Drawing on his lifelong love for the beach and a passion for walking, Jonny devised a plan to merge his interests and give back. The decision to embark on this journey was deeply personal. 'Our family has been impacted by cancer in the past, and we've lost friends to cancer,' said Jonny. 'The coastal walk was something I always wanted to do, and I thought: if I'm doing it, I'm doing it for a reason.'

Adopting a unique approach to this

epic endeavor, Jonny uses his car to travel to his intended endpoint each day and then walks back to complete the segment. The strategy minimizes the load he carries, ensuring he only bears essentials for the day, including water, protein bars, and, of course, sunscreen. 'I know that it's doubling up the journey,' he said. 'But its the only way to do it since I'm on my own.'

Jonny plans to arrive in Sydney on 5 December, where he will be met by his daughter and friends. At the time of this interview, he was almost in Coffs Harbour. When asked what the appeal of the journey was, Jonny said, 'I was brought up on the coast and my family and I have always been connected to the coastline. There are so many bits of it that you don't get to see when you stick to the beaten track. I'm only halfway there and it has been eye-opening to see these beautiful places. It's remarkably isolated. There have been days where I haven't seen another person. I've always wanted to do this and I also wanted to raise money for the Cancer Council. They have a broad brush approach and are researching all different types of cancer.'

The Cancer Council NSW is a vital organisation dedicated to research,

information dissemination, and comprehensive support for cancer patients. With one in two Australians diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime, Jonny believes that supporting this organisation is the most effective way to contribute to the battle against cancer.

Jonny urges the local community to support his 'Big Walk to Sydney.' He has created a dedicated Cancer Council NSW Do It For Cancer fundraising page, aptly named 'Jonny's Walk to Sydney,' and invites community members to contribute if they can. He has already raised \$1,500 with a target of \$5,000, which will directly aid the Cancer Council NSW. The trip so far has given him a great appreciation for nature, family, and his community. 'Thanks so much for everybody's support. I have had nothing but love and support for the whole adventure from the community. I want to see as much support as possible for the Cancer Council and the incredible work they do.'

To make a donation, please visit Jonny's fundraising page at: [doitforcancer.com.au/fundraisers/jonathanwoods/jonny--s-walk-to-sydney](https://doitforcancer.com.au/fundraisers/jonathanwoods/jonny--s-walk-to-sydney) You can also see Jonny's journey at his Instagram page: @byronjonny1



Authorised by Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina. Funded using parliamentary entitlements

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Together, we've achieved so much for our community in 2023.

In a new minority government, we've been able to deliver a 60-Day Cap on short-term holiday lets in Byron Shire, a real pay rise for public school teachers, an end to no-grounds evictions for NSW renters, \$3.3 million in road repairs for the Ballina electorate, and so much more!

This is proof that together, we are being listened to in NSW Parliament - and we are delivering real results.

From my family to yours, have a very happy holidays and a wonderful new year. Here's to many more wins for our community in 2024!

With love,

**Tamara Smith MP**  
Your local Member for Ballina

6686 7522

[ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

[tamarasmith.org.au](https://tamarasmith.org.au)



# Surf life saving times

It's beach season and that means it's time to slip, slop, slap and swim between the flags. The Australian Lifeguard Service will be providing the services to the Byron Shire during the 2023/2024 summer season from 9am–5pm (see schedule).

It's important to remember beach safety when having fun on the sand this summer

- Always swim or surf at patrolled beaches.
- Swim between the red and yellow flags. They mark the safer area for swimming.
- Never swim, surf or fish alone.
- Read and obey the signs.
- Be aware of rip currents. Know how to spot one and how to escape from one.
- Don't swim under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Never run or dive in the water, even if you have checked before as water conditions can change.
- If in doubt stay out.
- Seek advice from the lifesavers and lifeguards.

For information: [surflifesaving.com.au](http://surflifesaving.com.au) or [byron.nsw.gov.au](http://byron.nsw.gov.au)

BEACH	DAYS PER WEEK	DATES
South Golden	7	20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024
Brunswick Heads Main Beach	5	20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024 Surf Life Saving volunteers will patrol Brunswick Heads beaches on Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays during the 2023/2024 season.
Clarkes Beach	7	20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024
Byron Bay Main Beach	5	All year. Extra roving patrols will be provided during: • NSW Christmas from 20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024, from 9am to 6pm. • New Year's Eve from 6pm through to 2am (an additional 2 Lifeguards). Surf Life Saving volunteers will patrol Byron main beaches on Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays during the 2023/2024 season.
The Pass	7	20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024
Wategos	7	20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024
Tallowas	7	20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024
Suffolk Park	7	20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024
Broken Head	7	20 December 2023 to 29 January 2024



BONITO

*Byron's Newest Culinary Hotspot*



**BREAKFAST** *Open 7 days*  
**LUNCH** *Saturday & Sundays*  
**DINNER** *Open 7 days*

**BONITO BANQUET**  
*Group Dining*  
*Christmas Day*  
*New Years Eve*

**LIVE MUSIC**  
*Friday and Saturday nights*  
*Hotel Marvell Rooftop*  
**SUNDAY ARVOS**  
*Bonito Laneway*



# It's time to House You

by Chels Hood Withey, House You

In these late-stage capitalist times, it is near impossible for everyday working people to afford a home of their own, forcing us to pay our way to survive via rent, or live rough for our entire lives. In this system, the wealthy get wealthier, exacerbating the gap between the haves and the have-nots. However, we all deserve secure shelter, a safe space to call home, no matter our financial situation.

House You is a grassroots movement dedicated to get everybody a house. Born out of the 9 August rally, Fix The Housing Crisis created by myself, and organised with Mandy Nolan, and Mim and Andy from Reclaim our Recovery Lismore, House You seeks to unite the community by building resilient networks, sharing resources, and creating holistic solutions that individuals, organisations and governments can implement. We aim to fulfill everyone's basic needs.

Byron Shire has more rough sleepers than Sydney, even though we make up just one-seventh of the city's population. For those of us in housing

insecurity, we are in survival mode and often suffer from mental illness due to our unstable living situations. A home provides the chance to get our minds well again, and become productive members of society once more. But first, we need a secure place to live.

We know we have enough land and dwellings to house everyone without building any more homes. So in an ecological and housing crisis, we could simply share the abundance we already have to get everybody a house. We, the people, need to be the solution, we can be the positive change we need in this world. By uniting as a community we can tackle the problems of this inhumane system. But how do we begin?

### The Village

House You is activating the old railway behind the Byron Shire Council for our community, creating a safe space for all who have no where to go while we work on our mission to get everyone a house. We will be planting a food forest, hosting forums and workshops, offering support in the healing tent, creating resilient networks between

the landless and the landfull, and of course, dancing to the revolution. The Village seeks to showcase how we can all live in harmony when we respect this earth and each other. It will also highlight the need for housing for everyone, as we are strong in numbers.

### How can people get involved?

Make some noise, call out the injustices of housing for profit, speak with your friends and family, share information online, and get involved with House You. If you have an offering, bring it; if you have a need, tell us. We are all in this together, we are here to support each other. If you can't donate time, please donate within your means to support our movement. We are creating change at all levels: local, state and federal, which requires resources to make change happen.

In the coming weeks, we will be hosting more forums, community conversations, and events to get everybody a house. To stay up to date, follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @HouseYou, or visit: [houseyou.org](http://houseyou.org)



enspire  
- FURNITURE HOMEWARES -

Seasons Greetings

Beautiful Gifts For Everyone

Ecoya Gift Packs-Georgeous Exotic Homewares

15 Sheather Street Ballina NSW 2478 | (02)6686 8802

Mon to Fri 9am-5pm | Sat 9am-4pm | Sun 10am-2pm

[enspirefurniture.com.au](http://enspirefurniture.com.au) @enspirefurniture



## The Year of Queer



For a tiny not-for-profit coming out of Mullum, Queer Family sure covered a lot of ground in 2023. With a mission to reduce social isolation and improve mental wellbeing, they create community, connection, safety, and joy for local LGBTQ+ folks and allies through a range of activities and programs. There is something for everyone including bush walking, book club, creative workshops, performance evenings, trauma sensitive yoga, and much more.

**HERNE'S BUTCHERY**

**ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS HAMS, PORK, SMOKED CHICKENS, SMOKED BACON, QUAILS, FREE RANGE CHICKENS, SPATCHCOCKS, DUCK BREASTS, DUCK LEGS AND BLACK PUDDINGS NOW**

**24 BYRON STREET BANGALOW  
PH 6687 1352**

Entering its fourth year of operations, Queer Family continued to expand and grow over the past 12 months, reaching a whopping 2,573 attendees at their events. Whilst grassroots community and social events are at their core, Queer Family also provided 248 people with information and referrals to external services, supported 46 people with subsidised counselling, and consolidated their Queer-affirming Community of Practice for 38 therapists.

It also the year that Queer Family expanded their services to include direct support for young people aged 12 to 24 years, through the pilot Young Queerios program. This was immediately a huge hit, reaching 146 young people, with some travelling two-hours each way just to attend. Ash (he/they), one of the regular attendees, stated, 'Since I've started going to Queer Family events, I have made so many new friends and I feel so welcomed into the local queer community. Their events were the first time in ages that I felt truly happy and accepted as a queer disabled person.'

But it hasn't been all glitter and rainbows as Managing Director Aiden Gentle explains. 'We actually spent most of the year homeless because of the floods,' they said, 'and because we don't have any core funding, most of my energy this year went into trying to secure stability and scrounging up resources so we can just keep going.' Aiden went on to explain that Queer Family was also targeted by anti-trans hatred earlier this year, which was part of an organised wave of attacks sweeping across the country, originating from the US and UK. 'It was quite extraordinary, very unkind, and just plain ignorant' Aiden said. 'All of a sudden we had people, who aren't even from here, writing defamatory pieces in the mainstream media and contacting our local politicians, funders and venues trying to stop us providing services to our community. That kind of frenzied hatred and ignorance is honestly just so passe and doesn't belong here.'

Despite these challenges, Queer Family has gone from strength to strength this year and significantly expanded their reach and services. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed either, with a swathe of award nominations as well as winning the Health and Wellbeing Award from Byron Shire Council. They were also featured in a documentary alongside six other local organisations tackling flood-recovery across the region by the Department of Communities and Justice.

As a small grassroots charity with no core funding, Queer Family rely heavily on community donations and volunteerism to do the great work they do. To get involved email: [queerfamilynorthernrivers@gmail.com](mailto:queerfamilynorthernrivers@gmail.com) or follow them on Facebook or Instagram: @QueerFamily

To see their upcoming events, visit: [events.humanitix.com/host/queer-family](https://events.humanitix.com/host/queer-family)





## Spirit of Christmas: Locals helping locals



Each Christmas, local man Dennis Stevenson borrows an empty shop and gives away thousands of new presents to help make sure no one goes without. This year's shop, his eighth at Ocean Shores, will open 9am to 6pm daily from Monday 18 December to Sunday 24, Christmas Eve, at the Hall behind the Baptist Church, (next door to the large K-Hub) on the corner of Rajah Road and Bindaree Way, Ocean Shores.

This incredible initiative operates on a tight budget. Dennis has little money and he and his team make the most of every dollar. 'We receive support from the community in the form of a free shop, free insurance, free signs, a free Christmas tree, and the use of free tables and tablecloths,' says Dennis. 'My joy in life comes from helping people. I feel that giving isn't just the fastest way to change ourselves and our world. It's the only way. Even a smile can be a special gift.'

Where do free presents come from? Dennis says, 'Local communities give the presents. Every community has many thousands of brand new, unused items sitting in homes. People are surprised how much they find when they search cupboards, drawers, linen press, storage boxes and the garage. Some people collect from friends, neighbours or work colleagues. In 2012 we gave away just over 11,000 free presents at the Norman Park Spirit of Christmas shop in Brisbane.'

Volunteers help in the shop for two to four hours. 'It's fun giving presents away for free and everything is new and available to everyone. We don't accept money, just lots of presents; anything new: toys, clothing, accessories, sports and camping gear. Things for the house, kitchen, garden, entertainment, books, games, electronics, movies; anything.'

'Even boxes of the same new items or lovely crafts people make. Some people can't even afford a Christmas meal, let alone presents. So we also take non-perishable things so people can have a lovely Christmas meal.'

'This endeavour is all about locals helping locals and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to have a holly-jolly Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you to our shop soon. Let's come together to make this Christmas extra special for everyone in our community!' Shops can be run anywhere in Australia. Dennis's website shows how anyone can run a free shop. For more information visit: [spiritofchristmas1.com](http://spiritofchristmas1.com)

To contact Dennis, make a difference and be part of this wonderful initiative ph: 6685 8537 or email: [spiritofchristmas@mail.com](mailto:spiritofchristmas@mail.com)

## At the Library Summer Reading Challenge

Get ready to embark on a literary journey like never before with the Summer Reading Challenge, running from 1 December 2023 to 24 January 2024. Your library card is your gateway to a world of pirates, treasures, and thrilling reads.

### How to participate

When you read five books, or for five hours, you'll earn an entry in the captain's treasure stash, where amazing prizes await the most intrepid readers. Registrations are open now online at: [rtrl.nsw.gov.au](http://rtrl.nsw.gov.au) (search Summer Reading Challenge) or register at your local library. Document your reading using the online reading log or pick up a log at the library. Anyone aged 18 and under can enter.

### Prizes

Win awe-inspiring books and a chance to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab A7 Lite. There will also be a finale party – check our website for further details.

### Dates

Final date to submit reading logs is Tuesday 23 January 2024.

## BUYERS COLLECTIVE

PROPERTY BUYERS AGENT



We were under a bit of time pressure to find a home on a lower budget and Buyer's Collective introduced us to properties we previously wouldn't have considered. Their relationships with agents and knowledge of the process and industry was so valuable. We are so thrilled to have purchased a property with their help.

★★★★★ *Josephine Fielding*



**Dianne Horton +61 492 802 830**  
Sourcing the right property at the right price



# Christmas in the Shire

## Christmas Cheer in The Bay



Christmas Cheer in the Bay is a sustainable event organised by a non-denominational group of local volunteers who want to unite our community around the festive time of Christmas.

Taking place on Monday 23 December from 5:30pm, the event will feature surprise performances and acts, as well as the announcement of the winner of the Retailers Christmas Window Competition, generously sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. This is a free event, open to all, located at the Byron Bay Visitors Centre.

Organiser Stephanie Rake, says, 'We hope to create an accessible, vibrant event for our local community to bring joy to our town for all ages. It is a celebration of coming together as a community after floods, drought, fire, COVID, and economic hard times, to join in a sense of belonging.'

In the lead up to the event, the local

community has come through with many generous donations of time and materials. 'We would like to thank the Byron Community School and the Byron Primary Public School for donating recycled, reused and re-purposed trees and decorations for the event, which will be on display in the garden at the Byron Visitors Centre throughout December,' said Stephanie.

'We also would like to acknowledge the support of Byron Bay Visitor Centre in hosting and supporting this volunteer-led event, and Byron Shire Council for giving us a grant to run it. We are grateful for everyone's support for this inaugural event. See you on 23 December at 5:30pm.'

RECENTLY SOLD



CAPE BYRON  
PROPERTY



SOLD

131 Neues Rd  
COORABELL



SOLD

2A Shelley Dr  
BYRON BAY



SOLD

28/31 Hayters Dr  
SUFFOLK PARK



SOLD

15 Lilli Pilli Dr  
BYRON BAY



SOLD

2 Ulpirra Ct  
OCEAN SHORES



SOLD

2/17 Bangalow Rd  
BYRON BAY

Thinking of selling this Summer?  
Our local expertise and in-depth market understanding ensures a seamless selling experience.



**BRYCE & RACHEL CAMERON**  
0412 057 672  
bryce@capebyronproperty.com  
 capebyronproperty



## Brunswick Heads Christmas festivities



Picture: Carnival on the Brunswick River. Source: Daniel Pyke.

