

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE December/January 2017

The sweet smells of summer



Seasons greetings

Welcome to this issue of the **Bangalow Herald**, covering the two most celebrated holiday months of the year. We have built a very North Coast kind of Christmas tree to inspire readers to take on the essence of the region. Frangipanis are us. Not snow and reindeer and mulled wine.

Bangalow has always had a unique way of

celebrating, as epitomised by the Christmas Eve Carnival. This has been an essential part of town life since the 1950s, or even earlier. Then, when 2479 was a farming community, families poured into the village in the early evening, strolling the streets where Christmas trees were tied to lampposts, catching up with old friends, sneaking off to buy presents, and

waiting for Santa to arrive in a fire truck to give lollies to the children.

These days, the mood remains essentially the same, just more sophisticated. Food vans, drummers and dancers, stiltwalkers and ferris wheels. But still we come to town to meet and greet each other and share a moment that is our very own.

Check out the latest happenings in town. Who did what and where the action is.

Red Cross

Our branch will hold the last meeting for 2016 on **Friday, 2 December** in the RSL Hall with a Christmas luncheon. Everyone is very welcome, please bring a plate to celebrate a wonderful year of friendship and fundraising. Our next meeting will be in February 2017.

Liz Parks

Salad days

A reminder that Belinda Jeffery will be launching 'The Salad Book' on **Friday, 2 December at 5.30pm** at Heritage House

Museum and Café. Bookings essential. *Carolyn Adams*

People's Messiah

Byron Music Society (BMS) is presenting a concert performance of Handel's Messiah on **Sunday, 4 December, 3pm** at Lismore City Hall. See story page 13.

Christina Hart

Garden Club

Thanks to Debby and Michael Hayward for hosting the Club's visit to their beautiful garden located on a hilltop in Broken Head with magnificent views over the Nightcap Ranges and Lennox Head beaches. This was the last social visit for 2016. The very last event of the year is the celebratory Christmas

Lunch held on **7 December**. *Helen Johnston*

Business Women

Our Networking Group is holding its final event for 2016 on **Thursday, 8 December**. This evening event, from 6pm to 8pm, will be held at the Bangalow Museum and Café. Cost is \$25 and includes drinks and finger food. All welcome. RSVP through our Facebook page, or email bangalowbusinesswomen@gmail.com For further information, please call Paula Todd on 0407 258 963.

Bangalow concert

Finish the year with a song and come along to a choral concert closer to home with Choirbaby

and other choirs from the area on **Sunday, 11 December at 7.30pm** at the Catholic Hall in Deacon Street. *Ruth Kirby*



Museum

Heritage House Museum and Cafe will be closed for a well-earned rest from **Monday 19 December** and reopening on **Tuesday, 16 January, 2017**.



RSL unveiling

It was a solemn but uplifting ceremony at the RSL on November 25. A cast of RSL dignitaries and local identities, including Mayor Simon Richardson, gathered to dedicate a Lest We Forget Remembrance Stone. Speeches were moving, singing was unaccompanied but rousing, the Last Post and Reveille were movingly played by Pastor Phil Dokmanovic, thanks was given to the many contributors involved, and the Red Cross ladies had the honoured task of unveiling the stone, lifting a unique Anzac remembrance quilt made by Helen Gluyas. A delicious lunch was served by the CWA ladies.





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In the New Year we will be holding an information/ membership event. We would like to thank all our customers and community groups for their continued support throughout the year for events like the Food Van party (pic opposite) and wish all a very happy and safe festive season. *Wendy Grissell*

Farmer's Market reminder

Don't miss out. This year the Sunday Farmer's Market will be on **26 December**. A great place to spend that Christmas money!



Spotlight: Land and Rivercare

2016 marks the 18th year of Bangalow Land and Rivercare. The group was formed after a large fish kill in Maori Creek alerted a few locals to the degradation of our waterways and the poor water quality which caused it. The main focus of the group has always been removing weeds and restoring the riparian zone of 6km of Byron Creek. To date we have achieved about a third. Members have come and gone over the years but a few original ones remain. As it has always been difficult to inspire new members, and as we are all getting older, the future of this group is uncertain. The last big project was to complete the Bangalow River walk, which connects Bangalow Parklands to the sports fields. This corridor will in the future provide a significant habitat area and is a wonderful example of how this area looked before white settlement. A lasting legacy of which we are very proud. We work **every Saturday morning** for two hours, call Liz 66871309 for further information. *Liz Gander*



CWA

The CWA is extremely proud of member, Jan Guest, who took out the Champion Exhibit for patchwork and quilting in addition to Champion Exhibit for sewing at the Show. Other members excelled in cooking and handicrafts, bringing back ribbons and accolades.

Community support has enabled us to raise significant funds this year, allowing us to make some substantial contributions to community organisations addressing the needs of vulnerable groups in our community. These include



Scouts

1st Bangalow Scouts Cubs section (ages 7½ –10½ years old) meet Fridays from 5:45 pm and Scouts (ages 10½ –14½) meet Tuesdays from 6:15 pm during school terms. Come and

give Scouting a go and enjoy events like the Brunswick Heads raft challenge, pictured. Contact Jenny Holden for information on 6687 2407, or to hire the Scout Hall contact Jacinta on 0417 547 242. *Cyndi Harris*

Christmas Eve Carnival

This has to be the community highlight of the year when cruising Byron street, being entertained and catching up with friends, is a joy. *Linda Sparrow*

Liberation Larder, the SHIFT program, contributions to disasters, local and international, and annual scholarships to year 6 students in the 2479 postcode area.

Di Campbell

More #What's On, see page 12



Bangalow

The Heart of the Hinterland



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Caring and sharing

Welcome to our combination December/January holiday issue of the **Bangalow Herald**. We've received phenomenal feedback to the publication of the first edition. Thank you for your support! It means such a lot. Our volunteer team has received congratulatory emails, been stopped in the street, had ads and articles submitted and, in general, we feel justified that taking this step to produce another community publication was the right thing to do.

As mentioned last month, the aim in producing the **Herald** – still a 'work in progress' as we save enough funds to print it professionally – is to inform readers about what's happening in Bangalow, and to entertain you with articles that engross, inform and inspire about things that matter locally.

