

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE May 2017

News with teeth



**Serious?
Yes we are**

It's that time of year again, when the main street traffic makes way for the Billycart Derby on **Sunday, 21 May**.

It's a tiny bit ironic that the first Derby, in 1995, was a celebration of Bangalow village finally getting a big vehicle traffic by-pass: the banished heavy trucks, thundering

down Byron Street, were replaced for a day by the gentle clatter of human-powered boxes on wheels. See story page 4. Even back then, the streets were lined with hay bales to protect those watching the thrills, chills and spills of eager contestants in their home-made contraptions. And then, as

now, there were the occasional prangs as over-enthusiasm conquered skill.

Another delicious irony is that our billycart route, from roundabout to school, must be the first time that a race to the bottom (of the hill) is rewarded with cheers and back-slapping accolades. So very Bangalow.

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

Pool Trust AGM

This will be held at the Bowlo, 7pm on **Tuesday, 2 May**.

Linda Sparrow

Red Cross

Our next meeting is **Friday, 3 May** at the RSL Hall. We will be holding a morning fund-raising stall, on **Friday, 19 May**, in Bangalow outside the newsagents.

Liz Parks

Bangalow Business Women's Networking Group

Our next lunchtime meeting is at Heritage House on **Thursday, 11 May** at 12 noon. All women are welcome. This month's topic is 'Digital tools to boost your business'. Yummy lunch, great information and fabulous networking.

Tickets \$25. Bookings are essential – through our Facebook page or <http://bangalowbusinesswomen.org>

Paula Todd

Circus Oz/Model Citizens

Friday, 12 and Saturday, 13

May at Lismore City Hall

Set in a beautiful yet chaotic model kit world, Norpa's **Model Citizens** seamlessly blends risk, beauty and rawness of acrobatic circus with pumping live music, stunning lighting, breathtaking physical improbability and no shortage of absurdity.

Breaking conventions of scale, oversized everyday objects become an intriguing world of possibilities for our all-human ensemble – as these enlarged set pieces offer new life as exciting and unexpected circus equipment. Imagine hand standing on the top of an upright giant peg or juggling whilst balanced on an oversized stack of weighing scales.

NORPA

Newrybar Hall events

The Ballina Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be held at the Hall from **Saturday, 21 May – Sunday, 22 May**. On **Saturday, 27 May**, there will be a sausage sizzle and Timber Toy Exhibition. All welcome. *Michele Hogan*

Museum Gossip

Over the past month we have been extremely busy, catering to many varied groups: Bangalow Lions, Byron Philosophers, Bangalow Chamber of

Commerce, Byron Shire Council Workshop, Bangalow Women's Networking Breakfast, bus trips from the Gold Coast and local aged-care facilities as well as private functions. All these events have provided the vital financial support necessary to keep this wonderful community facility alive and active for the community to enjoy.

Our financial position is slowly starting to improve and



with a little luck, if the support continues, the Museum and Cafe has a future.

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic volunteer come and visit us for a while to help lift our profile and assist with the ambiance of the Museum and Cafe. Christina de Water, a professional photographer, stylist and events manager, helped us last year but has since then been living in Melbourne.

Gardening is one of her passions and she is helping forge a relationship with the Bangalow Garden Club to assist with the gardens. The committee is very excited about this venture as our gardens have been a little sad for some time now and the grounds are very important as they give a first impression to the overall facility. Having help from another community group is amazing.

Of current interest is the Anzac Exhibition 'Feeding the Troops' which ends **Wednesday, 31 May**. Entry is by donation.

A Mexican Night has been postponed due to the recent floods as there are numerous fundraising events planned to help those in need.

We are always looking for new volunteers to assist. At the moment, help is most needed in the museum. We need someone with some experience in, or interest in, learning how to digitise, catalogue and itemise our records and photos. We also need help to answer the many research queries received via the internet or in person. If you can help in these areas please contact us, in person Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm, by phone 6687 2183 or email on bangalowhistorical@bigpond.com *Wendy Grissell*



Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater

ADFAS Frankly Speaking

The next lecture is **Monday, 15 May** at 6.30pm at the A&I Hall in Bangalow. The topic is **Frankly Speaking: The works of Frank Lloyd Wright and Frank O Gehry**.