Brunswick Heads is a special place to be in the lead up to Christmas. There are so many great family activities to fill your heart with Christmas spirit. Mullumbimby Rotary is once again holding their Christmas Window Display Competition in the lead up to Christmas. So, pop into town and enjoy the festive window displays.

### The McGregors Family Carnival - mid December

For over 60 years, The McGregors Family Carnival has been rolling into town. The carnival is open nightly from mid-December until mid January 6:45pm to 9:45pm on the banks of the Brunswick River.

This family-friendly, night-time carnival offers lots of rides, amusements, and good old-fashioned fun.

### Brunswick Picture House - 22 December

Brunswick Picture House loves Christmas spirit and this year on 22 December they welcome the *Lovey's Actually*. Get ready to laugh, sing and jingle all the way with the Lovey's cracker of a Christmas Show. It's been a bit of a year, and they are on a mission to make your holiday season as merry and bright as a sequined Santa suit. Old songs and new, plus a few festive covers (think Tim Minchin and Joni Mitchell) that you can sing along with. Book at [brunswickpicturehouse.com](http://brunswickpicturehouse.com).

### Twilight Markets - 20 December

Fun for the whole family, and a great opportunity to get some last minute locally made, or sourced, gifts for your loved ones.

### Christmas Eve, 24 December

Santa will drop by to the McGregors Family Carnival at 8pm on Christmas Eve. Don't forget, there will also be the famous \$2 night for locals.

### Woodchop Carnival - January

How much wood can a woodchop chop if a woodchop could chop wood? Find out in January when the famous Woodchop Carnival is held in Banner Park.

Dates are to be confirmed so contact the Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre for more information closer to the time at: [brunswickheads.org.au](http://brunswickheads.org.au)

## Bangalow Christmas Eve Carnival

Get ready for a fantastic night of holiday cheer as the legendary Bangalow Christmas Eve Carnival returns to the Bangalow Showground. Mark your calendars for this family event that's not to be missed.

The festivities kick off with Children's Entertainment starting at 4pm, promising a delightful experience for the little ones. The highlight of the evening is Santa Claus's grand entrance at 6pm, arriving in style aboard a firetruck, bringing treats for all the kids. For those with an appetite, the Lions Club Bar and BBQ will be open, serving up delicious grilled treats. There will also be a variety of food vans, ensuring there's something to satisfy every craving, whether you're a fan of vegan delights or have a sweet tooth.

A breathtaking fireworks display is scheduled to start at 7:45pm, adding a touch of magic to the evening. As the clock nears 8pm, the festivities will wrap up, leaving everyone in high spirits and ready for a Merry Christmas.

Don't miss out on this fantastic community event. For any enquiries, please reach out to Nashy on ph: 0418 440 545 or email: [alfred.lodge@bigpond.com](mailto:alfred.lodge@bigpond.com).

**REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS TODAY**

[biggerbackyardnorthernrivers.com.au](http://biggerbackyardnorthernrivers.com.au)

Connecting businesses with local products and services, shortening supply chains and spending in our own backyard first.

Scan me to create your profile and do business together today

**DOING BUSINESS TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER NORTHERN RIVERS**

Logos for NSW, Regional NSW, Northern Rivers NSW, BUSINESS NSW, and in good company.



## Community in brief

### Brunswick Valley VIEW Club by Andrea Danvers



On 9 November, the Brunswick Valley VIEW Club (BVVC) convened for its luncheon at the Brunswick Bowling Club. BVVC members relayed the Club's progress in the past weeks, and we were delighted to receive thank you messages from two of the seven children we sent quilts to, as a part of the Smith Family's Quilt for Kids initiative. As is customary every second Thursday of the month, we have a guest speaker at our gathering, and we were happy to welcome Miss Charla Rallings, the Editor of *The Byron Wave*.

Miss Rallings' insights left a mark on our members, as she articulated the impressive contributions of women within our community. She highlighted the tireless efforts of women who have spearheaded successful projects aimed at nurturing and guiding the younger generation – particularly in the realm of education. This resonated deeply, especially for those of us who have been steadfast pillars in our community for decades. Miss Rallings also underscored the pivotal role women play as the backbone of family and community structures, forging pathways toward a more vibrant, resilient and inclusive community.

The luncheon culminated in spirited discussions, sparking further enthusiasm for our own endeavours within the Brunswick Valley VIEW Club.

For more information on our meeting times, see page 23.

### CWA Brunswick Heads Branch by Beverly Masters



Brunswick Heads CWA is a growing branch with memberships up this year. We are seeing locals who live around the corner joining our crafty women on Fridays, as well as a few who live further afield on farms, and are looking for some company instead of crafting on their own.

There is plenty going on at our CWA. When we have a mission like cooking for the Brunswick Heads Picture House or preparing for Market Days, we all have our roles and the quote 'many hands make light work' springs to mind. These ladies know how to sew quilts, aprons and children's clothing, crochet throws, and knit baby clothes, as well as how to make the wonderful jams, pickles, and cakes – all of which are for sale on market days. Where would we be without these amazing nimble fingers? We also now have a new look entrance ramp that will make it easier for prams and wheelchair access.

All women are welcome for Friday Crafty Women sessions. Come in and share your talents with us or learn some new ones. There is complementary tea and biscuits but please bring a gold coin donation. Our last Crafty Women is Friday 15 December and we will be back on 12 January 2024.

Our next Market Day is Saturday 9 December 8am–1pm and if you are interested in renting our lovely space in Brunswick Heads, please email: [brunscwa@gmail.com](mailto:brunscwa@gmail.com)

### Australasian Order of Old Bastards by Henri Rennie



It's been a busy time for the Northern Rivers Branch of the Australasian Order of Old Bastards. There have been barbecues at Bunnings and the monthly NRAS Adoption Day in Ballina. As well as feeding hungry folks, and raising valuable funds for charities like the Animal Shelter, these have been great for lifting the OBs' profile in the community. More people have discovered and embraced our motto - for good times and doing some good.

In that spirit, we're doing something new to start 2024 – hosting a book launch in a brewery at 6:30pm on the evening of Sunday 14 January, at the Seven Mile Brewery in Ballina. We will launch the new novel from prolific local author Renoir. Tickets for the launch will be \$10 and proceeds from the event will be going to Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue.

The ticket price includes your first glass of one of Seven Mile's great craft beers. During the evening, Renoir will be there to read extracts of the new book. As a special treat we'll be lucky enough to be joined by members of Rognvalds Lith, a Viking re-enactment group based in Lismore, who've established an excellent reputation at historical events in various parts of Australia.

Bookings are essential as numbers will be limited. These can be made at website: [events.humanitix.com/the-lost-saga-booklaunch](https://events.humanitix.com/the-lost-saga-booklaunch)



**Byron Bay Rotary  
by Joanne Winwood**



It's hard to believe we're coming to the end of 2023 – and half way through our Rotary year. The extra muscle power, passion and creativity our new members have injected to the Club means we have been able to achieve even more in the last six months, in fundraising and in community impact of the projects we support. Examples include the introduction of the Body Bloom body image and nutrition

program for young girls at Byron High, and the Men's Regional Health Education Van visitation service – which offer valuable health information for some of our most at risk groups.

We continue to be grateful for the Farmers Markets patrons whose donations fund our youth development, homelessness, domestic violence, mental health, child protection and environmental projects. We also now accept card. Thank you, Byron community. It's because of you we can make a difference.

Our Club is still open to sponsoring young locals for two of Rotary's world class Youth Programs, each one a six-day residential program. The first, for young people aged 19-29,

focuses on enhancing leadership, communication, motivation, teamwork and interpersonal skills as well as well-being, community and belonging. The second is to help students in their senior school years (Yr11–12 or age 17-18) to prepare for the next phase of life. Participants can expect to hear from inspiring guest speakers and participate in activities that will challenge them on many different levels. Everyone who has graduated from these programs tell us they are life changing. The programs begin in January so please get in touch.

For more information, contact Jo Winwood on ph: 0498 364 948 or email: [gormanjoanne@gmail.com](mailto:gormanjoanne@gmail.com).

**Mullumbimby CWA by Diane Giddins**



*Pictured: Past president Diane Giddins and secretary Jenny Barlow cutting the cake on the branch's 78th birthday.*

Mullumbimby branch of the CWA of NSW has notched up 79 years of service to the community. We are proud of our CWA Rooms which were officially opened in 1949. During the last few years the rooms have been renovated inside and out and are looking good. The compact space suits many local organisations who rent the rooms for their meetings and events, adding to the CWA fundraising income.

Monthly meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 10am. A handicraft group meets each week, and an art group meets twice a month. Some past achievements which CWA of NSW initiated and fought for are: white lines on the edges of roads, seat belts, P-plates, the Ombudsman, crash helmets for motor cyclists, and 'use by' dating on food packaging. Mullumbimby CWA always welcomes new members to its ranks. For more information, call secretary Jenny on ph: 6684 7282.





# Community in photos

## Mullumbimby Agricultural Show: 10-12 November



*Pictured: Freestyle Motocross riders from Airtime FMX put on a thrilling show. Source: Sarah Archibald.*



*Pictured: The Showjumping program saw many skilled riders. A real crowd pleaser. Source: Sarah Archibald.*



*Pictured: A large crowd lined the fence for most of Sunday to watch the non-stop action. Source: Sarah Archibald.*

## Bangalow Show: 17-18 November



*Pictured: Crowd watching the dog high jump.*



*Pictured: 2UP Entertainment.*



*Pictured: Kids watching the fireworks display.*

**printcraft**

Family Owned & Operated for over 40 years.  
We do more than just print!



37 College St, Hamilton Qld 4007  
[www.printcraft.com.au](http://www.printcraft.com.au)  
Donna Herold 07 3291 2444  
DonnaH@printcraft.com.au



**PRINT    MAIL    LOGISTICS**

**BALLINA Players**  
Production Of

Disney **THE LION KING JR**

Directed by Peter Harding & Karen Goodsell

**12-21 JANUARY 2024**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE [WWW.BALLINAPLAYERS.COM.AU](http://WWW.BALLINAPLAYERS.COM.AU)  
OR  
IN-STORE AT BALLINA COLOUR COPY 19 MOON STREET

Music and Lyrics by Elton John and Tim Rice  
Additional Music and Lyrics by Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin and Hans Zimmer

Book by Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi

Based on the Broadway production directed by Julie Taymor

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International Australia.  
All performance materials supplied by Bal Leonard Australia.



## Community Meetings

### Association of Independent Retirees

When: 10am first Friday of each month,  
Where: Ballina RSL Club  
Contact: Bob Taylor, Secretary, ph: 0421 972 192

### Australasian Order of Old Bastards- Sausage Sizzle

When: 10am-1:30pm first Saturday of the month  
Where: NRAS Animal Shelter, 61 Piper Drive Ballina  
Contact: Henri Rennie, Treasurer, email: aooB.nr@gmail.com

### Bangalow Lions Club

When: 6pm, second and fourth Tuesday of the month  
Where: Bangalow Bowlo  
Contact: Greg Nash, President, email: alfred.lodge@bigpond.com

### Bangalow Quilters

When: 9:30-12:30, second and fourth Thursday  
Where: Anglican Church Hall, Ashton St, Bangalow  
Contact: bangalowquilters@gmail.com

### Brunswick Heads Progress Association

When: 6:30pm, first Monday of the month  
Where: CWA Cottage, Park St, Brunswick Heads.  
Contact: brunswickheadsprogressassoc@gmail.com

### Brunswick Valley VIEW Club

When: 10:30am, second Thursday of the month  
Where: Brunswick Bowls Club on Tweed Street  
Contact: 0424 852 679 or email: thestrongs@bigpond.com

### Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary

When: 1pm, third Monday of each month  
Where: Meeting room at Byron Central Hospital.  
Contact: Maureen Weir, Secretary, ph: 6685 3162

### Byron Rotary

When: 6pm, Tuesdays  
Where: Byron Bay Services Club  
Contact: Colin McJannett, email: cmcJannett@gmail.com

### CWA of Bangalow

When: Wednesday and Thursday  
Where: Bangalow CWA rooms, Byron Street  
Contact: cwasecbangalow@gmail.com

### CWA of Brunswick Heads

When: 10am - 2pm, each Friday with gold coin donation  
Where: Corner of Park and Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads  
Contact: brunscwa@gmail.com  
Facebook: CWAofBrunswickHeads

### CWA of Mullumbimby

When: Second Wednesdays at 10am  
Where: Cnr Tincogan and Gordon St, Mullumbimby  
Contact: Secretary Jenny ph: 6684 7282

### Friends of the Libraries

When: General meetings, third Wednesday of every month  
Where: 10am Arakwal Room Byron Shire Library  
Contact: byronbayfol@gmail.com

### Lions Club of Brunswick/Mullumbimby

When: 5:30pm, first and third Tuesday of the month  
Where: Ocean Shores Country Club  
Contact: Joan Towers, President, ph: 0400 484 419

### Mullumbimby Men's Shed

When: 9am-12pm, Fridays  
Where: 3 Main Arm Rd, Mullumbimby  
Contact: Bruce Mitchell ph: 6684 4381 or email: mullumbimbymensshed@gmail.com

### Ocean Shores Community Association Inc

When: 1pm, second Monday of each month  
Where: Ocean Shores Country Club.  
Contact: Jan Mangleson ph: 0431 477 445

### Repair Cafe Mullumbimby by Shedding Community

When: 1:30-4:30pm, Saturday afternoon  
Where: Repair Cafe, Mullumbimby  
Website: shedding.com.au

**STRESS FREE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!!**  
Save time, shop from home

**FREE Click and Collect service for local residents**

**CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS 2023**

**STEWART'S MENSWEAR**  
Mullumbimby  
Your one-stop Christmas shop  
Since 1929

52 Burringbar St Mullumbimby Ph 66842 148  
www.stewartsmenswear.com.au

## Driveways and subdivision: what's the deal?

by Grant Halcrow, Director/Civil Engineer at Friends Civil Engineering



### What's the deal with driveways? Subdividing your property or adding secondary dwellings

When it comes adding a new lot, secondary dwelling, or even a cabin or two to your property, plenty of considerations need to be made – especially if your property happens to be on a hill. Homeowners and developers can find themselves paying thousands more to update design plans for even seemingly simple development projects, all because they (or the consultants they're working with) haven't paid close attention to the required standards that need to be met for final Council approval.

Unfortunately, even if you've received a Development Application (DA) approval, it doesn't necessarily mean

your plans can be built. A detailed design is mandatory for your project to be shovel-ready, and this detailed design will almost always require a construction certificate or certification by a civil engineer. During this process of obtaining a detailed design, one of these requirement standards tends to cause developers plenty of headaches, and that is compliance with 'AS2890.1 – Off Street Parking' for private access driveways.

### This requirement specifies that sites must have some very particular, but not-so-obvious things, like:

- maximum grades of 25% - (1m vertical for every 4m horizontal) for no more than 20m length or 20% (1m vertical for every 5m horizontal) lengths for greater than 20m
- passing bays for longer driveways – for driveways longer than 30m, you must add vehicle passing bays for every 30m
- sealed driveways – this requires very specific thicknesses and materials to be used, and these will also require certain thicknesses depending on what vehicles will be driving on it.

### In planning the material used for your sealed driveway, you have a few options

- A bitumen spray seal, or chip seal – these can be the less expensive option, but also have the potential for easier damage.
- Asphalt - generally the most-used option with moderate cost and good wear and tear.
- Concrete – the most expensive but is longer-lasting than the others.

### Here are some more things to consider

Drainage. Don't underestimate the importance of drainage. If you use asphalt or chip seal for your driveway, these can absorb water along the edges and damage it. Driveways need drainage to prevent this absorption, so it's critical that your design includes side drainage – known as 'swales' or 'subsoil drains' - cut along the driveway edges. This is important because your drainage design impacts on whether a flood or storm damage claim will be accepted by your insurer.