The **Herald** is a start-up community project, and we have been delighted and amazed that folk have, uninvited, been offering financial help to get us onto a steady footing. So we've decided to make it official. And here's the hard sell: if you are so inclined as to help us out, we'd like to invite you to become a **Herald Angel** with a donation of \$25 or more to go into a fund to enable us to grow and flourish. Our details are on **page 6**.

This issue we look at what's your preference for this summer season. These days, more people are choosing to share experiences with friends and family rather than buying each other more 'stuff'. And another dimension to life in our hinterland heaven is to contribute time and energy to the Bangalow community, like joining one of our 30 or so local clubs, societies or other groups which positively impact our lives in one form or another.

That supportive spirit is ever-present in an event like the upcoming **Christmas Eve Carnival**. There'll be rides, food, buskers, circus acts, fire twirling, face painting, the amazing Samba Blisstas and Christmas carols, while the CWA will be accepting gift donations for Ballina Hope Haven Women's and Children's Refuge.

Our entire team would like to wish our readers a safe and happy summer. *Christobel Munson*

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Our footpaths are old and dangerous

We may live in a heritage town, but that is no excuse to leave us with old footpaths that are hazards to public safety.

An accident has happened. You may recall that we published a story about how unsafe our town is for people with limited mobility and people on wheels. We were warned of just some of the many hazards that make life difficult and dangerous for people on wheels.

Recently an elderly resident from Feros Village was tipped out of her wheelchair and harmed. Her family was taking her for an outing into town. Her wheelchair ran into one of the trip hazards caused by the uneven surface of the old footpath that runs on the north side of Byron Street between the bridge and Station Lane.

The management of Feros Village has met with the family and concerned local residents to discuss what is now an urgent matter of safety for residents walking or wheeling between the Bowling Club and the centre of town. The meeting decided to develop a full submission to Byron Shire Council about this incident, and others, seeking urgent reconstruction of the footpath and the aprons that lead onto it.

If you have information that would help build this case, please contact Richie Allen on 0403 334 850. *Jenny Bird*

DON'T IGNORE YOUR SNORE

Snoring has been linked with Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA), a chronic disease associated with a higher risk of heart disease, stroke and depression – especially in men. Unfortunately, for too many people and their loved ones, it often goes undiagnosed.

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sleep_{GP}

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Small schools are being overlooked

Before the start of 2017, primary school decisions must be made. **Jo Wilkinson** looks at options.

Within the 2479 post code, we are incredibly blessed to have four public schools available to the community. Bangalow, Fernleigh, Coorabell and Newrybar Public School all offer our primary school-aged children a supportive learning environment.

Increasingly, however, our smaller schools such as Fernleigh and Newrybar are being overlooked due to their 'smallness'. These schools are often perceived as not offering the same level of schooling as their bigger counterparts – or the general public believe that they're so small that they will close. You will be pleased to read that the small schools won't be closing any time soon. However, if you live in the zone of your local school, you really should be enrolling your child in your designated school or, unfortunately, in the future they will close, ultimately due to lack of community support.

For those not fully aware, government schools are separated into zones (or districts). Increasingly a lot of our local schools are under pressure and many schools are over capacity for their designated number of enrolments. Many schools require students to live in the local catchment area in order to be granted a place. If you are hoping to enrol your child in a school outside of your zone, it's best

to contact individual schools to discuss some of the important practicalities, such as whether the school has enough places to take your child. Some schools may require that you schedule an interview to discuss your reasons for an out-of-area enrolment. It is a very real possibility that government schools outside your zone will reach their enrolment capacity just enrolling students within their catchment.

So why are small schools being overlooked? The most common feedback local schools receive is: "There aren't enough kids, my child will miss out on a social life." Other comments are: "There isn't enough music, art, craft, plays, excursions." The list goes on. Unfortunately, parents often take the school on a superficial face value alone; they see the smaller numbers as an impediment rather than a positive to their child's schooling success.

Both Fernleigh and Newrybar offer the same school curriculum as large schools. As classes are usually multi-stage, younger students can learn from older students in class, or if a child is slower in their learning it is easy to group students according to their ability in a particular subject with no stigma attached. Gifted and talented programs are offered as well as a support teacher for

learning difficulties. Teachers are able to ensure your child's academic success; their approach means they won't be swallowed up by bigger class numbers.

Unbeknown to the community, Newrybar Public School is an L3 model school which focuses on Learning, Literacy and Language as a way of teaching literacy to K-2 students. This approach brings positive results. The school also implements the TEN program, for teaching early numeracy in K-6, with a focus on teaching numeracy skills as a solid foundation for all maths learning.

They also offer an annual trip to the QPAC Theatre in Brisbane, music lessons through the Northern Rivers Conservatorium of Music, specialised sport teaching programs and specialised art and drama workshops. Quite incredible opportunities given their so called 'smallness'.

So if you're looking into schools in the local area for your child, or if someone new moves to the area, perhaps give the zoned school a chance instead of overlooking them. Talk to the parents of students there instead of taking the school on face value alone, and what so-called rumours you have heard. You will be pleasantly surprised and amazed at the academic progress and potential that is provided for your child.



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Village Plan gathering momentum

Fifteen years ago the Bangalow community got together to influence how the village's growth should be managed. The result was the Bangalow Settlement Strategy, first published in 2003. Many of its envisaged residential areas (Rankin Drive, Clover Hill) are now established suburbs; others are in early stages of building (Meadows).

Last year's 'Have Your Say Survey, Bangalow' was the first stage in updating the Settlement Strategy – the foundation of a new Bangalow Village Plan. Respondents told us what they liked and disliked about our village. The village scale, the heritage look and feel, the rural atmosphere with surrounding green hills and our cafes, shops, markets and our green areas dominated the 'likes'. Through-traffic,

parking, lack of proper well-placed internal walking and cycle networks were desired improvements.

But the pressures of shire-wide growth continue and Bangalow will have to take its share. So we need to be planning now to overcome the difficulties of our town as part of a coherent plan for the future that retains the things the community holds dear while improving infrastructure and services to cope with increased numbers.

Representatives of most Bangalow community groups have, with council staff, a consultant and councillors, workshopped different ideas for Bangalow's central business area – traffic options, pedestrian walkways, alternative parking areas, making our village a more satisfying tourist experience, retaining the village look and feel.