The two Franks changed the history of architecture by pushing conventional limits and extending the boundaries of architecture with their bold, innovative designs. Frank Lloyd Wright was an American architect, interior designer, writer and educator who developed an organic and distinctly American style. Frank O Gehry was a Canadian-born American architect who forged his own distinctive style with complex shapes and nontraditional materials that left a creative impact.

The lecture, presented by Sandra Mowry, will contrast the very different ways they challenged academic standards and will include personal profiles and biographical information that focus on the influences and inspirations that spawned their creativity and personal styles. Methods, concepts, creative processes and elements of style, form and function, will be illustrated with examples from their bodies of works.

Sandra Mowry is an author, historian, traveller and lecturer with an extensive education in world culture. As a volunteer for the Philadelphia Art Museum she has presented programs on ancient civilisations, artifacts and architecture.

Doors open at 6pm and the presentation will begin at 6.30pm. Guests welcome (\$25 includes wine and light supper). Enquiries: Chairman, Anni Abbink, 6684 3249 or anne.abbink@yahoo.com.au

Di Kirby



Harmony Day: BPS Report

Harmony day means many things. It is belonging, getting along and saying no to racism. Bangalow Public School celebrated Harmony Day on Tuesday, 21 March. The special day coincided with United Nations International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We started our day with a special assembly and then we split into 40 mixed age groups with the year six students leading the activities and supporting the younger students. All activities included something to do with belonging, including creating a collaborative patchwork quilt, mural painting, multicultural dancing and drumming.

Lucia C & Lucy S

Farewell and thanks

The Bangalow Dining Rooms

Spotlight: Australian Red Cross

The idea of the Red Cross came from Henri Dunant, a 19th century Swiss businessman. In 1859 the battle at Solferino, a village in northern Italy, was between soldiers from France and Austria. Dunant arranged for locals to provide first aid and care for soldiers from both sides. This help was to be neutral and all helpers were not to get involved in the fighting. In 1863 Dunant held a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland to set up an International Committee for relief to the wounded. Eight months later the Red Cross was born, codifying humanitarian principles for the first time. Many countries formed their own organisations but remained linked by the same principles and ways of working, becoming the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Australian branch of the British Red Cross was formed on 13 August 1914, nine days after the outbreak of World War I. A week later, on 20 August 1914, the Bangalow branch was formed, with Mrs Kelf elected as president, Mrs Blackwell as secretary and Mrs Baldick as treasurer. There were approximately 20 ladies present, and the women gave assistance to the war by sending parcels containing food, medicine, clothing and other comforts for the men in action in all services. Then, in 1927, Australian Red Cross became a national society in its own right.

We are very proud that the Bangalow branch has never closed, even when many branches shut down during WWII, and we recently celebrated 100 years of commitment and service. The Bangalow Red Cross meets in the RSL Hall on the first Friday of the month. We have 30 members who continue to fundraise for the Red Cross with Red Cross Calling, the winter appeal, the fire appeal, the drought appeal and we also knit our Trauma Teddies for local hospitals and emergency centres. Our branches' Red Cross emergency services recently helped out with the floods in Lismore, Murwillumbah and the surrounding areas.

Liz Parks



Members of the Bangalow branch

closed their operations at The Bangalow Hotel on Easter Monday. We would like to thank the community for their wonderful support. From when we began in January 2010 until now we have been fortunate to be a part of your lives. We have

seen so many beautiful families and individuals regularly and enjoyed your patronage on all levels. We've had many laughs, good times, and also endured much pressure during peak tourist seasons. Thanks for your understanding at these times.

We now have Albatross, at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Would love to see you there, especially if you're craving Adam's rolled pork belly with apple and prunes, or his rare tuna linguine! *Clare Kirkman, Jo Maiden, Adam Thornton and the team.*



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Oh, how it rained!

Welcome to Issue 6 of the *Bangalow Herald*. It certainly has been a huge six weeks, with most attention focused on the effect and aftermath of Cyclone Debbie. This 2479 part of the Shire has been so extremely lucky to escape the worst of what she had to deliver. A few small floods and some 24-hour blackouts. How lucky can you get?

But, our escape from disaster was not experienced by all around us. From the north as far as Murwillumbah and the Tweed to Woodburn in the south, and out to Lismore and beyond, our friends, colleagues and acquaintances deeply felt the pain. Initially people walked around, wondering what they could do to help, and then – in the true country caring way – ideas of assistance and solution bubbled to the surface.