Another issue can arise if your existing driveway doesn't meet Australian Standards when you submit your detailed plans for approval. Council may require you to fix any deviations from the current standards – even if the driveway has been on your property, without issue, for many years.

While homeowners can't be expected to know the finer details of civil engineering design, they can insist that their consultants tell them about the process, potential areas of concern and highlight the overall fees to expect.

Author, Grant Halcrow is Director/Civil Engineer at Friends Civil Engineering.



AT THE PARK  
2023  
**NEW YEARS EVE**

FREE ENTRY | DINNER & DRINK SPECIALS | COURTESY BUS

**HARRY NICHOLS BAND**  
8PM-LATE

SCAN ME 

223 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park 6685 3222 www.parkhotelmotel.com





# Finding your dream home: Buyer's agent advantage

by Dianne Horton, Buyers Collective

In days gone by, purchasing a home was a lone venture filled with endless research, house visits, and negotiations. However, the winds of change have swept in, ushering in a new era where buyer's agents play an indispensable role in guiding you home. Traditionally, buyers would scour listings and brave negotiations solo, but now, buyer's agents offer a fresh perspective that brings market insights, time savings, and negotiation expertise to the forefront. They simplify your property hunt, provide sage advice, and even accompany you to open houses or do private video tours.

## Setting sail on your path to homeownership

In the ever-evolving world of real estate, the journey to owning your dream home demands more than just ambition; it calls for expert guidance. Enter the buyer's agent – a professional who isn't just a player in the game but your true partner, advocate, and the gateway to a triumphant home buying experience. In this article, we will delve deep into the multi-faceted world of buyer's agents, exploring their dynamic capabilities and the transformative impact they can have on your quest for the perfect residence.

## Unveiling their expertise

### *Discovering hidden gems*

While online platforms offer a glimpse of available properties, a buyer's agent possesses a treasure trove of information. They unlock exclusive off-market listings, unearth upcoming properties, and leverage their extensive industry network to unveil opportunities that might otherwise remain hidden, ensuring your dream home doesn't slip through the cracks.

### *Crafting the perfect agreement*

Navigating the intricate world of real estate negotiations is an art form. With a buyer's agent you gain a master negotiator, securing terms and pricing that favour you, ultimately saving you money and stress.

## The perils of going solo

### *Overlooking costs and legal complexities*

Venturing into property purchasing without a buyer's agent can lead to costly oversights. Inspections may be overlooked, Property overlays such as flood mapping, bush fire and noise can be unknown to the buyer, legal intricacies misunderstood, and fine print brushed aside – all of which could result in unexpected financial burdens.

### *Emotions as decision-makers*

The process of buying a home can stir up emotions that cloud rational judgment. A buyer's agent introduces objectivity to the decision-making process, helping you sidestep impulsive choices driven by emotions and ensuring your decisions align with your long-term aspirations.

## Elevating your home buying experience

### *A hand-picked property search*

Searching for the right property can be a time-consuming endeavour. A buyer's agent serves as your curator, meticulously considering your preferences, needs, and budget to present you with a carefully selected collection of homes that perfectly align with your vision.

### *Guidance through every twist and turn*

From those initial property showings to the final signature on the paperwork, a buyer's agent is your unwavering guide. They provide expert insights,

handle intricate paperwork, and stand as a dependable resource at every step of the journey, ensuring you are fully informed and well-prepared.

### *Market wisdom and rigorous research*

The real estate market is in a constant state of flux, with trends and prices shifting continuously. A buyer's agent equips you with invaluable market insights, empowering you to make well-informed decisions. Moreover, their thoroughness during the due diligence process can uncover potential issues before they become insurmountable problems.

## Navigating from afar

For those in search of properties beyond their current location, a buyer's agent is a beacon of knowledge. They possess a deep understanding of the area, ensuring you make informed choices even from a distance, saving you not only time and money but also potential disappointments.

### *Seller's advocate, buyer's champion*

It's vital to remember that the real estate agent primarily works to secure the best price for the seller. In contrast, a buyer's agent focuses on your interests and strives to negotiate the most favourable terms for you, from price, negotiations to contingencies and beyond.

For more information visit: [buyerscollective.com.au](http://buyerscollective.com.au)

**BRUNSWICK VALLEY**



**FUNERALS** 

with

**Michael Currie Phone 66846232**

**MULLUMBIMBY**



## The Energetic Team of Byron Shire.

Helene Adams and Tegan Smith have joined forces at Atlas Byron Bay. Their collaboration weaves together a distinctive tapestry of skills and backgrounds, raising the bar for service excellence in the Byron shire real estate market.

Tegan, with her impressive background in law enforcement, brings to the table a remarkable blend of discipline and integrity, coupled with Helene's connection to the Byron shire community, complemented by her extensive expertise in sales and business management. Together, they embody a community-oriented approach that resonates deeply with the values and needs of Byron shire residents.

Through this powerful alliance, Helene and Tegan are prepared to set a new standard in real estate service, marked by exceptional skill, community focus, and a commitment to delivering outstanding results for their clients.

### Helene Adams

0412 139 807

helene.adams@atlas.com.au

### Tegan Smith

0433 459 006

tegan.smith@atlas.com.au



## 109 Broken Head Road, Newrybar

7 Bed | 3 Bath | 4 Car

### Exquisite 20-Acre Estate with Endless Potential in Newrybar

Positioned in the highly coveted golden-mile of Newrybar, this property places you just moments away from the charming Newrybar village, replete with local amenities and a primary school, catering to the needs of families in the area. Enjoy views, privacy and water aplenty on this exclusive 20 acre property.

**OPEN**

By appointment only

**CONTACT**

Helene Adams

0412 139 807



## 186 Broken Head Road, Newrybar

5 Bed | 4 Bath | 6 Car

### Dress Circle in Newrybar - "Java Hill"

Positioned on the Newrybar ridgeline this gently-sloping five acres (2.0ha) soaks up the sun while enjoying extensive views across rolling farmlands to the ocean. Positioned just 2 minutes from the quaint village of Newrybar that features Harvest café and deli, 6 minutes from Broken Head Beach and 12 minutes from Byron Bay, you can enjoy the best the district has to offer.

OPEN

By appointment only

CONTACT

Helene Adams  
0412 139 807



## 7/99 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park

5 Bed | 4 Bath | 2 Car

### Executive Byron Living at its best

Located 3.3 kms from the Byron town centre, 1 km to the Suffolk Park shops and only a 15 minute walk to the beach. This grand Ed Haysom designed home is built to impress. Complete with 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 car spaces and a pool, the property can sleep up to 10 people. It is also conveniently positioned next to the Byron Crystalbrook Resort, where resort style living really is at your doorstep.

OPEN

By appointment only

CONTACT

Helene Adams  
0412 139 807



# A relaxing respite

## Mitchell Masters' experience at Byron Bay Respite



*Pictured: Mitchell Masters at graduation, and photo taken by Mitchell on respite.*

Autism, often misunderstood, is a complex neurodevelopmental condition that shapes individuals' lives in diverse ways. Breaking the myths surrounding autism is crucial to creating an inclusive, diverse, and resilient society. Contrary to the misconception of a linear spectrum, autism's characteristics form a wide and varied constellation, encompassing the individuals' strengths, communication style, social interactions, leisure preferences and their sensory experience in the world.

Many individuals exhibit exceptional logical or visual thinking abilities, enabling them to excel in problem-solving tasks or creative pursuits. Their keen eye for detail allows them to notice intricacies that others might overlook. Sometimes individuals with autism exhibit exceptional or above-average skills in domains such as mathematics, arts, music, mechanics, technology, or memory, dedicating extensive time and energy to explore, and comprehend these subjects. While the individuals experience, and how they interact with their environment can vary broadly, people with autism may face stigmatisation and encounter unique challenges. However, appropriate respect and support can pave the way for a fulfilling and high-quality life, enabling individuals on the autism spectrum to navigate this world in a way that is comfortable.

With this context, we bring you a first hand account from local Mitchell Masters, a young neurodivergent man who recently attended a four-night independent stay with Byron Bay Respite – a sanctuary committed to fostering independence, wellness, and empowerment. Mitchell's journey sheds light on the unique experiences of individuals on the spectrum and highlights the beauty and power of a neurodiverse brain.

### Mitchell's story

*My time spent with Byron Bay Respite was all about living in independence and improving one's well-being. I feel happy and peaceful and proud with my four-night stay. On day one, my mum dropped me off at the Byron Bay Hotel and Apartments where I checked into my room, it was pretty good. I got to create my schedule of activities and reception would call me to tell me when someone arrived for my next activity. I would answer the phone by saying 'Room 207A Mitchell speaking' then I would be ready to make my way down.*

*It was a very hot afternoon, and I began walking with Paulo. We hung out and had my favourite flavour of chocolate ice cream at Baskin Robbins. I went on a group walk with Indigenous Elder Delta Kay – her tours are all about connecting with culture and the land. It was really interesting, and I told her I was a Deadly Dancer at Mullumbimby High School with Uncle Scotty for four years. I can even speak some Bundjalung language. Delta told us all about the Indigenous history as we made our way through the forest, and we also saw the ocean waves. Delta told us about the Europeans who landed in Australia, the British colonised it and the local Aboriginal people weren't happy about it. What I liked most being in nature were the trees and the birds. For dinner I walked by myself and bought my favourite ham and cheese pizza from Dominos, then brought it back to my apartment.*

*On day two, I woke up and prepared Nutri-Grain for breakfast, then met with Dave for TaiGa Chi in the hotel room. This was my favourite activity because I learned new self-defence skills which is really important to me. We used Filipino sticks and I felt strong in this activity. I also learned that Dave lives close to me, so now I walk to Dave's place twice a week for more*

Bodhi

Shop 1/18 Centennial Circuit  
Byron Bay Industrial Estate  
PH: +61 413 420 120  
**We ship Australia Wide**

A curated collection of furniture, homewares, rugs and lighting, sourced both locally and globally. Encapsulating the freedom of spirit and the soul of the individual as represented through their home.

@bodhi.living www.bodhiliving.com.au



training. Afterwards, I met with Paulo and Alexander, and we went on a group kayaking tour. It's not that hard for me to balance because I've kayaked before. The water was calm at first, then I almost fell overboard out of my kayak as the waves were getting bigger. Overall, I still really enjoyed it as we saw a few whales. I met with my mate Keanu and his Dad on the Friday night and we went to a Japanese restaurant. I had Ramen; it was great to be out at night time with friends in Byron Bay.

On Saturday I met with Zoe for my voice exploration class. I have been improving my singing with a Pharrell Williams song called Happy which we practised together. Then I met with Chris in the afternoon, we were hanging around town on a big night walk, there were lots of crowds with live music on the street and a sort of festival or ceremony was happening, it was a great last night out. In between activities, I could go out – whatever I like, whenever I want. I also watched the news on TV to see what's happening to the world right now. In my opinion it was easy to select activities through the website. I would take some activities or sometimes I would take no activities when I go to respite again. The best reason to go on respite is to increase independence from parents and I also feel happier and calmer. I felt more independent during my respite program. I felt very relaxed, and I would recommend other people to take time for a respite experience in Byron Bay.

Mitchell's support workers, highlighted, 'Mitchell is a really

sweet guy with a funny sense of humour. A real sparkling light.' Claire, from Byron Bay Respite, said, 'Mitchell arrived with a great openness to really welcome his experience. This is the key to getting the most out of your time on respite. Well done to Mitchell for embracing his own independence with an eagerness to explore, and a willingness to meet new people and try new things.'

Voice session coach, Zoe, said, 'Mitchell expressed he was a voice actor and that he really enjoyed voice acting. He especially loved doing the family guy voice.' Tai Ga Chi instructor, Dave, shared 'The force is strong in Mitchell. He shared his love for star wars, gaming and Japanese culture. It was a pleasure to hear about the things that spark his passion and to assist him with his focus, balance and imagination.'

Understanding autism goes beyond acknowledging its challenges; it involves recognising the diverse strengths and unique attributes that individuals on the spectrum possess. The misconceptions surrounding autism have long overshadowed the incredible talents and capabilities inherent in these individuals. Through Mitchell's firsthand experience at Byron Bay Respite, we uncover a profound narrative that encapsulates the transformative power of tailored care and empowerment. His journey reveals the intricacies of navigating the world as a young man on the autism spectrum and underscores the importance of dedicated respite and support spaces.

**Christmas HAM RAFFLES**  
**Sat 9 & Tues 19 December!**  
DRAWN 6.30pm BOTH NIGHTS!  
**RAFFLING 50 x XMAS HAMS on 2 BIG NIGHTS in Dec!**

**Christmas Eve... SEAFOOD RAFFLE**  
**\$1,750 worth of Seafood!**  
**25 x \$70 Trays!**  
**DRAWN: 2pm**  
 Perfect for Christmas Day

**BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB**  
**What's On THIS DECEMBER**

- FRI 01** Raffles + 10 EXTRA Hams @ 6.30pm
- FRI 08** Raffles + 10 EXTRA Hams @ 6.30pm
- SAT 09** **HAM RAFFLES - 50 x Hams** @ 6.30pm
- FRI 15** Raffles + 10 EXTRA Hams @ 6.30pm
- SAT 16** **EARLY BIRD Renewal Draw** @ 7pm - \$2K + hams!
- TUES 19** **HAM RAFFLES - 50 x Hams** @ 6.30pm
- FRI 22** Raffles + 10 EXTRA Hams @ 6.30pm
- SAT 23** Entertainment LIVE from 6pm - Leigh James!
- SUN 24** **SEAFOOD Raffles** @ 2pm - \$1750 worth!
- MON 01 JAN** **"The FERAMONES"** 4.30pm New Years Day!





## Mary Gardner's legacy of love and friendship

by Jeni Caffin



*Pictured: Mary Gardner in her iconic look. Photographer: Rudiger Wasser.*

For over a decade, Mary Gardner, local marine biologist and Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science, chronicled her walking, snorkelling and beachcombing adventures in a weekly column titled 'Tangles of life' in *The Echo*. She was a familiar figure in Byron Bay, cycling in floral frocks, beret perched jauntily to one side, pausing to photograph a bird, a tree, an insect or a flower. She had a passion for fishnet stockings and often startled punters at Byron's theatre when she arrived for volunteer duty wearing velvet hot pants and a cocktail hat. There really was something about Mary.

A few years ago, Mary was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer. She knew there would be no miracle recovery

and was determined to collate a selection of her essays and articles into a book. This would be her homage to the Byron Shire that she loved so well. She realised early in the piece that seeking help with editing, publishing and general bookish experiences would expedite the process.

Meetings were held in Mary's Byron Bay home and teams were drawn up and dissolved, designs tossed in and tossed out, ideas debated, formats rejected and hair pulled from roots. Through all of this, Mary remained serene, optimistic, generous of spirit and steely of resolve. Somehow, and we don't quite know how, but I suspect a little magic was involved, a trio emerged: Jeni Caffin, Rosy Whelan and Jo Immig.

I had been involved in books and publishing for a large part of my life and had been the Director of the Byron Writers Festival and International Creative Director of the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival. Rosy had a long career as an adventurer and leader of expeditions, plus a stellar reputation as an editor par excellence. She had worked for ABC TV documentaries, the *Australian Geographic* and *National Geographic*, and the Australian Antarctic Division. Jo had decades of experience as an environmental activist and worked as a parliamentary advisor and coordinator of a national NGO. She is the author of several books, co-author of scientific reports as well as numerous published articles. I felt quite frivolous and silly in the shadow of their CVs.

The thing is, we knew of each other but didn't really know each other. We were immediately conscious of the fact that Mary had entrusted us with a project that was of vital importance to her, quite possibly her *magnum opus*, and our desire to do it justice

## Now servicing the Northern Rivers area!

Leave it to the experts to maintain your pool!