At its next meeting Council will be asked to endorse the initial stage of the Bangalow Village Plan and appoint a guidance group of community representatives to work with council staff and the community to get the plan ready for public comment later in 2017.

We understand the next meeting of the guidance group will give Bangalow comments on the council's preliminary draft shire-wide residential strategy; on an outline concept plan for using the rail corridor within Bangalow to improve foot and bike paths through the village; on an update for Memorial Park at the top of Byron Street and on council's plans for an additional water reservoir off Granuaille Crescent and, possibly, an associated look-out over the town.

*Tony Hart, President
Bangalow Progress Association*

Park perfect

Ready just in time for everyone to enjoy during the summer holiday season! The combined hard work of many volunteers from the Land and Rivercare crew, the Parklands team and the wider community, not to mention the substantial contribution of Byron Shire Council in labour and support, and Rous Water and Ragged Blossom Nursery with plants, the beautiful Parkland surrounding Byron Creek has undergone yet another radical upgrade. Just look at the outcome after the final planting of 800 trees, bushes and lomandras along both sides of the creek. *Christobel Munson*



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Join the CWA!



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Solar Business

Another Bangalow main street business goes solar.

Aquion Energy (AHI) 'salt batteries'

*Can be easily made in many countries using 'simple' components.

*Suit stationary, long-term applications being flexible for variable frequency and intensity of use and charging.

*Can be easily recycled. The main components are salt, manganese oxide, carbon and plastic.

*Are accredited as 'Cradle-to-Cradle' (essentially waste-free and fully recyclable).

*Currently come in 2.4kW modules, around a metre high and weighing 100kg. These can be joined to make small, medium or large storage banks.

It was a hot day, so as I entered Island Luxe it was very nice to feel the air conditioning. The question was, of course, how the power was being provided, and that was why I was there – to research a story on businesses in Bangalow using solar power. In last month's **Herald** I featured a domestic house where batteries are used to provide night-time power. This story features a commercial business where a lot of power is required during daylight hours - a less common battery use which required careful planning.

Island Luxe is a family business run by Mirjan and Helen Brenko, who live at Newrybar, and their son Samuel who lives at Booyong. They stock a wide range of homewares, clothing and gifts in their newly refurbished shop. They have run this business for nine years, in premises at the bottom of Bangalow's main street. In hot weather it is a very warm building and fairly cool in winter, so air conditioning has been important for staff, customers and product protection. Four years ago, they installed 7kw of solar panels. This helped, but when all air conditioners are on, they use 14kw/hour, so extra panels and batteries have recently been added. They now have 15kw of panels and 30kw of batteries.

The system has been installed by Bangalow electrician, Jurgen Israel who, with his wife Janelle, runs Blitzability electrical. They do a lot of local solar work. The batteries, based on salt (see box), are a relatively new US product by Aquion Energy and were developed by venture capital investors. A feature in their use at Island Luxe is safety, as they had to be installed in a restricted, unventilated space.

Traditional lead-acid batteries, and many lithium-ion models, should not be allowed to get too hot, can be dangerous if exposed to sparks, and should be housed in fireproof, ventilated enclosures.

Another interesting aspect of this installation is customising the angles of the panels (see pic on **Herald** website) and the inverter load, to quickly maximise storage in the morning, then drop quickly late in the afternoon. So the system is ready for a 10am shop opening. The solar panels and batteries then largely run the shop during the day. When needed, the Australian-made inverter controlling the system tops up the batteries again with cheaper night-time grid pricing. This means that virtually no power is bought at peak daytime prices. It also 'decides' whether to direct solar power to the shop, the batteries or the grid.

The Brenkos are very happy with the system, which is 'nearly off-grid'. "It has been important to have local installers to fine tune and customise our installation," Mirjan said. "Quarterly bills have dropped from around \$2000 to less than \$200."

The first Bangalow main street business with an extensive solar system was The Rug Shop. This was part of the 100GoSolar initiative encouraging Byron Shire businesses to install systems through local suppliers. Owner Milton Cater tells me this is going well, saving \$2500 per year from his previously \$3200 power bill. This is mainly via the solar panels, but also by changing to LED lighting. As the system pays for itself in less than four years, Milton suggests all Bangalow should go solar.

More reports on solar systems in next year's **Herald**. *Brian Sundstrom*

4th Sunday of each month

Please note the December Market this year is on Boxing Day, Monday the 26th

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Finding the perfect gift

A wander down the main street of Bangalow in search of a fitting locally-made gift for a loved one, alas, presents simply far too many options. **Christobel Munson** helps you choose.

If you kick off your search at the rear-entry-only Post Office, there's a plethora of potential presents. Almost half the display area is dedicated to locally-made products. Choose from Byron Hills chocolate (the dark with coconut is popular) at \$7.50 a slab. Perhaps packets of local coffee from Zentvelds, Bay or Bun Coffee? Or some use-again-and-again Honey Bee Wraps, to keep your food fresh – \$8 for a single, or \$45 for a pack of four. Then there are camphor

laurel chopping boards (\$21) or tea light holders (\$10), plus wooden spoons and salad servers, made in Uki, or candles from Byron Bay or bath salts from Kingscliff, or a personal favourite: those fabulous \$20 tea towels made by Black Ant in Brooklet, featuring illustrations of local hot spots.

Next door at the



Bangalow Newsagents, a book that's just perfect for visitors or locals alike is *Byron Trails*, \$29.95 (opposite), selling like hot cakes. More than 130 copies have been bought since it arrived in store and it's proving to be an excellent gift. "It even tells you the nearest place you can have a coffee after your walk!" the salesgirl enthused.

Of course if you'd prefer to give a non-material gift, why not

My Christmas table

When it comes to eating out in 2479 we are spoilt for choice with everything from gourmet sandwiches to fine dining on offer. As the festive season approaches, we chatted with some of the restaurateurs, chefs and caterers of 2479 to find out how they celebrate the holidays and what's on the plates at their Christmas table.