Fundraisers were arranged, volunteers presented at key venues, counsellors offered support, sandwiches were made and cakes baked. See a few flood stories on page 8 and 9. It was an astonishing response and, we hope, offered some solace to those who have suffered so badly. And while floors were scrubbed clean and smelly water-soaked furnishings turfed, there is now the after-math. We must not let our empathy slide, but rather continue to provide support, both financial and emotional.

Changing the subject, but remaining focused on local matters: does anyone else have a problem living with household spiders? They do good things, so we're told, but the webs they weave and the droppings they leave demand constant attention. Recent scientific research, reported by First Dog in *The Guardian*, reveals that, apparently, spiders eat up to 800 million tons of spider food annually (explains the droppings) and all humans put together weigh only about 350 million tons. They could eat us twice over – if only they could work out how to! It is also estimated that there are an average of 131 spiders on every square metre of land on earth, right now. But while the research says there are 27 million tons of spiders in the world, most of them are living around the Shire it seems.

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It's Derby Day

This year's Billycart excitement marks 22 years of May mayhem. What is now celebrated as a standout annual event, drawing hundreds of locals and visitors to the streets of our heritage town, began in 1995. Then it was a celebration that Bangalow had a main-road bypass. No longer did huge transport trucks thunder down the street, shaking shops to their foundations, and requiring verandas to be removed to avoid a truck sideswiping removal.

A more peaceful, less dangerous Bangalow was born, and the Derby is a forever reminder of how things have changed.

Then, as now, it is sponsored by the Chamber – and this year the Lions are a major supporter as well – and it is surprising, in this fast

changing world, how much has remained the same. Hay bales line the footpaths and people, young and old and inbetween, turn up with a wildly imaginative variety of carts. Newspaper reports by the Byron Barnacle, in the *North Coast Advocate* on May 17, 1995 exclaim at the enthusiasm of the three to four thousand-strong crowd and the 170 entrants. "That is more than twice the number of carts organisers had hoped to attract. I



Advertisement for the first Derby in 1995

guess you could say the derby snowballed," exclaims an admiring Barnacle. "A more wonderful way to celebrate the bypass and keep town in touch with its pre-car history could not be imagined. Organisers were stunned by the quality, as well as the quantity of entries, but want to make sure the kids hammering crates together in back yards stay in the game."

And they have. Though, these days, the categories have expanded with many different age groups, celebrity races and tag teams. And, while the kids still beaver away at the classic fruit box design, the highly competitive older generation create modern miracles and very clever, state of the art, interpretations on the theme.

Back in 1995, the day was accompanied by much razzle dazzle. The similarities to now are obvious. According to the *Byron Shire Echo* there was a street parade led by the Lismore Pipe Band. "Entertainment on the day includes Rank'n Jazz Band, and the eleven member Commedia Dellarte Troupe 'The Zanni Bros' from Sydney. Commedia performances involve improvised comedy and slapstick by straight and exaggerated masked characters.

"Food is being supplied by Bangalow businesses and local charity groups."

And another great tradition for this small town was born. How lucky we are.

Stephanie King

Thanks to Wendy Grissell and the Heritage House Museum for the access to their archives. Much appreciated.

Mad for Mad Hatter's

If you ask the children of 2479, Bangalow Public School's Mad Hatter's Tea Party is THE high-light of the social calendar, says **Sally Schofield**.



Held on **Sunday, 21 May** from 9am, this fun-filled fair day coincides with another iconic event – the Bangalow Billy Cart Derby.

Located in the Bangalow School grounds, adjacent to the race finishing line, the Mad Hatter's Tea Party is your front row seat to the sometimes-spectacular spills at the end of each race. "I like watching the billy carts racing and crashing into the hay bales at the end," says Jules Honey.

With everything from gourmet food to rides and market stalls, there's something for everyone at this free community event. A unanimous favourite with the kids (but perhaps not the parents) is the classic sideshow game Choc Shot. This game of skill requires participants to toss a gold coin

and if it lands on a chocolate bar, you win! This year's event also features an ice cream sundae bar: "I'm looking forward to helping serve the ice creams," says Stella Brandon.