Servicing the **Byron Bay, Lennox Head, Ballina, Hinterland** and **Northern Rivers** regions.

### Byron Bay

Email ✉ [byronbay@swimart.com.au](mailto:byronbay@swimart.com.au)

Call ☎ **0448 278 826** or visit 🌐 [swimart.com.au](http://swimart.com.au)

**Swimart**  
Pool care made easy!

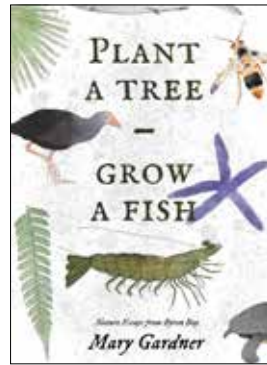


thrust any awkwardness immediately out of the window. From our very first meeting we fell into a pattern of working that was organic yet organised, respectful yet productive, disciplined yet delightful. It was a herculean task we had undertaken.

Mary, of course, was sliding into a routine of unwellness, propped up by transfusions, often hospitalised, frequently unable to answer our volleys of questions and requests for clarifications. Invariably, incredibly, she would bounce back from the brink and contribute warm words, avalanches of ideas and always inject us with new energy and determination. We worked, how we worked. The making of a book is not for the fainthearted, especially when it is someone else's voice you are honouring.

We persevered. Each of us had made a commitment to see this thing through. Each of us was pedantic, although in wildly different ways. I am pedantic about style and voice and story. Rosy is the grammar queen and totally terrified me at times with her knowledge. Jo is simply remarkable with her forensic eye for scientific detail and ability to spot a typo at twenty paces. Somehow, we meshed, we grew extremely fond of each other and loved the challenge.

The routine was this: we would arrive at Rosy's beautiful home to be greeted by her enthusiastic dog, settle on the



deck with its view to Nuthungulli and work would begin over coffee. We'd have had tasks to complete after the previous meeting and the results would be examined and incorporated. We would formulate our communication to Mary: we were determined to keep her abreast of developments at every stage, although as her illness sapped her strength we realised that key decisions would have to be made by

the JRJ Book Team, as we had come to call ourselves.

We would stop for a lunch of soup and salad, work on and then, as a reward, the dessert wine would be brought out. The trigger for this would be that I had collapsed in hysterical giggles at something that only I found funny.

Mary died in March, just months before *Plant a tree grow a fish* was published. This is her legacy to us all. For Rosy, Jo and me, there is another legacy: our enduring friendship. All thanks to Mary.

*Plant a tree grow a fish* is available now in local bookstores.

**THE COOP ROTISSERIE**  
BYRON BAY

The Coop Rotisserie and Salad Bar  
Monday to Friday 10.30 - 7  
Saturday, Sunday 10.30 - 3.30  
91 Jonson St Byron Bay  
5628 7021  
thecoop.net.au

FAMILY FRIENDLY FAMILY RUN

**THE CATCH**  
FISH & CHIPS KIOSK  
BYRON BAY

ALWAYS FRESH ALWAYS TASTY

OPEN 7 DAYS  
11AM TILL LATE

EAT IN OR TAKE AWAY

109 JONSON STREET BYRON BAY  
Order Online at  
www.thecatchbyronbay.square.site

# amir prestige

## RECENT SALES BY THE AMIR PRESTIGE TEAM



401 NOBBYS CREEK ROAD | **NOBBYS CREEK**



4 LIVOTTO DRIVE | **RICHMOND HILL**



1980 COOLAMON SCENIC DRIVE | **MULLUMBIMBY**



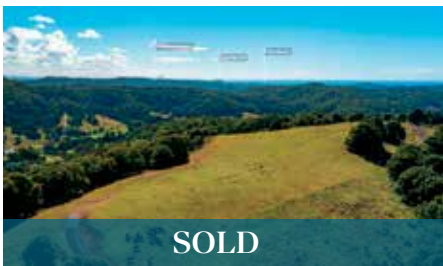
17 SUNRISE CRESCENT | **GOONELLABAH**



8 NORTHCOTT DRIVE | **GOONELLABAH**



13 ELFRAN AVENUE | **POTTSVILLE**



22 QUAMBIE ROAD | **COBAKI**



70 ROBINSONS ROAD | **PIGGABEEN**



7 KINGFISHER PLACE | **GOONELLABAH**

*Selling Lifestyles Like no other*

P | 02 6680 7207 | 5 & 6 / 5 BYRON STREET, BYRON BAY 2481 NSW





## THE ULTIMATE FAMILY OASIS IN KINGSCLIFF



# amir prestige

📍 1 CACTUS COURT, KINGSCLIFF

4 🛏 4 🚿 12 🚗 🚲 🏠 976m<sup>2</sup>\* 🏡 Disclaimer \*\*= approx.

Nestled amidst the picturesque landscape of Kingscliff, New South Wales, this is a splendid residence that epitomises elegance and comfort. This meticulously designed house spread across three living levels and a roof top viewing deck boasts four bedrooms and four bathrooms (five toilets), offering a harmonious blend of space, style, and functionality.

Set upon a sprawling block of land spanning 976\* square meters, this property provides ample room for outdoor activities, lush landscaping, and the creation of your own private oasis. The generous land size allows for endless possibilities, featuring a truly stunning 30m\* lap infinity pool.

Inspection by Appointment

*Contact the Listing Agents*

**Brenton & Ashleigh Hawes** 0422 579 965  
brenton.ashleigh@amirprestige.com.au

**Amir Mian** 0401 470 499  
amir@amirprestige.com.au


amirprestige.com.au



Your home. Your life. Your story.



For over 30 years, First National Byron has cemented its position as the region's number one agency, servicing a footprint that extends across the entire area. We are proud to be recognised as an iconic local company employing the most highly trained and accomplished sales, marketing, photography and administration staff. We know our patch, love our people, embrace our lifestyle and are actively involved in events and initiatives that shape our region.

 <b>CHRIS HANLEY</b> CEO   Licensee	 <b>SU REYNOLDS</b> Director   Sales Chief Cultural Officer	 <b>HELEN HUNTLY-BARRATT</b> Director   Sales	 <b>PAUL BANISTER</b> Sales	 <b>TARA TORKKOLA</b> Sales	 <b>PAUL PRIOR</b> Sales	 <b>LUKE ELWIN</b> Sales
 <b>DENZIL LLOYD</b> Sales	 <b>OLIVER ALDRIDGE</b> Sales	 <b>JASMIN McCLYMONT</b> Sales Team Tara Torkkola	 <b>SALLY GREEN</b> Sales Team Tara Torkkola	 <b>RENEE SCHOFIELD</b> Sales Team Su Reynolds	 <b>SHARON MCINNES</b> Sales	 <b>JANE JOHNSTON</b> Sales Associate for Denzil Lloyd
 <b>ANNA GILHAM</b> Sales Associate for Su Reynolds	 <b>MAGGIE KELLY</b> Sales Associate	 <b>THOMAS HUGHES</b> Client Care for Su Reynolds	 <b>LARA BRAUER</b> Client Care for Tara Torkkola	 <p>For the 7th consecutive year, our team are very proud to have won the RateMyAgent 2023 Agency of the Year for Byron Bay.</p> <p>We love this community, and we love what we do.</p>		





# A passion for the past

by Christobel Munson, Bangalow Historical Society



Long time Bangalow residents, Tanya Pearson and Fiona Smith, are the designated researchers for the Bangalow Historical Society. If a newcomer wants to learn about the history of the house they have bought, or if people have stories they'd like to share about their families or the history of the town and area, it's Tanya and Fiona who can help.

Friends since Tanya's children were students at the Bangalow Community Childrens' Centre, where Fiona works as an early childhood teacher, the two have long shared a passion for the past. With diplomas and degrees in Local Family and Applied History behind them, they were happy to find their interests were shared. Tanya works at Southern Cross University's libraries at their Lismore and Gold Coast campuses, managing the team who provides services to students, so both are well placed to offer advice – or research – about anything relating to Bangalow's past.

When asked what is it that appeals to her about looking into the past, Fiona replied, 'It's knowing where everything comes from. Bangalow has changed so much in just my lifetime. It's become such a popular place for people to buy a home, in a heritage area. But it's a great place to be – because of what's happened here before.'

Fiona's family came to the Bangalow area in December 1945. Her father's parents moved there to dairy farm, and she, her brother and two sisters, all went to school in the town. Living most of her life on Granauille Road close to the town cemetery, she was intrigued by the stories of the lives of the people buried there. 'My interest probably started there, or in year nine, when the class had to create a family tree. I put it together on my gran's dining room table.' Among other things, she discovered that she had four sets of convict forebears.

Tanya has always been interested in history. Moving to Bangalow 20 years ago, she found out that her great-great grandparents, from Brooklet, were buried in the Bangalow cemetery, and her father's family was from Pearce's Creek. When she was in Yr12, her history class was studying the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Chinese history when the Tiananmen Square massacre occurred. 'My history teacher was moved to tears about it. It made a deep impression on me.' She was also 'super excited' to discover her convict ancestry, dating back to 1832.

What intrigues both women is the people who are missing from history books – the women and children, our First Nations people. 'I am fascinated by the life of my great-grandmother,

who lived at Pearce's Creek from her birth in 1888 until her death in 1959,' Tanya said. 'What sort of life did she lead? You hear all about what the men of that era were up to, but what about the women?' Fiona's interest in these missing people has inspired her study of Australia's convict women, from 1788 to 1821, for her Master's Degree. She's tracking down the lives of 1,038 women from that time, where they were living and where they worked. 'Women were unseen, hidden. There's very little written about them, but there's detailed accounts carefully tracking every man who arrived.'

Since joining the Bangalow Historical Society's team, the two have found 'so much information, all squirreled away, such as photos and letters, maps and plans of many people's unpublished stories. What we're interested in is making available what is here.'

Bangalow Historical Society's Heritage House, 4 Deacon Street, Bangalow, is open from 10am to 2pm, Wednesdays to Saturdays. For more information ph: 6687 2183 or email: bangalowmuseum2479@gmail.com



## NORTHERN RIVERS DEMOLITION & ASBESTOS

*Safety,  
Integrity,  
Responsibility*

- Demolition
- Asbestos Removal & Testing
- Excavation
- Residential & Commercial
- Recycled Timber



W: [www.northernriversdemolition.com.au](http://www.northernriversdemolition.com.au)

E: [sam@northernriversdemolition.com.au](mailto:sam@northernriversdemolition.com.au)

P: 0403 427 262

Asbestos Lic: AD213595

Demolition Lic: AD213378





3 2 4 765m<sup>2</sup>

## Suffolk Park 27 Brandon Street

### Beachside Opportunity

Here is an opportunity for those with a vision for transformation. While the property needs some tender loving care, it holds the promise of becoming something truly special. Tightly held neighbourhood, first time on the market for 30 years.  
Large 766 sqm block with rear lane access  
A truly idyllic beachside location with easy access to Tallow Beach  
Rarely available - highly sought after  
Be quick to secure this property, start the sea change lifestyle you deserve.



3 2 2 854m<sup>2</sup>

## Byron Bay 2/86-88 Bangalow Road

### Huge Potential

Take advantage of the endless potential this property has to offer, a rare opportunity not to be missed.  
Located for a lifestyle filled with convenience and choice, this perfectly positioned townhouse presents a great opportunity to get your foot into the Byron Bay market.  
Awaiting its next chapter, the property offers unlimited potential for those looking for a renovation project in a premium Byron Bay address, or simply hold as profitable long term investment.  
The home is designed for comfort and ease of living and enjoys an open plan design with easy indoor/outdoor flow and has the added bonus of a fully fenced courtyard with Northerly aspect.  
Perfect for the investor or owner occupier.

# Find out what your property **IS WORTH** in today's market



For a complimentary property report call Steve 0413 833 077  
or email [steve.leslie@harcourts.com.au](mailto:steve.leslie@harcourts.com.au)

*Steve* **Harcourts**  
BALLINA | BYRON BAY | LISMORE

Steve Leslie M 0413 833 077 E [steve.leslie@harcourts.com.au](mailto:steve.leslie@harcourts.com.au)



# Paper Daisy

review by Milt Barlow

Living in the Northern Rivers we are blessed with some of the best food in Australia. Matched with innovative chefs and great locations, paradise abounds. Gone are the days when dining out in provincial locations either meant a roast at the RSL or a Chinese takeaway.

When it comes to treating yourself to a great lunch or dinner with family and friends, I have always been one for maybe not going out, but when the occasion calls for it we spend that little bit extra and head to the type of venue that leaves you smacking your lips in delight.

Such a destination is the iconic Paper Daisy at Cabarita Beach, an award-winning restaurant attached to the iconic Halcyon House. Situated right on the beach, the former surfing motel, The Hideaway, was purchased in 2011 by sisters Siobhan and Elisha Bickle who transformed it into the beachside treasure it is today.

Walking into Paper Daisy transported me back to some of the great beach side restaurants of California. Shutters on the Beach Santa Monica meets Cabarita Beach. Beautiful relaxing décor, impeccable service and the smell of the ocean wafting into the dining area is heaven.

The cuisine can best be described as modern Australian, giving you a very wide palate to choose from. The dining experience is created by Executive Chef Jason Barrett, one of Australia's hottest chefs who honed his skills at some of the finest restaurants in the country including the three hatted Attica in Victoria. Prior to joining Paper Daisy, Jason was Head Chef at Raes on Wategos. Over the years the awards and accolades kept coming including a 'hat' in the Good Food Guide 2023, a 3 Glasses award in Wine List Of the Year Awards in 2022 and being listed as one of Australia's Top 100 Restaurants in The Australian Financial Review in 2018.

## A culinary delight

While you can order individually the set menu is the way to go with an eye to local produce and sustainably sourced seafood.

Prior to heading into the restaurant we enjoyed a glass of wine and some delicious freshly shucked native rock oysters from Merimbula, served with preserved citrus and fennel. The tastes superbly complimented each other. Then it was inside and onto the 'main event'.

For starters I went straight for the Yellowfin tuna with smoked tomato, yoghurt and trout roe while my wife ordered Tasmanian lamb rib, labneh, linseed and river mint jelly. There was plenty of 'cross tasting' going on between us.

We loved the way that the attentive staff took time to explain the ingredients of each dish and the way it was prepared - I'm a big one for a 'bit of theatre' prior to ordering. Each of the descriptions of what was to come was delivered in spades.

For mains I chose a beautiful piece of Wagyu that melted in my mouth, accompanied by grilled winter leaves, mushrooms and black garlic. My wife zeroed in on the coal roasted fish served with lemon and fennel jam, vongole, kale and wild fennel. Again, there was much 'taste swapping' going on.

The wonderful dining experience was capped off with desserts of Daintree chocolate and ripe banana parfait and a delicious combination of blueberry, candied orange, vanilla, and Davidson plum tart.

## The verdict

With summer upon us head to Cabarita and Paper Daisy and treat yourself to lunch or dinner. Summer can get busy so make sure you book ahead. I am delighted to say that for us Paper Daisy scored a perfect 5 out of 5 in all categories.

### AMBIENCE



### FOOD



### STAFF



### VALUE FOR \$



### WOULD I RETURN



### OVERALL



Author visited as a guest of the venue



## On the cover

Photo by Wil Styles



From the stunning vantage point of Tallow Beach, photographer Wil Styles skillfully employs drones to immortalise breathtaking moments.

Reflecting on a memorable shot, he recalls, 'It was our first time back in Byron as a family after the birth of our first son—a special time with amazing light and colors.'

Wil embarked on his photographic journey with a humble Olympus digicam in the mid-noughties. He fell in love with the art of capturing memories during overseas trips. 'I love the process, the challenge, and the reward of getting shots that evoke memories of a time and place,' he shares.