Pete Timbs, newish proprietor of much-loved The Italian Diner, loves his classic Aussie Christmas. "We open our presents with a glass of champagne mixed with mango juice – it's our traditional breakfast," he says. After the morning church service, the clan settles in for a timeless Aussie Christmas lunch featuring lots of seafood and a leg of ham, cold potato salad and coleslaw. "Mum always has this special crab dip that she does – it's crab meat, cream cheese and cocktail sauce. That's the first thing that gets eaten with some crackers," he says. And it wouldn't be an Aussie Chrissie for

this family without a few frosty beverages and a snooze on the couch after lunch.

Christmas at Casa Stockdale is, as you would expect, a scene of glorious



gluttony. Working hard at The Stockpot Kitchen all year, Jen and Graeme deserve some downtime at Christmas, and look forward to a couple of days away from the Bowlo. They kick off the day with Bloody Marys for breakfast. "Grae gets up and makes them whether you're hungover, sober or have been up all night putting up a frickin' trampoline," says Jen. "We don't go anywhere,

everyone comes to us. We set the house up and go for it," she adds, with between 15 and 30 guests treated to everything from duck to artisan salumi. The fridge is bursting, so are the eskys. "It's like a seven-hour antipasti table," says Jen.

This year, Aneka Sidoti, co-owner of Our Corner Kitchen, is tackling the turkey for her family's get together. "It's my first time, so I hope it goes OK!" she says. Her family Christmas lunch is a feast to behold, with sister Heidi's famous glazed ham, lots of salads, fruits and seafood. "My dad brings too many kilos of prawns, he's Italian. He's an over-caterer – and we eat it all!" But no matter how full, there is always room for a serve of Aneka's mum's frozen Christmas dessert, made with cinnamon and vanilla icecream with mixed nuts and dried fruit. "Being around water is important for us at Christmas, so if we're not at a house with a pool, we pack everything up and head to the beach."

Sally Schofield



buy a gift voucher at Bangalow Remedial Massage, next door to the newsagents (0499 490 088). \$90 for an hour or \$120 for 90 minutes. Word has it they're sensational.

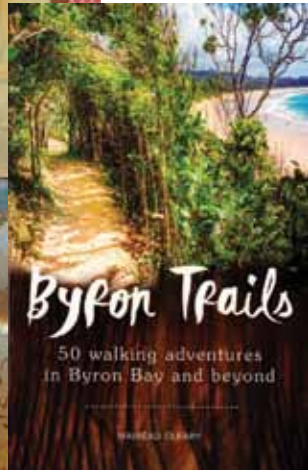
For some people, this season's all about food. John Herne at Herne's Butchers (top left) says that the original Bangalow Pork hams, at \$18/kg, are already popular with advance orders. "People love adding their favourite glaze to our hams," John adds. Smoked local chickens (\$19.50 each) are also selling well early in the season.

Over the road at the CWA rooms, elbow your way in to view the groaning table of hand-made gift items (top left). Apart from cute dresses for little girls and the cuddliest soft toys for babies and toddlers, the stuffed reindeers (\$35) are being snapped up like they're going out of style.

If art work is what you'd like, then a Peter Mortimer original of a dog is selling for \$2200 at Windhorse Gallery While down at Barebones Artspace you can find a beautiful original by any number of local artists, like the popular Hilary Herrmann, Michelle Dawson, Charly Wrencher or Hillary Austin (pictured at left).

And you can't go past celebration central, Bangalow Cellars (above), with *the* drink of the moment, locally produced Ink gin. And while you're there, be tempted to try the local bread and cheeses. The pub has local beers like the Stone & Wood 'Big Scrub' beer from their 'Beers from our backyard'.

Or visit the style mavens of Station Street. Queen Mabs makes frocks to die for, and Charlotte's Parlour offers free wrapping (above) on gifts bought there. Make your presents the best under the tree. There's something for everyone in Bangalow.



Getting your ducks...

Fancy something different for a family feast these holidays? A plump, roasted duck sounds just the thing! Bangalow Farmers' Market has a new stall which sells these and other local free-range products. The farm, near Ballina, has free-range Muscovy ducks, meat chickens and pigs, all foraging in grassy paddocks. Whole ducks and chickens are sold ready for roasting or there is locally processed duck prosciutto for picnics or casual dining. If it's too hot for a roast, imagine an entree of rockmelon wrapped in the prosciutto... Mmmmm. *Judy Baker*



Giving a helping hound

Please think of CAWI (Companion Animals Welfare Inc) when deciding which Christmas present to buy your friends or family. A really worthwhile purchase would be to buy a gift certificate. These can be obtained from our Op Shop in Brunswick Heads and will help us realise the dream of having an Animal, Training and Rehoming Centre. Make your gift twice as special; once to put a smile on the person's face and twice by helping the abandoned and needy dogs of our Shire. We can't do it alone, but with your help we can achieve so much more. In **January**, Live Life Pharmacy in Byron has made us their charity of the month, so consider shopping there to support us.

Donations can also be made online: www.cawi.org.au .

Elisabeth Newhouse



Show Diary

I love the Bangalow Show! Browsing through the Pavilion admiring the produce, the craft, the flowers, the photography and artwork. Checking out the chooks. There's always a real buzz of activity and high excitement.

This year's feature of the Social Butterfly and the Bogan Moth of the Show was a real hoot. Frida Karlo has a lot to answer for!

But I have to say my favourite bit is the Saturday evening ring events. The crowds cheering on the Ironman teams trying to dig their post holes and keep their fires going to boil the billy; the girls trying to eat a cold meat pie and down a warm beer; the riders trying to urge their horses over fire or back up a track; the ute pull showing great muscles.

I was amazed at the height a dog could jump from a standing start – especially with a treat reward for success.

It's a great, truly country show, with the skills of town and country folk on display.

Judy Baker



ANGLICAN CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN BANGALOW 2016

Sunday 18 December

7:00pm The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
All Souls' Bangalow

Wednesday 21 December

3:30pm Kids Prepare for Christmas
All Souls' Bangalow



Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December

7:00pm St Aidan's Eureka
9:00pm All Souls' Bangalow

Christmas Day Sunday 25 December

9:00am All Souls' Bangalow

The Anglican Parish of Bangalow, 1 Ashton Street, Bangalow (02) 6687 1046 — bangalowanglican.com.au

Australian gardens – a pruned history

The beginning of the 20th century saw changes in the way Australians designed their gardens. Whilst some still followed the rule book of the Victorian era, two new styles started to emerge or became more popular.