But it's not all sugar-fuelled mayhem. Mad Hatter's is a meeting point for family and friends who gather to enjoy lunch and cool drinks from gourmet food stalls. With its country fair ambiance, Mad Hatter's is a haven from the high energy of the billy cart races. "I love being with my friends and going on the rides," says Nellie Copeland.

This year also features a handmade craft stall that showcases the talents of the parents at the school, with everything from dream catchers to painted plant pots and more. "I love going to the craft stall," says

Sophia Honey, who also assists with selling raffle tickets for the crazy raffles drawn at midday. This year's first prize is a 12-day trip for two to India courtesy of TripADeal, a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the exotic subcontinent up close. Get your tickets from school parents today.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party raises funds to provide the children of Bangalow School with essential learning resources in technology, the arts, sport and literacy. "We look forward to sharing the family friendly community day in our school grounds. Make sure you come and join in the fun!" says Bangalow Public School Relieving Principal, Larissa Polak.

Entry to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party is free and the event runs from 9am to 3pm.



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Painting heroes

Christian Morrow has lived in Bangalow since 2006. Probably better known in his public capacity as journalist in charge of the Byron Shire News, less well known is that Christian is also an artist, with works on show in Barebones Art Space.

Trained at the Sydney College of the Arts and currently painting from a studio set up in the garage under his house, Christian has always "moonlighted as a visual artist". He's shown his work in several group shows and has held solo exhibitions in Sydney and the Gold Coast, as well as in Bangalow.

This year he entered a painting of his grandfather in the Gallipoli Art Prize. It's the second time he has, and each time he has been selected as a finalist. This year, he was the only Northern Rivers artist to be represented among the 39 finalists.

"The Gallipoli Art prize is not about glorifying war or adding to the mythmaking around ANZAC," Christian explained. Artists in both Australia and Turkey are asked to submit paintings responding to the Gallipoli Memorial Club Creed, which reads: 'We believe that within the community there exists an obligation for all to preserve the special qualities of loyalty, respect, love of country, courage and comradeship which were personified by the heroes of



the Gallipoli Campaign and bequeathed to all humanity as a foundation for perpetual peace and universal freedom.'

To Christian, "It's a way of remembering the men who just went and did what they were asked, and a way to understand history so that we never repeat the same mistakes."

Christian's painting is part of a body of work he's doing about his grandfather, who served as a signaller in the Australian Light-Horse from 1917-1919 in what was then known as Palestine, and who also took part in the cavalry charge on Beersheba.



To him, his grandfather was an enigmatic and fascinating figure. "My grandfather, Malcolm, is a subject I have re-visited numerous times over the years as I have tried to understand who he was and what he did during World War One.

"Malcolm was always a mystery to me as I grew up, a remote presence sitting apart from the family whenever we visited on Sundays. Like most old soldiers, he never spoke about his experiences except in the most superficial way. He was also quite deaf having become seriously ill while occupying the Jordan Valley during summer 1918.

"From his war records I saw that he spent a great deal of time in hospital being treated for venereal disease. He was just one of the large number of Australian soldiers similarly affected, a fact that was never discussed widely at the time and a source of shame to the men and their families.

"In the photos from that time, his face is deep in shadow, and it's difficult to get the measure of the man. He was an unknowable presence in my life, and I have painted him as such in this portrait." *Christobel Munson*

Adding up to Tesla

With the Tesla Company so much in the news recently, **Brian Sundstrom** looked at two books that help explain the man behind the name.

Several years ago I was browsing a book left for us by visitors. My wife heard me laughing out loud – not common for me while reading. The book was *Addition* by Melbourne author, Toni Jordan. It's a fiction, about a young woman with OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder). We meet her in a supermarket, where she is buying exactly 13 bananas, but panics on counting 12 in her trolley. She grabs one from the trolley behind and meets this nice chap, who she gets to know. It is a humorous look at this challenging syndrome, with added laughs when her sister, who is married to a wealthy barrister, enters the story. Our heroine has a real-life role model hero, Nikola Tesla. She keeps his biography



on her bedside table and reasons that as he achieved great things with this affliction, so could she.

At the time of reading *Addition*, I must confess to knowing little about Nikola Tesla (1856 – 1943). I therefore followed up with one of his biographies, *Tesla:*

Man of Our Time by Margaret Cheney. Tesla was borne in Croatia where he studied engineering and physics. He migrated to the US in 1884 and initially worked for the Edison company. A major clash with Edison led to Tesla starting his own company to develop his Alternating Current (AC) system and motors. Edison was developing Direct Current (DC), and the competition escalated. For example,

Edison electrocuting an elephant to show how dangerous AC was. There were also experiments with electric chairs!