The Byron Shire holds a special place in Wil's heart. Known for its beautiful beaches and lush hinterland, the Shire has been a constant muse. Despite changing demographics, Wil captures the timeless essence, stating, 'Sitting on Belongil as the sun sinks beyond Wollumbin, the sound of drums on the sea breeze—that feeling doesn't change.'

With each photograph, Wil strives to perfect the art of freezing moments in time, allowing viewers to relive the emotions and beauty of Byron Shire.

To see more of Wil's photos, visit Instagram: @wilstyles



# Join our Harmony Bangalow team

**Our beautiful centre is growing so we're looking for passionate educators to join our team.**

- ✓ Engaging and vibrant environments
- ✓ High quality, abundant resourcing
- ✓ Supportive team and leadership
- ✓ Investment in team development
- ✓ Social events and networking
- ✓ Employee benefits and assistance programs



We'd love to chat to you about a career in early childhood education. Contact us at [careers@harmonylearning.com.au](mailto:careers@harmonylearning.com.au) or scan the QR code



# The Sourdough Chick rises to the occasion

by Kylie McGregor, Byron Farmers Market



*Pictured: Susann Wiedermann, The Sourdough Chick, at Byron Farmers Market.*

When you talk to Susann Wiedermann, her passion for sourdough is clearly evident. She describes the world of sourdough like 'falling down a rabbit hole with lots of interesting twists and turns'. The self-taught baker grew up in Germany and was used to a wide range of breads, most of which she couldn't find when she came to Australia over a decade ago. So she decided to make them herself.

'I grew up with great baking by my mum and my grandma, and Germany is renowned for great breads,' Susann says. 'But the bread situation in Australia was pretty limited and was very different to what I was used to, so I decided to teach myself to make sourdough.'

However, the art of making bread was not as easy as Susann thought.

'For many months I made horrible bread, but eventually it became better and better,' she says. 'Many years later, after I had finally mastered it, I wondered if I could do it commercially on a small scale. I loved making sourdough and wanted to share it.'

In 2017, Susann, also known as The Sourdough Chick, approached her local health food shop and they agreed to buy half a dozen loaves from her every week. This gradually built up with other cafes and stores in the Northern Rivers selling The Sourdough Chick bread, then a few years ago Susann joined Byron Farmers Market.

Now Susann now has a huge following on her Instagram account:

@the\_sourdough\_chick, as well as the many loyal customers who buy her just-baked (and sometimes still warm) bread at Byron Farmers Market.

'I've been blown away by the response,' Susann says. 'So many people comment on how beautiful the bread looks, even if they don't buy it. The support has really been incredible and I sell out on most days. I really love it and feel very lucky.'

You can find Susann at Byron Farmers Market every Thursday, along with her amazing range of bread, including a wholesome white bread (which she says shouldn't really be called white), seeded loaf, rye bread and no-gluten sourdough. You can also get her rye chocolate chip cookies, which now have a cult following.

Byron Farmers Market is held every Thursday from 7am-11am at Butler Street Reserve, Byron Bay.

**Style has a name...**



**cactus hill project**

**Make the trip to beautiful Mullumbimby and take a look**

**Open Mon-Fri 10am - 5.30pm. Sat 10am - 3.00pm**  
**82 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby. Phone (02) 6684 6110**





# TARA TORKKOLA AWARD WINNING LUXURY PROPERTY SPECIALIST IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS

Together with her caring and insightful team, Tara delivers a second to none real estate experience carefully crafted to suit individual sellers and buyers, using the latest technologies and media.



SCAN HERE TO BOOK  
A FREE 15 MINUTE  
MARKET APPRAISAL

@taratorkkolafirstnational

@taratorkkola\_realestate

0423 519 698

tara@byronbayfn.com



18 Lush Acres with Stunning Lighthouse Views only minutes to Byron Bay

**ADDRESS:** 299 Myocum Road, Ewingsdale  
**PRICE:** Contact Agent

6 BED 3 BATH  
 3 CAR 18 ACRE



### BOTANICA

3 Bed 2 Bath Apartment in Tightly Held 'Botanica' Across from Clarkes Beach!

**ADDRESS:** 2/24 Paterson Lane, Byron Bay  
**PRICE:** Contact Agent

3 BED 2 BATH  
 2 CAR 130M<sup>2</sup>



### VILLA PARADISO

Breathtaking Mediterranean Resort Style Estate Byron Bay Hinterland

**ADDRESS:** 816 Federal Dr, Federal  
**PRICE:** Contact Agent

5 BED 3 BATH  
 6 CAR 10.53HA







# Rich Christmas fruit cake

by Brunswick Heads CWA



No Christmas is complete without a delicious fruit cake.

### Ingredients

- 450g butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 10 eggs
- 450g of sultanas, currants, raisins

- 125g mixed peel
- 115g of chopped pitted dates and glace cherries
- 45g chopped preserved ginger and dried figs
- 55g chopped pitted prunes and blanched almonds
- 1 tbsp orange zest
- 1/4 tsp fresh grated ginger
- 3 1/2 cups of flour
- 1 tsp bi-carb, cinnamon, and mixed spice
- 1/4 of nutmeg, curry powder, and salt
- 1 1/2 cup of rum
- 1 tsp of vanilla, almond, and lemon essence.

### Method

1. Cream butter and sugar in a bowl.
2. Beat the eggs well, and add to the butter and sugar mix. Combine.
3. In a separate bowl, mix the fruits, nuts, ginger and orange zest.
4. Sift together the flour with bi-carb and add the spices.
5. Add the fruits to the butter mixture alternately with the flour, mixing well before adding more.
6. Add 1/2 a cup of rum and the essences, stir to combine.
7. Spoon into a greased tin and bake for 5 hours at 160 degrees.
8. Remove cake from oven and pour over 1 cup of rum. Cool in tin.

# Mahjong Tile Holders

by Geoff Harris, Mullum Men's Shed



Universities of the Third Age, or U3As as they are more often called, are voluntary, non-profit organisations aiming to offer older people low-cost educational opportunities which operate in a pleasant, supportive social setting. Brunswick Valley U3A was formed in 1999 and has around 130 members, diversified over a dozen groups, such as, the Men's Shed and the Mahjong group. We were asked by the Mahjong group to make 32 holders for their Mahjong tiles.

For those not familiar with the game, Mahjong originated in China and is commonly played by four players. Similar to the western card game rummy, Mahjong is a game of skill, strategy and calculation and involves a certain degree of chance. The game is played with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols.

The holders are similar to Scrabble tile holders and were to be made of timber. They were not difficult to make, however, they did require some precision setup and cutting on the table saw to get the correct angles. This work was undertaken by Peter, who was under additional pressure as his wife is a member of the Mahjong group and the initiator of the request.




**GREAT RANGE OF CRAFT BEERS**

Huge range of local, Australian, & international wines & spirits

**LOCATED IN THE BYRON WEST SHOPPING CENTRE RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO IGA. SHOP 10, 20 BAYSHORE DRIVE**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

9am - 8pm Mon -Wed  
9am - 9pm Thur - Sat  
10am - 8pm Sun

6685 5130



# Kids Corner

## Jokes

- Q. What do you call a reindeer with bad manners?  
A. RUDE-olph.
- Q. What is an elf's favorite kind of music?  
A. Wrap music.
- Q. What wears and read suit and goes, Oh, oh, oh!  
A. Santa walking backwards.
- Q. How does a sheep say Merry Christmas?  
A. Fleece Navidad.

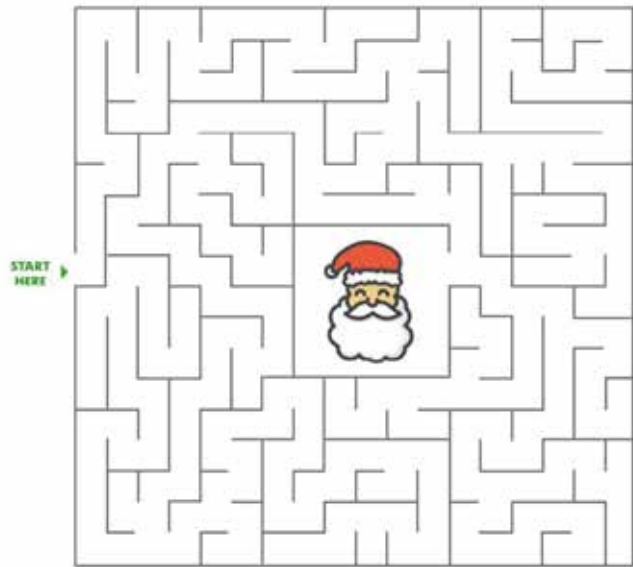
## Riddle

How many reindeer does Santa have?  
Can you name them all?

**Riddle answer:**  
Eight - not including Rudolph. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

## Puzzle

Can you solve this maze and reach Santa in the centre?



**MERRY CHRISTMAS BYRON SHIRE!**  
*from* **Albo & Justine**

**Labor** **Here for you.**

**Justine Elliot MP**  
Your Federal Member for Richmond

(07) 5523 4371  
justineelliot.com.au  
justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au  
facebook.com/JustineElliotMP

Authorised J Elliot, ALP, Tweed Heads South

## DIY Christmas wrapping paper activity

It's the most wonderful time of year, school is finished, the weather is warm, and family and friends gather for lazy days at the beach. Not to mention – it's Christmas and Santa is on his way with presents. Speaking of presents, have you thought about how to wrap yours?

Every year, rolls and rolls of wrapping paper are bought, used, and then discarded almost instantly. On average, Australians use around 150,000 km of wrapping paper each festive season. That's enough to wrap the earth four times. All of that fresh paper then ends up in the landfill – adding to an already congested system. And while we always want to give our best, we don't have to give it in crisp wrapping paper.

Instead, give your friends and family gifts wrapped in the eco-conscious and reusable alternatives listed across.

### Other tips

- Reuse Christmas wrap. The paper can be gathered up, folded, and stored along side the tree and decorations for next year. Remember to unwrap along the sticky tape lines, instead of ripping.
- Use twine or string in a simple bow to secure your gift. This can also be reused.
- Buy an experience instead of a gift to create fabulous memories and minimise waste. Or make a gift. It shows extra thought, love, and care.

### Retro Newspaper gift wrap



In the olden days, people wrapped up parcels and presents in old newspapers and secured them with string.

### Materials

- Newspaper
- Paints, brushes, a plate for the paint.
- A sponge, stamp, or cookie cutters
- Scissors

### Instructions

1. Get a newspaper and pull out some sheets, laying them flat.
2. Start painting Christmas themed items such as bon-bons, snowmen, baubles, and trees. You can also use your hands to make all sorts of wonderful patterns.
3. To make your own Christmas stamp, trace a pattern on a sponge. With adult supervision, cut around the outside of your trace, so you are left with the raised image. Dip it in the paint and get stamping.

Once dry, you can wrap your presents in them and secure them with string. You can also decorate a roll of brown paper and cardboard boxes.

### Use fabrics for a reusable wrap



Fabrics are one of the main contributors to landfill waste. By using fabrics to wrap presents, you give the cloth another chance at life and save it from a trip to the landfill. They are often patterned, which make for beautiful wrappings, and can be re-used time and time again.

They can also act as a double present, for example, wrapping a present in a scarf or beach towel that is also a gift.

Most can be found around the home, (ask your parents first) or for little cost within op-shops. Here are some ideas of what can be used:

- scarves, beach wraps and towels
- pillowcases and cushion covers
- old clothing such as t-shirts, dresses, and skirts, socks for smaller items
- sheets, doona covers, tablecloths, and blankets.

*Please note: larger fabrics may need to be cut to size and will require adult supervision. Most fabrics don't fray when cut, but can be hemmed for longevity.*



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

Est 1988



35 YEARS

# Byron Photo Magic



Shop 20 Mercato on Byron 108-114 Jonson St, Byron Bay NSW 2481 Ph 0266855877



# What's on at Mullum High

Kelly Spilstead, Relieving Principal, Mullumbimby High School



*Pictured left: Yr12 cohort at formal.*

*Pictured right: Yr12 students Ava and Alisa at formal.*



In the closing moments of this year, we find ourselves enveloped in a sense of pride and accomplishment at Mullum High School. Our students have truly excelled, leaving an impressive mark in every sphere.

On the sports fields, our athletes have displayed exceptional skill and determination, achieving remarkable victories that

have made our school community proud. In the creative arts, our students have painted, sung, played, and performed their way into our hearts, showcasing their talents with passion and flair. And in academics, our scholars have embraced learning with zeal, earning accolades and expanding their horizons.


Recently, we bid farewell to our 2023 Yr12 cohort when they completed their final exams and celebrated their graduation in style – at the Brunswick Picture House. As they step into the future, we wish them the very best. May the coming weeks, months and years bring them success and fulfillment in all their endeavors.

In these achievements, we see the embodiment of Mullum High's spirit and dedication. Here's to our students, whose hard work and enthusiasm have made this year truly memorable. As we approach the year's end, we carry these successes with us, inspiring us to continue fostering a community where excellence thrives and dreams are realised.

At Mullumbimby High, we are proud of the opportunities we offer to our students, of the academic integrity of our courses, and of the support we give to young people in all aspects of their schooling. But the thing we are most proud of, the thing that gives shape and meaning to the work we do, is the growth we see in the young people with whom we spend our days.

And then there are the moments that come after school including Extension 2 English student – Max Biermann – who not only wrote a story so beautiful it was selected for inclusion in the 2023 Young Writers Showcase, but who has also embarked on a journey of over 2,000 kilometres of 'mismatched Caminos' (his words) from Geneva, through France and Spain and ending in Finisterre, and daily writing a blog to record his travels.

It is the web of community created within our school, and the way our students grow inside that web, that keeps us focused on the importance of the comprehensive, public education we provide at Mullumbimby High.



**GARRETT  
LAWYERS**

**THE NORTHERN RIVERS TRUSTED LAWYERS FOR BUYING  
AND SELLING PROPERTY. WILLS AND ESTATE PLANNING,  
LEASES AND LITIGATION**

**BALLINA & BYRON BAY**

**Phone: 6681 6334 - spgarrett.com.au**



# Intentional and quality education

by Fee Harris, Assistant Director and Educational Leader, Byron Bay Preschool



Quality Education lights our hearts and centers our teachers and educators alike, to be guided by the wonder of learning for all those involved. We consider this is nurtured in relationship with each other and our respected environment. The truth of optimal learning for individual children is cemented within their social and cultural groups. This can be identified through their senses as they learn through play. Using their hands, their knowledge, they are supported to identify, feel, and have a sense of intrinsically knowing who they are through the enjoyment of their play.

Education. To be educated is a process of well-being which is set or reset by the feeling of being safe, when our bodies and minds regulate to flow in the present time. Many windows and doors of opportunity can be scaffolded through teaching



relationships. It is one's knowledge as an educator as to how to affirm or reaffirm the point of awakening, the aha moment, of intrinsic learning for the child and group of children, to set forth actions, ideas and plans to build upon their knowledge.

Intentional teaching is planned to support the children to inquiry, to experiment, to adapt their knowledge from one context to another and revisit this new information through curiosity. Quality education can be described within the Preschool as a community of continual learners who feel confident and competent to be diverse in thinking, to share who they are, what they know and what they want to know with their peers, family, and friends.

Children feel accepted and trusted to make real, meaningful decisions in their learning. Their voice is heard, and this

is extended to the wider community as they advocate for change. Change is identified by teachers and educators who can critically reflect on the context and content in which children and their families can be, belong and become (Early Year Learning Framework). We see and hear quality learning when the children can express their learning with clarity, confidence, and clear communication (identified as verbal and non-verbal communication). Their creativity, thoughts, intuition, self-image, and sense of worth collectively buzzes with life in gratitude for all who are blessed to witness it.

The children encourage us to be our own witness to support quality learning. Sharing who you truly are, your expertise, and your knowledge role models to children that they have the permission and acceptance to do the same. We all enjoy playing. Some play has rules, outcomes, and contains spoken or unspoken values.