The Federation garden started around the 1890s and went on until the 1920s, breaking out of the geometric forms one can see in Victorian gardens. It followed in the footsteps of the 'gardenesque' style but also departed from it. There was a minimal use of garden beds, often framing the house, and curves rather than straight lines were used. Garden features were inspired by the Arts & Craft movement and what was coined 'Australianism'.

A large variety of ornamental plants

were grown for gardens, some still in use today, others have gone out of fashion unfortunately. And, of course, some became noxious weeds. The Searl and Sons or Robert Little & Co catalogues of that era show what was available at the time.

The Edwardian gardens, which started around 1910 and went on until the 1940s, increased the use of native Australian plants. They could be formal or informal, or both, but often featured stonework and were greatly influenced by the work and writing of Edna Walling. The Arts & Craft once more featured in the garden. I recommend you read or search for books on her very influential work

Early 20th century gardens relied on

rainfall, tank water or creek water. Water saving was a necessity, therefore the plants had to be able to withstand periods of drought. This explains, in part, a movement away from the 'English' style plants towards species from the driest part of the Commonwealth and the true beginning of the use of Australian natives.

Some plants for a Federation era garden include: **Climbers:** Beaumontia grandiflora, Hardenbergia violacea, Mandevillea laxa, Trachelospermum jasminoides.

Shrubs: Roses were common, also Bartletina sordida, Gardenias, Azaleas, Camellias, Galphimia glauca, various Grevilleas, Hakeas, Hibiscus, Dracaenas.

More on my Facebook. Patrick Regnault

Plant me instead

There are several reasons to replace the exotic plants in your garden with the native equivalent. The best one is knowing you are providing habitat and food for native fauna plus, as a bonus, you get to enjoy seeing the visitors you will receive. Don't forget the local little critters need these plants too, and are often species specific. The bees will be happier and we want happy bees. Another great benefit of using natives is that it helps reduce the occurrence of weeds in the local environment by reducing the seed source and garden escapes that can be very invasive.

Liz Gander, Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Ragged Blossom Nursery

These are just a few suggestions of the worst offenders in our area, and their replacement suggestions. There are many, many more.

Exotic

Native

Hedging:

Murraya
Viburnum
Photinia

Lillypillies – Syzygium sp many cultivars (cvs)
Christmas Bush - Ceratopetalum cvs, Native Viburnum
Bottlebrush – Callistemon many cvs

Shade Trees:

Ochna
Jacaranda
Golden Rain Tree
Golden Bells

Holly Fuchsia, Scarlet Fuchsia
White Cedar, Tulipwood
Golden Penda, Tuckeroo
Tristaniopsis cvs, Wattles

Grasses:

Couch
Paspalum
Penistemon

Pratia sp
Hederacea sp - Native Violets
Lomandra- many cvs,

Lilies:

Agapanthus
Deities sp

Crinum Lily, Kangaroo Paw
Dianella sp – many cvs

Climbers:

Wisteria
Pyrostegia
Dutchman's Pipe
Cat's claw Creeper

Native Wisteria
Wonga Vine – Pandorea sp
Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Vine
Guinea Flower - Hibbertia sp, Pandorea sp.

Palms:

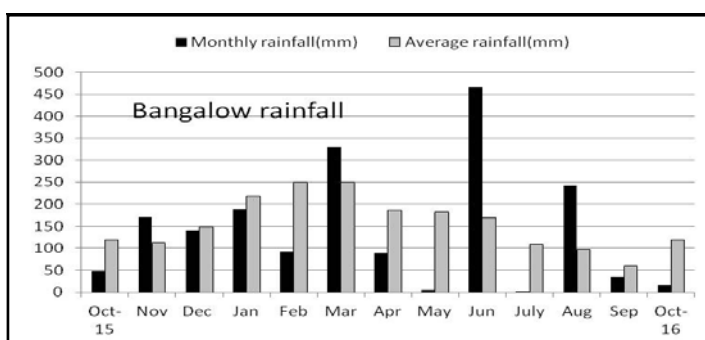
Cocos Palm
Alexander Palm

Foxtail Palm
Kentia Palm, Bangalow Palm

Structural Plants:

Agave
Blue Taro

Gymea Lily, Spear Lily
Cunjevoi Lily



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More #What's On, from page 3

In January

Pop Up Gallery

The Art There Collective Pop Up Gallery takes place in the Moller Pavilion in the Bangalow show grounds on market Sundays (the 4th Sunday of the month). Our next Pop Up exhibition will be on **Sunday, 22 January**. Artists include: Karyn Fendley, Kay Knights, John Walters, Caroline McKay, Leonie Jackson, Sue Frazer, Linda Murray and Sharon McIlwain. For more information visit www.arttherecollective.com

Karyn Fendley

Nominate for Australia Day!

Calling all inspiring locals. Do you know someone who should be recognised for their incredible efforts in the Byron Shire? Why not nominate them for a 2017 Australia Award?

Mayor, Simon Richardson, said

this was a fantastic opportunity to consider and celebrate local people who are inspiring our community. "We are lucky to have such diverse talents, passions and backgrounds amongst our residents.

"Not only that, we are a community where people care about each other; many residents are out there supporting and giving a helping hand to causes that are bigger than themselves.

"In the face of news and global events, we can sometimes forget about all the individuals and groups that are creating positive change in this beautiful place we call home.

"The Australia Day Awards are a way to showcase these efforts and say 'thank you' to the people who inspire us."

According to the 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistic Census, 26 per cent of the Byron Shire is involved in volunteering. This compares to 16.9 per cent for NSW.

Australia Day will be celebrated on **Thursday 26 January 2017** and Byron Shire Council, along with community groups, is again proudly sponsoring the Shire-wide celebrations.

Nominations for the following Awards are invited:

Citizen of the Year. (no age limit)

Young Citizen of the Year. (person aged up to 25 years as at 26/1/17)

Sports Person of the Year.

Community Event of the Year.

Volunteer of the Year.

Environmental Volunteer.

Project of the Year.