Tesla is now credited with pioneering many electronics research fields and particularly developing AC motors. Descendants of his 1884 motors now power cars and a multitude of other uses. The first hydro-electric plant at Niagara Falls, in partnership with Westinghouse, was another landmark work of his.

Tesla apparently had some OCD characteristics, which led to a troubled life at times, but with a 'photographic' memory and amazing scientific mind he certainly left a legacy.

As well as the many biographies on Tesla, YouTube has several documentaries. *Tesla – The Real God of Lightning* is a good one to start with. On browsing such material, one can see why the Californian based Tesla company has chosen this name.

Creative passions

Meet two resourceful Bangalow women who are collaborating on their shared love for making things. **Christobel Munson** checks out their creations.

After many years living in Victoria, Susan Dasya decided to return to familiar Northern NSW territory where she had lived as a child. A year ago she opened Queen Mab's in Station Street. ('Queen Mab', you may recall, is the character in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* known as the 'fairy's midwife'). In her bijou store, Susan offers clients aged from 35 to 80-something, classic, long-living, made-to-measure garments "which travel through life with the wearer".

The shop itself can accommodate Susan, a range of her fabrics and clothes, a "curated collection" of garments from other Australian and international designers, a sewing machine and a fitting room. But it hasn't provided her with enough room to spread out for the planning and cutting of the garments she makes. So, for that purpose, she decided to rent a studio space in the Bangalow Industrial Estate, right next to Rachel Ayland's shoemaking workshop.

After giving it some thought, Susan and Rachel realised that their two independent businesses could well benefit from a collaboration to give their customers exactly what they want. While Susan tailor makes



one-off items of clothing, Rachel makes bespoke shoes, boots, bags, backpacks and more. Rachel has 30 year's experience as a shoemaker and leather worker, 17 years of that in Bangalow. She also offers classes "by request" in shoemaking and leatherwork.

"Our point of similarity," Rachel explained, "is that we both cater for clients who can't get exactly what they want off the rack because of size or style." Susan mentioned a current client, a petite woman who can only find clothing designed for teenagers. She's created a timeless individual dress for her from a double-sided cotton fabric from the Netherlands and Rachel is making her matching French navy ballet shoes.

Both have a particular penchant for quality materials, and "making durable fashion you

can keep". While Rachel might generally use bovine leather for her shoes, one client specified deer skin for a pair of brogues and matching business case. Susan uses imported linens, fine cottons, and salvaged fabrics sourced from all over the world which she works into contemporary and vintage styles for all occasions.

Susan's shop stocks a selection of Rachel's shoes and bags and Rachel works there occasionally so Susan can focus on making her garments in her studio. "I always wanted to be able to sell my goods in Bangalow," Rachel said. "When Susan approached me with this idea, we both saw we could attract a broader audience and refer customers to each other, doubling our chances."

"We want to make beautiful things for people to be happy in and enjoy," Susan added. "You can bring in a pattern, images, or worn garments from which to work. It makes it interesting if someone brings in a vintage pattern which I can then grade into a more modern fit. I also offer a lifetime guarantee, if you follow the care instructions." Likewise, Rachel can "accommodate all feet idiosyncrasies or any orthopaedic needs" and is "open to other people's design ideas."

Neither mind if their clients are locals or tourists, and get repeat custom from "people with an interest in, and appreciation for, the creative process." If someone comes in with a shoe or dress they want re-created, that can be accommodated (although Susan points out she doesn't do alterations or repairs.) As Rachel lives above her workspace and Susan lives near her shop, both are available by appointment at any time.



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Learning lessons from the floods

The recent cyclone, its intensity and the devastation it wrought will be felt for years to come. All news outlets have been filled with stories that either brought a tear to the eyes on the losses or a moment of pleasure on the few positives to emerge.