This gives us a gift in further knowing ourselves. We encourage you to explore, engage and discover what lies true to you, that which you enjoy being, as an advocate for quality education.

**ZEP FINANCE**

## Your Mortgage, Your Future, Our Help

Your local loan guru, Zain Peart, can help you find the right solution for your finance needs. A local, trusted mortgage broker for over 10 years, we help all home buyers including first home and refinancing as well as vacant land, off the plan and construction loans.

Get in contact today to see how we can help you.

**SUNDAY 31 DEC  
FROM 4PM**

**BYRON  
BAY**



# **SOUL STREET**

**NEW  
YEAR'S  
EVE**



**FREE Family Friendly  
Entertainment, Food Trucks,  
Market Stalls, Roving  
Performers and Activations**

**Jonson St  
Denning Park**

**[soulstreetbyronbay.com.au](http://soulstreetbyronbay.com.au)**



**BYRON  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**



# Byron Bay Public School

By Nicky Greenlaw, Teacher, BBPS



Pictured: Yr2 Students Louis (left) and Levi (right) on World Banana Day with Healthy Harold and his friend Nicole

## Healthy Harold visits BBPS

Healthy Harold is a firm favourite with Byron Bay Public School students. The Life Education Van, which houses our giraffe friend Harold, has been parked outside the school for several weeks. Classes have taken it in turn to climb the steps into Harold's world to learn about making healthy choices, how our body works and staying safe.

On World Banana Day, students joined Harold in eating a banana in celebration of this superfood. Harold's friend, Nicole has been accompanying Harold in his travels for many years. She has been coming to Byron Bay Public School for more than 15 years and is adept at making the lessons interesting and fun for students.

## Grandparents Day

There was an amazing turnout for Grandparents Day this year beginning with a special assembly under our covered outdoor learning area. It was fantastic to see the hundreds of grandparents and grandfriends, some of whom travelled a long way to attend the event. Performances from our junior and senior school bands and our three school choirs set a welcoming tone of excellence for the day.

After the assembly, students took their grandparents and friends to visit their classrooms, where they joined in a variety of activities. Grandparents listened to students read, played maths games and were interviewed about their own schooldays. These were popular items on the agenda. Classroom visits were followed by a delicious morning tea which was generously provided by our wonderful P and C.

## A poet in the making

Yr3 student, Maeve has been putting her incredible writing skills to work, completing a beautiful poem titled *Quiet Coastline* which has been placed on the 2023 Poem Forest shortlist. This free, nature writing prize for school students aims to breathe life back into the natural world that sustains us.

For every nature writing poem received, a tree is planted to help heal habitats and create a Poem Forest for future generations.

### Shortlisted poem, *Quiet Coastline*, by Maeve

*The water was gushing in from the unknown  
I could hear the echoing roar of the waves on the horizon  
The bubbly foam tickled my toes  
It was so quiet,  
A deafening silence roared across the coastline  
There was no one else on the foreshore  
I could hear myself draw breath  
The water was glistening like a polished diamond  
The sky was like a canvas painted with blue and white  
That day on the beach was amazing.*



## BEST DAY EVER !

**EXPERIENCE BYRON'S GREAT NEW  
ADVENTURE ACTIVITY**

- > CYCLE THROUGH LUSH WORLD HERITAGE RAINFOREST
- > NEW EVENING GLOW WORM TOUR
- > COFFEE, FOOD AND DRINKS OPTIONS ALONG THE TRAIL
- > E-BIKES, KIDS AND INFANT OPTIONS
- > IDEAL FOR FAMILIES, COUPLES, SENIORS & GROUPS LARGE & SMALL

**BETTERBYBIKE.COM.AU \* 0408 444 858**



**Better By Bike**  
Byron Bay - Tweed Heads

# Ocean Shores Art Expo 20th event recap



Pictured: 'Unite a Nation – Matildas' by Mark Stovin, Winner of The Frank Mills Award.



Pictured: 'Byrriell Creek' by Dave Sparks, Winner of the Viewer's Choice Award.



Pictured: 'Presence' by Cate Cormack, 1st prize in Oil and Acrylic category.

The Ocean Shores Art Expo recently marked its 20th anniversary with a theme fittingly titled Celebration. This annual event attracted a rich selection of creative talent from the local community.

A staggering 172 art pieces were proudly showcased in the open category, from over 150 talented individuals. Ocean

Shores Community Centre came alive with vibrant colors and imaginative expressions, hosting a magnificent collection of 99 primary school and 158 secondary school artworks.

Judges were astounded by the exceptional quality of the exhibited works, noting the impressive standard set by the local community. President of the Ocean Shores Art Expo, Elizabeth Tomlinson, said, 'The 20th Anniversary of the Expo showcased not only the exceptional level of artistic talent in our community, but also provided an avenue for local people to come together to celebrate the creativity and uniqueness of the Northern Rivers.'

The opening night drew in a crowd of over 250 patrons, a captivating event that continued to enthuse many more over the following two days. The showcase wasn't limited to still art and included performances from the Brunswick Valley School of Dance and music from Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School students. The stage also witnessed the debut performance of vocal group Agapanthus.

The prestigious Frank Mills Award, accompanied by a substantial \$2,000 prize, found its deserving recipient in Mick Stovin. His piece titled *Unite a Nation – Matildas*, a stunning charcoal on paper, captured the essence of unity inspired by the Women's World Cup and the success of the Matildas.

Mick's artwork beautifully portrayed the unifying spirit, showcasing how sport transcends boundaries, bringing together individuals of all ages, genders, and backgrounds in celebration, regardless of each game's outcome.

President Elizabeth Tomlinson expressed pride in the community's artistic depth and celebrated the Expo as a platform for commemorating Northern Rivers' creativity. With the success of this milestone event, anticipation for 2024s Expo is high, promising yet another year of fostering creativity, unity, and community celebration.

For more information visit: [osartexpo.com](http://osartexpo.com)

BYRON BAY

## the cork shop

CORTIÇA

**Vegan  
Organic  
Sustainable  
Eco-friendly**



**Nature's alternative  
to leather**



**Cork handbags, wallets,  
jewellery, accessories, shoes,  
homewares, hats and more**



**As seen  
on TV**

**[thecorkshop.com.au](http://thecorkshop.com.au)**  
online orders & click & collect

Byron Arcade, 13 Lawson Street, Byron Bay  
Open 7 Days- 10-3pm  
Ph:0422 262 675








## What's on



### Shire Choir: Bangalow

**When:** Thursday 7 December, 7:30pm  
**Where:** Bangalow Hotel

Choir mistress, and musical MC with the mostest, Melia Naughton, will lead you through a spine-tingling rendition of a classic pop/rock song in glorious three part harmony. Accompanied by Jamie and his Birrell Bros Band, all we need is you on vocals – you are Shire Choir. Hang around afterwards for an extra dose of pub rock from the Birrell Bros Band. Festive fun guaranteed.

Tickets and info: [eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au)



### Robyn Davidson: *Unfinished Woman*

**When:** Friday 8 December, 6pm  
**Where:** Byron Theatre

Byron Writers Festival presents Robyn Davidson, author of the international bestseller *Tracks*, for a conversation with Zacharey Jane about her memoir *Unfinished Woman*. Hailed as 'an absorbing record of human endeavour and courage', her work is an investigation of time, memory, and an interrogation of living with, and finding beauty in, the uncertainty and strangeness of being. Tickets and info: [byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on](https://byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on)



### Bangalow Ceramic Fair

**When:** 16–17 December, 8am –3pm  
**Where:** Bangalow Showgrounds

Clay Northern Rivers presents the first annual Bangalow Ceramic Fair. Fifty local potters will showcase their work for sale across two days. There is something for everyone and it's a great way to support local artists while Christmas shopping. There will be live potter's wheel demonstrations, workshops, music, coffee, food, and a lucky draw prize. Tickets at the door. For more info visit Instagram: [@claynorthernrivers](https://www.instagram.com/claynorthernrivers)

## MUKTI BEAUTY ROOMS

### SEASONAL SPECIAL OFFER

## Cooling Summer Facial

90 MIN • \$245 (SAVE \$60)

*Escape the relentless summer heat and bask in cool, calming bliss at the Mukti Beauty Rooms.*



Strengthen your skin barrier and wake up your lymphatic system with our signature facial massage sequence using chilled, rose quartz facial tools. Commencing with a foot bath, scrub, and hydrating foot masque, the facial includes dual exfoliation, custom Bioactive Masque and suitable serum application. This deluxe treatment, exclusive to the Mukti Beauty Rooms, works to lift and sculpt, boost circulation, reduce puffiness and smooth fine lines. Included in the package is a deluxe product sample for you to enjoy at home.

MUKTI BEAUTY ROOMS  
6 SMITH ST, MULLUMBIMBY, NSW

[muktiorganics.com](https://muktiorganics.com) | 1300 306 554

Scan to  
book





## A stress-free Christmas

by Dennis Stevenson, Spirit of Christmas

In 2008, I opened my rented Brisbane house and gave everything away. Since then, I have run free Christmas shops and this year marks my eighth shop in Ocean Shores. Christmas can be an overwhelming and stressful time, however, good planning prevents that last minute rush, and allows you to relax for a peaceful Christmas period with family and friends. It's a holiday – so plan to enjoy. Santa has asked me to share his tips to make your Christmas special.

### Plan your Christmas

Have a group meeting with family and friends to plan the Christmas menu and shopping lists. Delegating tasks such as prep, cooking, serving and cleaning also makes the day easier. Some people arrange combined shopping trips with family to lessen the mental burden and ensure you have everything you need. If the house, backyard or garage needs a spring clean, get it done early to avoid a last minute frenzy.

Christmas cards are often written last minute. Instead, write one each night when winding down. You could make, paint, or sew it yourself, telling each person why you love them.

Plan your Christmas outings, games, and other events. There are lots of great festive events to attend and build excitement for Christmas. On the day, consider playing family games away from technology, like backyard cricket, board games, or cards. Chatting about the past year or planning the future is also a great way to build connections and relax.

### Don't buy so much that it hurts the budget

You can limit the number of gifts or even the shopping budget – discuss this with your loved ones. Think of gifting services like a gift voucher for a massage, a health program, an exercise course they'd just love or a house cleaning. You can also offer them yourself by mowing the lawn, completing house repairs, or making a craft item. Such things are greatly appreciated.

### Think of ways to help others

Christmas is all about giving to others. Do some shopping for elderly neighbours or help with things in their home. Help homeless people and homeless services by providing food, time, money, or your skills. Invite someone home to share your joy, and take this opportunity to write a thank you note to all the people who made a difference in your life this year, like the friendly supermarket attendant, the guy who performs at your local market, or the local coffee shop owner who goes out of his way to ensure you get good service. If you think about it, you will find there are quite a few people in your life that make a difference. Maybe it's time to tell them.

Keep in mind, giving isn't just the fastest way to change ourselves and our world – it's the only way. Never let anyone say there's no Santa. Even though we can't see it, Christmas spirit lives in everyone's heart.

Spread the joy and enjoy a stress-free Christmas.

**HOME CARE DONE RIGHT, AND IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU... FINALLY!**

**Got a Home Care Package?**  
Have you just received a new home care package or have you had one for a while with another provider?

**THE PROBLEMS**

- Not feeling heard, no-one returns your call?
- Different carers all the time...
- Not getting what you need from your package?

**WE PROVIDE A SOLUTION**  
Our coordination team are qualified health professionals that work with you to tailor your services to your unique needs.

**WE ARE DIFFERENT**

- Personalised care team on your terms.
- Responsive care planning and budget updates means quicker changes to care based on need.

**GET IN TOUCH**  
Sign up is easy and cost effective, giving you more money for care. We can have you registered and receiving care within 2 weeks.

**FAMILY AGED CARE ADVOCATES**  
1300 44 3222  
HOMECARE@FACA.COM.AU



## Good habits for long-term success

by Matt Schmidt, Personal Trainer



Building good habits is crucial for achieving long-term success in personal fitness and overall well-being. First and foremost, it's essential to understand that habits are not formed overnight. They require time, consistency, and dedication. The process of building good habits can be broken down into several key steps.

### Setting clear and achievable goals

To establish good habits, people must first identify their specific fitness and health goals. Setting clear, achievable objectives provides a roadmap for habit formation. Whether it's losing weight, gaining muscle, or improving cardiovascular fitness, having a defined goal helps you stay focused and motivated.

### Start small

One of the most common mistakes people make when trying to build habits is attempting to make drastic changes all at once. It's more effective to start small and gradually progress. For instance, if your goal is to exercise regularly, begin with just 15-20 minutes a day and gradually increase the duration and intensity as your habit solidifies.

### Consistency is key

Consistency is the backbone of habit formation. To build a habit successfully, you need to perform the desired action regularly. Schedule your fitness activities at specific times that fit into your daily routine. The more consistent you are, the easier it becomes to make it a habit.

### Accountability and tracking progress

Keeping track of your progress is a powerful motivator. Use a fitness journal, smartphone app, or a personal trainer to monitor your workouts, nutrition, and overall health. Additionally, having an accountability partner, such as a friend or trainer, can help you stay committed to your habits.

### Overcoming setbacks

Building good habits is not a linear process. There will be setbacks and challenges along the way. It's essential to anticipate these obstacles and have a plan to overcome them. When you slip up, don't be too hard on yourself. Learn from your mistakes and get back on track as soon as possible.

### Mindset and motivation

A positive mindset and strong motivation are critical to

sustaining good habits. Remind yourself why you started in the first place and stay focused on your long-term goals. Visualise the benefits and results of your habits to keep your motivation.

### Seek professional guidance

Sometimes, it's beneficial to seek the guidance of a professional, such as a personal trainer or nutritionist, to help you develop and maintain good habits. They can provide expert advice, design personalised workout plans, and offer nutritional guidance that aligns with your goals.

Building good habits is a journey that requires patience, commitment, and a systematic approach. By setting clear goals, starting small, staying consistent, holding yourself accountable, and staying motivated, you can establish healthy habits that lead to long-term success. Remember that setbacks are a natural part of the process, and with the right mindset and support, you can overcome them. Building good habits is not just about changing your actions; it's about transforming your lifestyle for a healthier, happier, and more fulfilling life.

For more information visit Instagram: @goodschmidtfitness

**BE READY FOR  
SUMMER**

**BE WAXED  
AND TANNED**

BYRON BAY - BALLINA

WAXING	TANNING	IPL	BROW BAR
3/2 Fletcher Street BYRON BAY Bookings 0434 522 240	114 River Street BALLINA Bookings 0401 374 433		

Book online at  
[www.bewaxedandtanned.com.au](http://www.bewaxedandtanned.com.au)



# Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue

by Steve Whalan, General Manager, Australian Sea Bird and Turtle Rescue



I'm probably preaching to the converted but the beaches (and weather) in this part of the world are like a magnet to the thalassophiles (people who love the sea) among us; it is difficult to avoid spending time there. So, here's a question for the frequent beach goer, 'What do you do if you come across a beach-stranded or injured seabird, turtle or sea snake, and who are you going to call?'

Australian Seabird and Turtle Rescue (ASTR) are a local, not-for-profit, organisation that rescues and rehabilitates these iconic

marine animals, 365 days a year. Turtles and sea snakes found on the beach are usually emaciated and exhausted and have been washed ashore. Birds are often in trouble from fishing hooks/line entanglement or ingestion. If you encounter a sea turtle, sea bird or sea snake while beach-combing, there are a couple of things you can do to help.

### Firstly, avoid interactions

Do not try to return snakes and turtles to the sea. Their stranding on shore is usually symptomatic of illness/disease or other physical injuries and their poor condition is often exacerbated by exhaustion and starvation, so returning to the sea, without an assessment, may further impact their survival. The sea snakes we usually see are pelagic critters, spending their entire life living in the ocean, so if they have beached are likely in trouble and need assistance. Sea snakes are also venomous. For your own safety, do not handle them and stay away from the toothy end. Although it's tempting to put stranded sea snakes back into the ocean, avoid the urge, as these snakes have delicate skeletal systems and incorrect handling can damage the snake.