Persons may be nominated by individuals, community groups or organisations. Nominations close **Friday 16 December 2016, 4pm**. For more information, contact Deb Stafford on 02 6626 7088 or deborah.stafford@byron.nsw.gov.au.

Or download the form at <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/australia-day> *Byron Council*

Xmas Guest Guide

We all know how popular the Far North Coast is in summer months. Family and friends are drawn, like moths to a flame, to our beautiful region. And, to be honest, most of us love a chance to show off. But there are a few downsides, so leave this list beside the bed, as a gentle but loving guide:

- * The Lismore Road is tail-gaters paradise. Be aware.
- * Parking in town is limited. Use spaces outlined or check out a little further downtown.
- * The only street crossing is designed for danger. Watch for manic people overtaking just near there. Don't dawdle.
- * Most venues in town close early by city standards. No going out for dinner at 9.30pm.
- * Country friends live on tank water and we've not had much rain. No long showers.
- * Access to technology is intermittent. Sometimes you just can't connect to the world.

WHAT'S THAT NUMBER?

AA	Tues 5.30	Richard	0466 885 820	Pool Trust	3rd Wed	Dominic	6687 1425
ADFAS		Anni	6684 3249	Poultry Club		Hec	6687 1322
Aussie Rules		Bill	6687 1485	Progress Association		Tony	6687 0607
Aussie Rules Junior		Greg	6687 1231	Quilters	2nd,4th Thurs	Helen	6684 1161
Bangalow Parklands Team		Terry	6685 4107	Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Clubs		Monica	0408 776 171
Bangalow Markets	monthly 4th Sun	Jeff	6687 1911	Red Cross	monthly - 1st Fri	Dell	6684 7405
Bangalow Bowlo		Shane	6687 2741	Rugby Union		Richard	0415 773 064
Bridge	Fri 12pm	Eda	6685 1984	S355 C'mtee Heritage House		Don	6687 1897
Cancer support	1st Wed 1-4pm	Chris	6687 0004	Scouts	Tues 6.30pm	Jenny	6687 2047
Chamber of Commerce	1st Tues	admin@bangalow.biz		Show Society		Karen	6687 1033
Childcare Centre	7.45am-6pm	Kerry	6687 1552	Soccer Club	2nd Mon 6pm	Nick	6687 1607
Cricket Club		Anthony	0429 306 529	Social Golf	every 2nd Sun	Brian	6684 7444
Co-dependents Anonymous	Thurs 7pm/Sat 4pm	Guy	0421 583 321	Sports Association	2nd Wed bi-monthly	Brian	6687 1024
CWA	2nd Wed	Di	6685 4694	Sporting Field	bookings	Nick	6687 1607
Garden Club	1st Wed	Margaret	0403 583 766	Tennis Court Hire			6687 1803
George the Snake Man		George	0407 965 092	Writers Group	1st Thurs	June	6687 1004
Historical Society/Museum/Cafe		Wendy	6687 2183	WIRES			6628 1898
Land/RiverCare	1st Sat working bee	Liz	6687 1309	VENUES			
Lawn Bowls, Men	Wed & Sat 1pm	Gerry	6687 1142	A&I Hall	Station St	Brian	0427 157 565
Lawn Bowls, Women Wed 9.30am		Dot	6687 1246	Anglican Hall	Ashton St	Matthew	0488 561 539
Lions Club	2nd/4th Tues 7pm	Brian	0408 899 555	Bangalow Showgrd	Moller Pavilion	Karina	6687 1035
Men's Shed		Brian	0413 679 201	Sports/Bowling Club	Byron St	Shane	6687 2741
Netball Club	train 4.15 Thurs	Rachel	6687 0402	Catholic Hall	Deacon St	Russell	0423 089 684
Op Shop	10-3pm Sat 10-12		6687 2228	Coorabell Hall	Coolamon Scenic	Ouida	6687 1307
Parks Committee	3rd Tues 7.30pm	Jan	6684 7214	Newrybar Hall	Newrybar Village	Tony	6687 2267
Playgroup	Tues 10am	Sue	0421 030 438	RSL Hall	Station St	Charlotte	6687 2828
Police		Peta	6687 1404	Scout Hall	Showgrounds	Jenny	6687 2047
Pony Club		Kim	6687 8007	Heritage House	Deacon St	Wendy	6687 2183

Summer 6s

The Bangalow Summer 6s is one of the largest six a side soccer competitions in Australia. Each Thursday night, 72 teams of varying ages and abilities, descend on local sports fields in search of glory – and a place to park.



'The Bangalow Derby', is a grudge match between two of Bangalow's favourite teams: The Porks and The Zeps, a battle that has raged since The Porks joined the comp two seasons ago.

In 2014, The Zeps romped in an 8-0 score line over the fledgling Porks side, who were mere piglets against the veteran Zeppelins.

2015's game was a lot closer, and if you take out The Zeps' secret weapon (pro striker Brent Hoskings who scored four cracking goals) the 5-1 final score line could effectively be adjusted to a respectable 1-1.

But like your grandma's roast, this year The Porks were well seasoned, and this third encounter shaped up to be something special – something nearly bigger than the game itself.

The 2016 draw hasn't been kind to The Zeps, with a 5-1 loss to Wii Unfit and a 10-0 drubbing at the hooves of The Goats. Admittedly though, The Zeps didn't have any subs for The Goats game, and a few 'technical' issues made it difficult for them to run anywhere except in the direction of the toilet block.

Meanwhile, The Porks came flying outta the Pen this year with a surprising 1-1 draw against The Bang Burger Bro's, and an even more surprising goal from Isaac 'Brains' just seven seconds into the match. We held those Burgers down until they equalised in the final stages, and went into week three as

happy as pigs in mud.

Derby Day. The sideline was heaving with family and friends from both sides of the divide. There was even a bit of light-hearted jostling going on for the best vantage points. The media (Terry Brown) was in attendance, recording the match for future generations.

Following the old adage 'Age before Beauty' Zeps kicked off. It didn't take long before The Porks had some possession with our solid defence and our rotisserie of subs. Wild Boar Brent, with his powerful front right trotter, blasted the leather off the ball from every goal kick. The Pigs dominated possession and were set to draw first blood. An almighty throw from our keeper landed the ball in open spaces with Ace 'Slash Double Hammy' taking on a lone Zeps defender. With precision timing, he sent the ball screeching past Zeps' keeper Matt 'King' Coles into the top right corner. We hit the deck to perform our infamous celebration move, 'The Truffle', a glorious sight to behold. Goal Pigs Goal!