### Instead

Call us on our hotline ph: 0428 862 852. From there, we can walk you through what to do until we can attend the rescue. One of the most valuable things to do is to stay with the animal, and if possible minimise crowds and/or dogs from gathering. Staying with the animal also helps us to find you, especially if it is on a long stretch of beach. If you cannot stay, simply write a message in the sand that ASTR are on the way so other community members know a call has been placed. ASTR rescuers are highly trained and experienced and will attend to the rescue and plan for any rehabilitation at our purpose-built facility in Ballina.

It truly is a wonderful and supportive community in this neck of the woods. Through community calls to our hotline, ASTR volunteers rescued 146 animals last year – from the Tweed to Sandon River. Thankfully, many were successfully rehabilitated and liberated back to the ocean. Keep an eye out for us, you might see one of our frequent turtle releases; it is a joyous event for all of us at ASTR, and for the lucky few beach-lovers in the area at time of release.

For more information visit: [seabirdrescue.org.au](http://seabirdrescue.org.au)

## Community Recycling Centres

The right place for your problem waste

 Paint	 Gas bottles	 Fluoro globes and tubes	 Smoke detectors
 Household batteries	 Car batteries	 Motor oils	 Other oils

Your Community Recycling Centre is located at:  
**Byron Resource Recovery Centre 115 Manse Road, Myocum**  
 Hours: Monday to Friday: 8am–4pm  
 Saturday and Sunday: 8.30am–11.30am

For more information call Byron Shire Council on 02 6684 1870 or visit [www.newaste.org.au/crc](http://www.newaste.org.au/crc)








# Join the war on battery waste this festive season

by Karen Rudkin, Project Coordinator, North East Waste

Batteries are an essential part of our lives and never more so that at Christmas, with all the fairy lights and electronic gadgets that are part of the festive scene. But what happens when they can no longer be used or recharged? Tossing them in the bin is definitely not an option.

Incorrectly disposing of batteries into bins regardless of their type or size, has resulted in a 20% increase in battery related fires and explosion incidents in NSW this year according to Fire and Rescue NSW. Many of these fires have been in council waste trucks and at local sorting facilities, endangering staff and damaging equipment.

Batteries also contain valuable heavy metals like lithium and mercury, so binning them is also a waste of these resources and results in a nasty environmental pollutant if leached from landfills into our environment.

When disposed of correctly, around 95% of alkaline and lithium battery components can be recycled in Australia.

There are several local battery recycling options available to

consumers but first it's crucial to tape the battery terminals with clear sticky tape to prevent any residual discharge. They can then be stored in a glass container but for no longer than six months.

Batteries can then be taken to the Byron Community Recycling Centre [newaste.org.au/crc](http://newaste.org.au/crc), to a local Community Recycling Station [newaste.org.au/crs](http://newaste.org.au/crs) or to any B-cycle drop off point, available at many large local retailers [bcycle.com.au/drop-off/](http://bcycle.com.au/drop-off/).

Products with batteries embedded in them, like phones, laptops and power tools, should be disposed of at an e-waste recycling facility or e-waste drop-off event.

For further information on how to be battery safe this Christmas visit: [bcycle.com.au/how-you-can-b-cycle/battery-safety/](http://bcycle.com.au/how-you-can-b-cycle/battery-safety/)

*This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy initiative, funded from the waste levy.*

**RayWhite.**

**AGENT OF THE YEAR**  
 ratemyagent  
**agent of the year awards**  
 SUBURB WINNER  
 2023

**AGENT OF THE YEAR**  
 Damien Smith  
 Sales Director  
 Ray White Byron Bay  
 0418 123 393

**CALL TODAY FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE CHAT**



# Pet of the month



**Owner:** Wenda  
**Pet name:** Pixie  
**Age:** 4  
**Breed:** Moggie  
**Nickname:** Mayhem  
**Catchphrase:** Open the door, now!  
**Favourite food:** Shredded chicken or tuna  
**Favourite toy:** Plastic rat or the cord from trackpants

Pixie is a black moggie, who loves hunting in the garage. Wenda describes Pixie as talkative, bossy, but also very cuddly.

Wenda got Pixie after she visited her daughter in Townsville, and met a little black kitten that belonged to a friend of a friend. 'The friend went back to working in the mines,' said Wenda, 'and I wanted to know what happened to the kitten and it turned out that no one wanted her. I said 'get her for me'. My daughter picked her up and drove her down from Townsville to her new home in Mullumbimby.'

Wenda says one of her favourite memories of Pixie is when she built her a catio, and Pixie walked on grass for the first time. 'She also loves to nibble my plants,' says Wenda. 'She knows it's not allowed, yet she looks me in the eyes while doing it. She is great company and I wouldn't be without her. My black cat is definitely not bad luck.'

*Want to see your pet featured in The Byron Wave? Send your pet's details, their story and photos to email: [editor@thebyronwave.com.au](mailto:editor@thebyronwave.com.au)*

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR Christmas Party

BYRON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Join us for music, food, drinks & wildlife experiences! December 22nd at 4:30 pm

IT COSTS \$555 TO HELP SAVE WILDLIFE. PLEASE DONATE TODAY.

It costs \$555 to provide a veterinary consult, anaesthesia, X-rays, pain relief, fluid therapy and a day's hospitalisation for an injured native animal. That's a donation of \$1.52 per day. Please give generously. Every dollar helps.

[www.byronbaywildlifehospital.org/donate](http://www.byronbaywildlifehospital.org/donate)

BYRON BAY WILDLIFE HOSPITAL +

A registered Australian charity with deductible-gift recipient status

Scan QR code to donate



# Should I buy a pet this Christmas?

by Dr. Kirsty Robertson BVSc, Racecourse Road Veterinary Hospital



What a memory it is meeting your pet for the first time and bringing them home. For many people these days, our pets are an important part of the family. But it is key to remember that a pet of any kind requires commitment. While it is a rewarding bond, purchasing a pet for yourself or others is not a decision to be made lightly. It is important to research various factors such as the place of purchase, the best pet or breed for your life style and what is required to care for their needs physically and behaviorally.

Unfortunately, with the rise in popularity of purchasing new pets, we have also seen an increase in the number of people being scammed. It is too easy for someone to place an ad on social media, take a deposit and never be heard from again. Look into the breeder or organisation and if you can, visit the facility prior to adoption.

### Protect yourself and ask questions

- Do the animals seem happy?
- Are they in safe and hygienic conditions?
- Will they have received prior veterinary checks, vaccination and parasite prevention?

All pets require a large financial commitment over their lifetime. The initial purchase is usually the cheapest part. As well as annual vaccinations and other veterinary services, pets require food, ongoing parasite prevention, grooming, toys, bedding, dental care and training. It also may mean boarding or house-sitting costs.

Different pets and breeds will, of course, require different levels of stimulation and exercise. Kelpies are known for being high energy and are likely to require much more physical activity than, say, a greyhound who may more suitable for apartment style living.

Think about if you are more suited to a large breed, a small breed, one who is good with kids, a young or an older animal, or perhaps a cat, a rabbit or maybe even a reptile. Also, research what types of medical conditions these animals may be prone to and ways to prior screen for these issues or how address them during their life-time.

The time commitment required to give a pet a good quality of life can be huge. Young animals especially require a lot of help adjusting to their new environment. They need training, stimulation and facilitation of their natural habits to become well-rounded. Toilet training is one aspect that can at times be quite difficult. Consider other pets in the household and how they may deal with new additions. It helps to introduce pre-existing pets prior to adoptions or have a trial period to ensure the right fit.

I would caution buying pets as gifts in particular, as this can present its own issues. There is higher risk of neglect with pets ending up in shelters in these cases as people may not have the ability to care for the animal or may not have wanted the animal at all.

Ensure that the pet is age appropriate. Often parents buy pets for young children as gifts but I also frequently see grown up children buying pets for their elderly parents. Young pups and kittens are at times unpredictable and have sharp nails and teeth and do require training.

If you are unsure if owning a pet is right for you or you cannot make the long-term commitment, consider fostering an animal. There are plenty of local organisations that are always looking for new foster carers, volunteers and donations.



Racecourse Road  
Veterinary Hospital

24 - Hour  
Emergency Service

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



6686 9333



25a Racecourse Rd, Ballina

## Big surge for football

by James Rowe, Northern Rivers Football Academy

The Northern Rivers Football Academy (NRFA) in Byron Bay is witnessing a significant surge in interest for football, as evidenced by the 482 registrations for our 2024 High Performance Program. This enthusiastic response showcases the growing passion for the sport in our community. Our selection process, while rigorous, aligns with NRFA's commitment to fostering a strong, competitive environment. By forming one team per age group, we aim to not only enhance the quality of play but also encourage continuous skill development within local clubs across the region.

In an effort to support all young players, NRFA is offering free training in our Development Squad Program for the remainder of term 4, to those aged 14 and below and who weren't selected. This initiative provides an opportunity for these players to learn from our experienced coaches, reinforcing our dedication to nurturing budding talent. The year-round Development Squads are designed to complement

club football, allowing players to benefit from academy-level coaching while remaining active in their local clubs. This approach promotes well-rounded development for each player. Looking to 2024, our goal is to create a development squad for every age group, each with a committed coach. This plan is part of our ongoing effort to support players on their football journey, with a focus on individual growth and development.

The support from Byron Bay FC and the local community has been instrumental in our integration into Byron Bay, mirroring the warm welcome we received in Lennox Head. This community spirit is a cornerstone of our success. At NRFA, our mission is to positively impact young footballers' lives, fostering a love for the game while promoting excellence, professionalism, and care. We are excited about the future and invite the community to join us on this journey, as we work together to enhance football in the Northern Rivers.

## End of Year finale at Byron Basketball

by James Short, Media Director, Byron Bay Basketball Association



*Pictured: U12s Final winners.*

As we come to the end of the year, Byron Basketball has been very busy. The North Coast Shield competition saw its finals during November. The aim of the North Coast Shield is to provide every junior an opportunity

to play competitive basketball in our regional area with an emphasis on player development. Final winners from Byron Bay Basketball were two of our U12 boys teams, U14 boys, U16 boys, and U18 boys. Byron Bay Basketball had more teams entered in this competition than ever before, and we are so proud of all them.

Now the North Coast Shield has concluded, the next representative competition commences with the North Eastern Junior League (NEJL), and Junior Premier League (JPL).

This competition is the next level of representation within the region. Trials were recently held with a stella turnout. The Club is currently looking to fill teams from boys U12s, U14s, U16s, and U18s NEJL and a JPL team. The girls are looking to fill U14s, U16s, and U18s teams. Once confirmed, teams head down to Coffs Harbour for a pre-season carnival at the Bronwyn Vigors Old Age Championship tournament on 9–10 December.

The Club is excited to be holding its End of Year Juniors Finals with their End of Year event in a carnival-style day on Saturday 2 December. All our Primary School and High School teams will be playing out their finals on the one day. It will be a fun-filled time with raffles, BBQ, and prizes to be won.

This is the first year the Club has combined the Juniors Finals and End of Year Event and we look forward to bringing everyone together. A big thanks to all our players, parents, supporters, volunteers, coaches, referees, and officials for their hard work, commitment and support for the Club. Bring on 2024 – Let's Go Beez!



**TIM MILLER**  
REAL ESTATE

0411 757 425  
tim@millerrealestate.com.au  
@timmiller\_realestate  
millerrealestate.com.au





# Byron Runners Summer Sizzle

by Caroline Bailey, Byron Bay Runners


Tuesday 7 November saw the second event in Byron Bay Runners Summer Sizzler Series - a fun and friendly track racing event, held at the Cavanbah Centre track. A record number of competitors raced in sprints (100m, 200m and 400m) and distance (800m and 3,000m) events. Open to club members, non-members, locals and visitors, the Sizzler is free to enter, for any age and all levels of fitness. We were honoured to have Olympian Brendan Cole take to the track in the 400m event. Post-race analysis over a BBQ sausage and the excitement of winning a Runner's Hamper in the raffle (thanks to sponsors Green Coast Finance) rounded out a great night.

Our third Sizzler will be held on Tuesday 5 December with the same format as above, but Christmas fancy dress is encouraged, and there will be an additional Chase the Elf event for our young (and young at heart) runners.

Plans are also well underway for the club's annual Herb Elliott Twilight track meet (Saturday 27 January, 2024). Sanctioned by Athletics NSW, this is becoming a key event in many runners' race calendars, attracting big numbers

of community and elite athletes. Previous competitors have included Shaun Creighton (current Australian 3,000m steeplechase record holder), Julia Degan (Australian Representative, World Championships) and Daniel Williams (current 800m and 1,500m national champion) as well as many of our homegrown talents. We hope to offer again an attractive prize pool in all events (100m, 400m, 1,500m and 3,000m): in 2023 our prize pool was over \$2,000. More information including a link to online registration is on the club's website [www.byronbayrunners.com](http://www.byronbayrunners.com) (go to Club Events - Races). The night is also great for spectators – trackside you will find food trucks and barista coffee and atmosphere provided by a live DJ, race commentary, athlete interviews and more. Registrations will open on 1 December.

This event is a major fundraiser for the Club – a not for profit community club, run entirely by unpaid volunteers. We are currently seeking sponsorship from local businesses to help us cover the costs of staging this event for the community and we have a range of sponsorship packages. Please get in touch with us at [byronbayrunners@gmail.com](mailto:byronbayrunners@gmail.com)




**NEW SPECIALIST ULTRASOUND CLINIC**

**Northern Rivers**  
Ultrasound & Imaging

56 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby  
[www.nrimaging.com.au](http://www.nrimaging.com.au)  
(02) 6684 2354

<b>All referrals accepted</b> , including North Coast Radiology & Lumus	<b>Pensioner &amp; Health Care Card holder</b> exams available	Accredited standalone ultrasound medical imaging facility	<b>Accessible parking</b> via McGoughans Lane
---	--	---	---

Northern Rivers Ultrasound & Imaging (NRI) is part of the Advanced Radiology Clinics group 





# The squirrel's nuts get redacted

with Billy Bob Thoughtson

The *Byron Wave* magazine is having its first birthday, what a great achievement. Just like a baby, the magazine doubled in weight, with profound stories that have graced its pages. With each issue, words have painted vibrant pictures of our community experiences, hopes, and dreams. This magazine has become a tapestry of our community's soul, a testament to the beauty that lies within our wonderful Byron Shire.

I've been humbled by the interest in Billy Bob's observations, even if I do say so myself. It's my attempt to cut through the mundane, revealing life's peculiarities and ironies. The Editor says I write with a mischievous twinkle in my eye, painting snapshots of life's oddities to unearth laughter in everyday absurdities. But alas, I'm fuelled by a penchant for pushing boundaries and this is where I clash with our meticulous Editor.

When I first met the Editor, I thought she was going to be like my best friend, I was expecting some love and encouragement. Jackie Kennedy once said Editors are like your mother, so I expected just that. But in reality it's been a fraught dance between my artistic freedom and her structured precision. A creative battleground, where masterpieces have been forged, then stripped back.

I recently reminded the Editor of my human rights, namely my right to express thoughts, ideas, and opinions, without censorship. Before I finished my verbose assertions, she stated that while free-speech is a fundamental right, it is not absolute. There are legal limitations, such as restrictions on hate speech, incitement to violence, defamation, and of course you must not be vulgar or rude. I reminded her that my topics were unlikely to incite violence. One month it was about poor defenseless potholes, another month the lame habit of name-dropping. I also reminded her that many of my colourful descriptions ended up on the cutting room floor. She said I must be willing to revise parts of my work in the pursuit of a better final product. I said it was in danger of becoming washed out, beige and bland. She then brought out the big guns, quoting the famous American writer William Faulkner, who said 'in

writing, you must kill all your darlings.' We then had the following conversation:

BBT : 'They are not my darlings, they are beautiful creative witty ideas that I have scattered throughout the draft'

Editor: 'You write like an energetic squirrel.'