The Zeps' courage began to waver. Shots on goals were flying way overhead and off into the distance, the Zeps losing valuable time to ball retrieval. Halftime, the Porks were up 1-0.

We kicked off the second half with the trademarked 'Pork Roll', a traveling scrum designed to confuse the opposition. But we didn't confuse Paul 'Can't Pass' Robbo who shoved his beautifully hairy leg into the fray

to retrieve the ball. Play continued to seesaw until a corner kick by The Sultan (yours truly) was deflected beautifully off The Zeps' keeper's right shin and straight into his own net. Goal! Goal! Goal! Truffle time! What a match! The crowd were treated to not only a high level of low-grade football but also to a Broadway show as The Zeps began imploding.

'Johnny Come Lately' Crabtree brought The Zeps back into the game with a scorching boot that outgunned The Pork's keeper Wild Boar, and landed their first goal 2-1. The Zeps began to claw their way back with Spit, Damo, Chris, Steve, Dave and Robbo each getting their second wind. Frontman Dhugal's lurking presence (and Brylcreemed hair) kept us Porks on edge – and rightly so. Matt 'King' Coles was a Merry ol' Soul when he launched the ball over everyone and right to Dhugal, whose perfectly timed nod (and the Hair of God) sent the ball flying past the The Porks' keeper.

With seconds to go, and 2-2 score line, The Porks' striker Dan 'Beckham' took a desperate shot at goal from the halfway line. A hush came over the crowd as they watched the ball swing just wide of the mark. Game over.

The sweet taste of victory – and the coveted (and tasteful) Derby Trophy remains shelved at the Bangalow Bowlo. Until next year.
Bruno Cavalieri (The Sultan)



Junior tennis championships

As usual, it was a hot, hot day; participants were somewhat weary from the Bangalow Show the night before, and Max Schuman withdrew due to a show attendance injury. There were a record 14 participants this year: nine from primary schools in the area and five from high school.

It began with a round robin with winners advancing to semis and finals. Doubles were also played with notable mentions to Mary Hall and partner Remy

who were eventually defeated by Luke Nelson and Daniel Butler.

Singles semi saw Luke beat Oscar O'Conner and, in a well-fought match, Riley Milsom beat Daniel. Riley fought hard to knock Luke off the perch, however Luke was crowned junior champ for the second year in a row. Thanks to Denis Hopking for another successful year of coaching and the tennis club for use of the courts and ongoing support.

Mary Nelson

Emotional rescue

Last year I suggested to my daughter that we get a puppy for Christmas. "Mum, pets aren't just for Christmas. They're for life," she replied. And she is right. Yet, every year, countless animals are dumped or surrendered at shelters or pounds around the country. The RSPCA alone has received 137,391 animals at their animal shelters and adoption centres across the country since 2015. Companion Animals Welfare Inc (CAWI), based in Brunswick Heads, rehomed around 50 dogs in the past year, which includes dogs rescued from the pound as well as dogs surrendered directly. "But the number of dogs abandoned, lost or surrendered in the Byron Shire is even higher than this," says Megan Evans, manager of the Dog Adoptions team.

Vanessa, John and their children Millie and Jack gave energetic kelpie cross Toby a second chance at life four years ago, when he came to join their family in Bangalow. He was in foster care and due to be sent back to the pound where his future was not so rosy. "He was seven months old and been pretty badly treated," says Vanessa. But with patience and practice, Toby slowly learned to trust in humans, particularly John whom he now idolises. "We all love walking Toby and going to the beach with him," she says. "The children are getting busier as they get older but Toby definitely brings us all together on the weekends for family time. It's lovely."

"Rescue dogs bring a special magic to



a home," says Megan. "A child, or anyone for that matter, can receive unconditional love from a dog. They are non-judgemental, which people respond to beautifully – their stress levels drop and they become more relaxed." But, like Toby, rescue dogs can come with behavioural quirks that need to be managed with consistency, mindfulness and compassion. "Be prepared to offer all the love, patience and training that your new dog may need," says Megan, and you will be rewarded with the love and loyalty of a devoted furry companion.

We did get a puppy for Christmas last year – a ten-month old Jack Russell Terrier who had been through three owners already. Cookie likes to chew shoes and had a fondness for escaping (she still does!) but I'll never forget the look on her face as she bounded freely around our backyard chasing butterflies on her first day with us. It was pure joy. The children adore her, and she has been an incredibly calming influence on them. She instinctively knows when one child is sick and keeps guard in their room overnight. It's impossible to imagine our lives without her. And I wonder whether we rescued her or she rescued us?

Sally Schofield

Preparing for the Messiah

All over the north coast choirs are preparing to perform Handel's Messiah on **Sunday, 4 December at 3 pm** at Lismore City Hall.

The Messiah follows the whole narrative of the Jesus story and is a fine choice by the Byron Music Society in the lead up to Christmas. The People's Messiah will be performed by soloists, the Lismore Symphony Orchestra and a 150-person choir. The conductor will be Richard Gill, who arrives from Sydney the day before the performance to pull us all together in one marathon weekend of rehearsals.

It's no small thing to learn to sing the choruses for this piece. All agree that this work is a masterpiece, but with 20 choruses it can feel like a choral marathon to learn.

For the classically trained it is probably no great stretch, but many of us are amateurs. We are singing the Messiah because it is a long cherished goal, a dream, the choral equivalent of climbing Mt Everest. I have never faced so many black dots in all my singing life!

What has really impressed me about the choral community is its generosity and inclusiveness. For example, two of the top classical choirs in the district opened their doors two months ago so that anyone could join them in rehearsal. These are choirs that people like me would never dream of approaching for

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an audition. Each week new people arrived, drawn in by some invisible grapevine of singers that stretches across the district. One week a teenage boy and his mum, the next a blind man and his guide dog. All are welcomed.

The choir leaders, who must silently shudder at the sound of our untrained voices, our Australian vowels, our missed notes, our rhythmic errors and our musical illiteracy, graciously guide us with the utmost kindness and patience towards a credible, sometimes even good, rehearsal. We get better every week. The sweet spots when everything is right, and the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts, are more frequent. The magic of human voices in harmony.

I have learned that I must keep my head still, not sway like a rock singer, not use my score to beat out the time, articulate my vowels as an English person would, watch the conductor, strategically breathe, breathe, breathe to support every note.

This will be a true People's Messiah. We will know our parts. We will soar and weave and rejoice and grieve and rejoice again as Handel asks us to. The black dots will come alive with the combined effort of 150 people. The music will swell and subside, whisper and roar, until the final Amen, so tightly woven that we can hardly breathe, will, we hope, move you to tears.

Soloists are: Gaynor Morgan, soprano; Hartley Newnham, counter tenor; Geof Webb, tenor; Rhys Daniell and Ian Knowles, basses. Participating choirs: Vox Caldera and Amatori.

Come along. Bookings essential www.byronmusicsociety.com *Jenny Bird*

Washing with Mum

I remember giving mum a hand with the weekly washing on Saturdays. Washing wasn't as convenient as loading the machine and pushing the start button, reminisces **Richard Poynting**.



My mother continued to 'boil the copper' long after electricity came to town in 1953. We did have an electric washing machine, but mum only chose to use it in bad weather when it was too wet to light the copper. She didn't believe it did as good a job and used too much of our precious tank water.

It was the 1970s and I was about 10 years old, and Saturday afternoons with Mum in the wash house were fun. The 'laundry' was a three-sided roofed area made of corrugated iron, sitting in the back yard at the rear of the garage. It had its own water tank to fill up the tubs and the copper which sat just outside. The floor was made of timber boards. Some of these would float away in a flood, and we would have to find and rescue them when the water went down.

The copper was a cast-iron cylinder, approximately a metre in diameter, with a grate in the bottom where we built the fire, and a large copper bowl sat into the top. The copper bowl was filled with water and soap added. I had the job of breaking up old wooden crates to make kindling and start the fire under the copper, as well as

feeding the fire. The clothes were added and stirred with a wooden broom handle which had bleached white like driftwood over the years. The copper slowly came to the boil, at which time the clothes were done and could be lifted out onto the timber draining box beside it.

Cold water was poured over the clothes and then

they were lifted with the stick into the first of three concrete tubs which had corrugations for scrubbing the clothes. Then they were removed by hand to the second concrete tub to rinse again, and finally to the third tub which had 'blue' added for whitening. Then, finally, I had the job of turning the handle of the ringer, which was mounted on the end of the last tub, as mum fed the clothes in. It was hard, heavy work. The cleaned clothes fell into the basket to be hung out.

After the first load of washing was removed and had been placed in the first tub, the next load was put in the copper and the hot soapy water that had collected under the draining box was poured back into the copper. We would have five or six loads of washing to do. By today's standards it was very Dickensian but sure got the clothes clean.

It wasn't until mum and dad retired in 1980, and moved to a new home with town water and a conventional laundry, that she finally embraced modern technology.

Richard grew up at Poynting Bros. General Store, Billinudgel.



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Taizé Service

Taking time out from the silly season, **Stephanie King** paused to reflect on the life lived by refugees.

Last month's **Bangalow Herald** contained an intriguing ad for a Taizé Service for Refugees. Well worth checking out as it indicated a collaboration between two of town's churches – All Souls' Anglican and the Uniting Church – and, most of all, because it was focused on the vexed, and front of mind, question of the life and wellbeing of the growing issue of refugees. Not only in Australia but the world over.

The web reveals that Taizé is a monastic community in Burgundy, France. It was founded in the 1940s by Roger Louis Schütz-Marsauche, familiarly called Brother Roger. The 'brothers' of Taizé have taken a vow of celibacy and are committed to a lifetime of simplicity, service and community. There is an emphasis at Taizé on Church unity, or friendship between religions, and it focuses on "the community wanting its life to be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated peoples."

People of all ages and faiths arrived at All Souls' on a Sunday at five o'clock to



be greeted by Father Matthew Smedley of All Souls' and Pastors Greer and Phil Dokmanovic from the Uniting Church. There was a brief explanation of the structure and philosophy of the service before proceedings. Taizé worship is a prayer service consisting of meditative singing and periods of silence interspersed with short readings from the Scriptures in order to reach a contemplative state. On this occasion the Scriptures were drawn from both Old and New Testament

and the Koran. There is no preaching.

Hymns were brief and designed to be repeated numerous times, becoming a mantra. Most of the readings were done by the congregation, so it was a very inclusive process. Taper candles were lit and placed in a sand tray. The music for the chants was provided alternately by Anne, a pianist, and Pastor Phil on the guitar and leading the singing. Fr Matthew says that getting the right musician is an integral part of the process.

Because it is essentially a very private and personal communion, the path to actually 'helping' refugees is interpretable – an individual journey. The mind is encouraged to think another way, and to use the power of the prayer to guide on a path of solidarity with refugees. The one hour service was the first in these Bangalow churches but they hope to have more.

The Offering collected was in aid of End Immigration Detention of Children which was launched during the 19th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2012.

Lloyd Rees Exhibition – Don't Miss Out!

Lloyd Rees is one of Australia's most highly acclaimed landscape artists. After painting for most of his career he began, in his 80s, to explore the print making technique of lithography.

Rees worked with Dutch master lithographer Fred Genis who migrated to Australia in 1979 and set up a print studio in Sydney. The 30 works in this exhibition at the Lone Goat Gallery are the result of the intimate collaboration between Rees and Genis that occurred during the 1980s. The collection is one of the last projects Rees worked on before he died.

The subjects of the prints are recognisably those that engaged Rees

throughout his long career – Sydney, Tasmania, the south coast of NSW, massive cliff faces, and monumental rocks and boulders.

Many of the prints are held in major collections like the NSW Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Victoria.

Fred Genis (right) and his family now live in Possum Creek and we are extremely fortunate to see this exhibition of limited edition prints locally.

This must-see exhibiton is at Lone Goat Gallery, 28 Lawson St (next to the Byron Bay Library) until **7 December. 10-4 pm daily** or contact Lois Genis loisgenis@bigpond.com

Jenny Bird



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