BBT: 'What do you mean?'

Editor: 'You're over here, then over there, dropping all your intellectual acorns everywhere. The poor gardener, me, has to plant them in neat rows of sentences. It's a [REDACTED] nightmare.'

BBT: 'You want to know what I think? I think [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and another thing – you also [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Besides, squirrels are known for their ability to remember the hidey-holes of thousands of nuts and seeds. So, next time you see me darting around, remember I've got a huge memory bank of witty acorns to make your readers laugh.'

Editor: 'Redactions aside, my aim is to nurture and refine your work, akin to a gardener cultivating plants to ensure they grow in an orderly and aesthetically pleasing manner.'

There you have it. The sparks have flown all year with my rebellious spirit colliding with the Editor's quest for perfection. The relationship between a writer and an editor is like the dynamic between a musician and a producer, where the musician creates the music, but the producer refines and shapes it to its final form. Every writer on the planet has trouble getting their [REDACTED] together. There is even a condition for it called 'writer's block'. Steve Martin once said, 'Writer's block is a fancy term made up by whiners so they can have an excuse to drink more alcohol.' There have been several famous writers known for their struggles with alcoholism. One notable example is the American author Ernest Hemingway who once said, 'Write drunk; edit sober.'

The Editor just nudged me. She thinks I'm encouraging people to booze-it-up if they want to be creative (which I denied) explaining the article is about tensions between writers and fastidious editors. It seems another disclaimer is needed.

*Billy Bob disclaimer: this article is meant to explore the tension between artistic freedom and perfectionism. If you have writer's block don't get sloshed, just have a change of scenery, stay positive, and if you decide to go and have a drink – don't tell your Editor.*

I'm often asked about the disclaimer. It's actually the quintessential by-product of the tension between the writer and Editor. Incorporating a disclaimer is a helpful way to signal my writing contains metaphorical elements that aren't meant to be taken entirely literally. It also keeps some things off the cutting room floor. Almost begrudgingly I will finish this month with a toast to our wonderful Editor. Congratulations on the first year of *The Byron Wave*, may your annoying red pen ever gently guide our words into their rightful place.

**ALL PEST SOLUTIONS**

**YOUR PEST & TERMITE SPECIALISTS**

PHONE **02 6681 6555**

**BOOK ONLINE**  
www.allpestsolutions.com.au



# This month

with Milt Barlow

### At the movies

December brings the school holidays and with it a great line up of movies for everyone. Leading the pack is *Wonka* (14 December). Based on the character at the center of Ronald Dahl's *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*, this live action treat tells the story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today. It's a (chocolate) treat for the whole family.

Boxing Day is traditionally the date for the really big movies to be released in Australia. Unfortunately, this year has been affected by the eight month actors' and writers' strike in Hollywood and which has only just been resolved, so many of the big movies planned for a 2023 release have been pushed back to 2024. That being said, there is still a strong line up for Boxing Day 2023 including *Poor Things*, *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*, *Migration* and *Anyone But You*.


*Poor Things* comes from the bizarre mind of three time Academy Award-nominated Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Favorite*, and *The Lobster*). With a wonderful cast of Emma Stone, Mark Ruffalo, Willem Dafoe and Rami Youssef, this unhinged dark comedy is a visual treat.

The big blockbuster for 26 December is of course *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* - the much anticipated sequel to the highest DC film of all time. Jason Momoa is back as Arthur Curry/Aquaman along with Patrick Wilson, Amber Heard and Nicole Kidman. These movies are a must-see on the big screen and if you're a fan of this genre, grab the popcorn and go have some fun.

For the kids and grandkids, you can't go past *Migration*. From the creators of *Minions*, *Despicable Me* and *The Secret Life Of Pets*, this is a hoot. The Mallard family head south for the winter but well laid plans quickly go awry resulting in some decisions that will change their lives - for the better. Great animation, cute characters and a story that rattles along this is just what the family needs for the holidays.


### Summer on the couch

By now you will have caught the first season of *The Crown*. I loved it and the casting is sensational. Part 2 of Season 6 (and the final one forever) drops on 14 December. It dives into the early adult lives of William and Harry and we see the young Kate Middleton for the first time. Some of my favourite watches of the past month have been *Beckham* (Netflix), *Robbie Williams* (Netflix), and the massive Netflix hit *Last Stop Larrimah*. It's only two episodes, and has been described as 'Australia's version of *Tiger King*'. It follows the still unsolved disappearance and supposed murder of Paddy Moriaty, the loud mouthed, beer swilling larrikin of Larrimah, a tiny outback town 500km south of Darwin with a population of 11 residents. It's bogan and cringeworthy but you can't help but watch it right to the last frame.




BYRON BAY · BALLINA FAIR

## NOW SHOWING




NAPOLEON



TROLLS BAND TOGETHER


## COMING IN DECEMBER

DEC 14




WONKA

BOXING DAY




POOR THINGS

BOXING DAY




WISH

BOXING DAY




AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM

BOXING DAY



MIGRATION

BOXING DAY



ANYONE BUT YOU

**FOR BOOKINGS AND SESSION TIMES**  
**PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU**  
 6686 9600 BALLINA FAIR  
 6680 8555 BYRON BAY



# December crossword

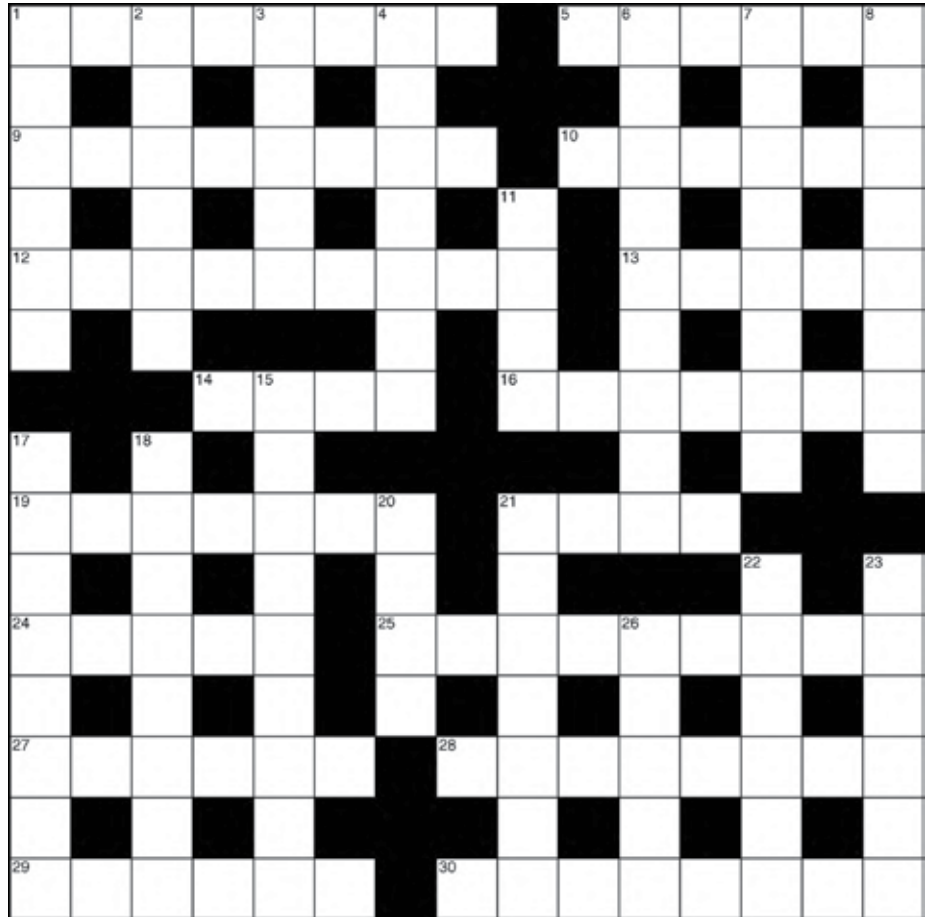
© Lovatts Puzzles

### Across

- 1. Pestered
- 5. Levels
- 9. Etch
- 10. Kremlin country
- 12. Safety barrier
- 13. Miner's land reserve
- 14. English princess
- 16. Slimmers
- 19. Stroll aimlessly
- 21. Flex
- 24. Light boat
- 25. Mexican dish
- 27. Eskimo houses
- 28. Character
- 29. Disembark (3,3)
- 30. Status

### Down

- 1. Overpass
- 2. Strike off (barrister)
- 3. Made slip-up
- 4. Hug
- 6. Baton
- 7. Damps down
- 8. Panicky person
- 11. Clay lump



- 15. Fell asleep (6,3)
- 17. Hitting
- 18. Motorcycle glove
- 20. Picnic blankets

- 21. Resident student
- 22. AD, anno ...
- 23. Re-enter (data)
- 26. Kinswomen




Physiotherapy  
Reformer and Mat Pilates  
(Private Health Fund Rebates Available)  
Paediatric Occupational Therapy  
Shockwave Therapy

## LEADERS OF ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS



Locally Owned and Operated!

02 6687 2300 & 02 6621 8606 Lismore - Ballina - Casino - Bangalow - Lennox Head [physioplus.info](http://physioplus.info) & [bangalowphysiotherapy.com](http://bangalowphysiotherapy.com)



## Tricky trivia

1. What name is singer-actor Stefani Germanotta better known by?
2. How old was Queen Elizabeth II when she was crowned the Queen of England?
3. What was Don Bradman's test batting average?
4. How many moons does Neptune have?
5. What's the best-selling Christmas single of all time?
6. What percentage of the Earth's wildlife is found in the ocean?
7. When was Vegemite invented?
8. What colour is December's birth stone?
9. Who was the first Australian to win the Tour de France?
10. Which member of the Beatles was killed in New York City on 8 of December 1980?

## Book review



### The Seasonal Vegan, by Katie White

Bring more flavour, more colour and more wholesome plant-based foods into your life every single day. This is delicious and comforting garden-to-plate eating for every season, from singer-songwriter and Cordon Bleu-qualified chef Katie White. It features 100+ hearty and mouth-watering plant-based recipes that are seasonal, low-waste

and easy. *The Seasonal Vegan* is for anyone who wants to eat from the heart and live a more sustainable life – whether they're vegan or not – and improve their cooking skills along the way. It even features tips on how to grow your own food.

### Review

This is an enriching book that invites readers to embark on a flavoursome journey of garden-to-plate eating. It's also an informative guide for individuals seeking a more sustainable lifestyle, irrespective of their dietary choices. It also offers a path to improving cooking skills for all. The book's emphasis on eating from the heart and promoting sustainable living inspires a conscious and mindful approach to food consumption.

*Celebrate Christmas with a conscience*

Let's make this Christmas a time for coming together with family and friends, enjoying delicious food and shopping with a conscience.

- Ethically sourced gifts
- Australian made
- Local organic produce and products

**Nourish your soul and Mother Earth this Christmas.**

Visit our stores or shop online and have goodness delivered to your door.

Mullum | Byron Arts & Industrial | Byron Bay  
santosorganics.com.au

Scan to shop



## December horoscopes

by Patsy Bennett - [patsybennett.com](https://patsybennett.com)



### Aries

Be proactive about investing more in your favourite past-times such as the arts, socialising and spiritual development, as your activities will feel therapeutic. Consider where you're heading into the New Year; you'll benefit from adopting an adventurous outlook and taking bold steps.



### Taurus

December is a good month to consider reconfiguring your finances, your shared duties and your common space at home, so that these areas work better for you with a fresh chapter beginning as we sail towards 2024. It's a good time to review how far you've come already this year.



### Gemini

Romance could flourish early in December, so be sure to take the initiative and plan dates. Try to get key paperwork and arrangements on the table before the 13th, when Mercury turns retrograde. The rest of the month will be excellent for reunions and work, as long as you're patient.



### Cancer

Jupiter will encourage you to expand your horizons. For some, this will be in the shape of travel, for others via study and improved relationships. December brings a fresh chapter at work or a change of routine, and if you were born 22-26th June you could turn a corner in your personal life.



### Leo

There is an expansive, sociable quality to the season. Romance can blossom, especially mid-December and you'll be drawn to revisit an old haunt or to reunions. The key to success lies in good collaborative skills now, so be adventurous and also willing to kick-start a fresh chapter at home.



### Virgo

Romance could take off in December; although for some, get-togethers and socialising will revolve more around friends and family. You will be called upon for your help, so must schedule time for yourself too. You may be surprised by developments towards the 21st; for some, financially so.



### Libra

You'll appreciate the chance to indulge more in romance, the arts and music this festive season. However, you may be drawn to overspend and overindulge. You'll gain a deeper understanding of where your home or family life is heading, which will provide clarity about key decisions in 2024.



### Scorpio

Romance will take your focus until the end of the year. You may even be surprised by some developments romantically through towards the 22nd. Avoid overspending and over-indulging in December, as you're likely to regret it. Avoid also gambling, financially and emotionally.



### Sagittarius

A change of routine in December will prove to be revitalising but will also involve some surprises. If you are planning travel or a change at home, be sure to plan ahead carefully, and try to get arrangements on the table before the 13th, if possible. You'll enjoy reunions.



### Capricorn

You'll enjoy getting together with old friends or family and some reunions may even be unexpected or will feel therapeutic. You may feel nostalgic or will be drawn to return to an old haunt. The full moon on the 27th will help you to turn a corner in a business or personal relationship.



### Aquarius

Venus will encourage you to revitalise your career and direction in December. You may even be surprised by developments that encourage you to overhaul your usual work routine or home life. A trip somewhere therapeutic will revive the senses. You may experience a financial boost.



### Pisces

An out-of-the-ordinary or unexpected change of environment will feel therapeutic. You are in line for a financial or an ego boost this month, so be sure to take the initiative, especially at work and financially. You could boost circumstances through the guidance of an expert or advisor.



# Crossword solution

November

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

# Trivia answers

1. Lady Gaga
2. 27
3. 99.94
4. 14
5. *White Christmas* by Bing Crosby
6. 94%
7. 1923
8. Blue
9. Cadel Evans
10. John Lennon



## Ride the investment waves with Morgans

Morgans Northern Rivers has been servicing the Ballina and Byron Bay regions for over 30 years. Our experienced advisers specialise in investments, financial planning, superannuation and retirement. We are now accepting new clients, talk to your local Morgans investment adviser today.



**Dean Talbot**  
AR 001235638  
(02) 6686 4144  
dean.talbot@morgans.com.au



Morgans Financial Limited ABN 49 010 669 726 AFSL 235410 | A Participant of ASX Group



## WHERE EXPERTISE MEETS EXCELLENCE IN REAL ESTATE

Discover a world of unparalleled real estate excellence with Century 21 Byron Bay and Alstonville. From our unwavering commitment to world-class service to our award-winning expertise, we are redefining the experience of home buying and selling.

With a proven track record of successful transactions and satisfied clients, why not join the hundreds of home buyers and sellers who have made their real estate dreams a reality with Century 21 Byron Bay and Alstonville?

## READY TO MAKE YOUR REAL ESTATE DREAMS A REALITY?

Contact Century 21 Byron Bay and Alstonville today to schedule your personalised consultation. Whether you're buying, selling or investing, our expert team are here to guide you through every step of the way.

**0487 287 122**

[C21.com.au/ByronBay](http://C21.com.au/ByronBay)  
[admin@c21byron.com](mailto:admin@c21byron.com)

**(02) 6628 7122**

[C21.com.au/Alstonville](http://C21.com.au/Alstonville)  
[admin@c21alstonville.com](mailto:admin@c21alstonville.com)