As a monthly magazine, it is impossible for us to provide up-to-date reporting, but we certainly can't ignore its impact all around us. Acknowledging that, we have collected a few articles that, hopefully, add another dimension to Debbie's Disaster. Congratulations to all those people and groups who have organised – or are still in the process of organising – fundraisers, or worked hard to salvage remnants of years of hard work. Remember that those who have had so much taken away from them are going to need moral and practical day-to-day help as well as money. It is to be hoped the Federal government can see its way clear to redefine the areas of impact and extend their Disaster Recovery payments and allowances.



Designing and planting for flood mitigation

Floods are part of the natural cycles and, as we have seen very recently, nothing can stop a flood from occurring. What we can do is mitigate their effects on the land. There are countless articles and research on design and vegetation for flood mitigation, yet the recommendations do not seem to be widely applied, or even known about.

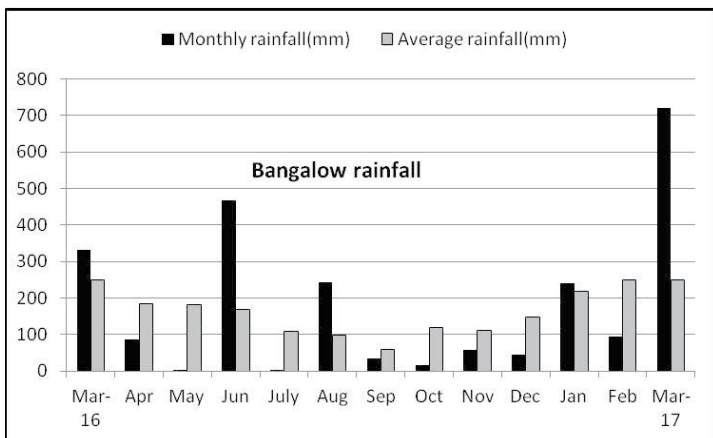
Healthy flood plains and increased vegetation in catchments are essential for a well-functioning hydrological system. Without these the risk is not only to life, infrastructure and livelihood but to the safety of drinking water. Vegetated riverbanks and flood plains help slow and spread the flow of water.

Erosion increases sediment clogging waterways and excess nutrients endanger the health of the riverine ecosystem through eutrophication. Riverbank vegetation plays an essential role in holding soil and reducing surface water flow by up to 50%. Slowing run off water upstream reduces flooding downstream and the loss of valuable top soil. Planting alone may not be enough; the creation of swales and raised hedgerows strategically placed to slow storm water and

prevent erosion has to become common agricultural practice in order to benefit farmers and the general community.

Planning and developments must take into account hydrology.

But it is not just agricultural land where the work needs to improve. The built environment is increasing at a fast rate in our region without much thought being given to the hydrological consequences. In some countries all new developments need to have a hydrological plan before being accepted; this shows forward planning which is often lacking here. Hard, non-porous surfaces increase storm water loads which end up in waterways. The use of porous or semi-pervious surfaces needs therefore to be imposed on developments wherever possible. This will have benefits not only for flood mitigation but also for the economy as those surfaces are usually less



Keeper of the rain gauge

Bangalow resident, Robyn Wright, has been contributing rainfall readings to first the *Heartbeat* and now *The Herald* since 1993. She is also one of a group of people who inform the ABC weather division of daily rainfalls.

She points out that it is impossible to give a 2479 reading. Areas have quite diverse readings – it may be bucketing in Bangalow, but nothing in Newrybar. And methods of communicating possible dangers have changed. Now we get rainfall numbers but not the full story on how rivers are rising and waters combining to flood height.

expensive and more flexible in their uses.

Reducing the velocity of storm water is the key to flood mitigation. The slower the flow the less damage it causes. The use of drain trenches allows storm water to soak into the ground and limit the amount of water entering directly into the storm water system. Rain gardens are another way to slow water before it enters the system. There are many great designs for storm water dispersion for private and public use. Many new or refurbished developments in cities throughout the world are now using them, some on a very large scale

The choice of plants is also very

important for retaining soil. Shallow, spreading and deep rooted plants will hold the soil at different levels; a thick vegetated cover will help break water droplets before they hit the ground, and a mulch cover will help limit erosion except in the most severe conditions. Limiting the amount of chemicals and fertilisers will help promote soil biology, increase soil health and consequently promote good root growth – and in turn limit top soil erosion.

Good gardening! *Patrick Regnault*
Registered Horticulturist RH0062 MAIH

Flood support

Bangalow Community Children's Centre is seeking donations to assist Lismore preschools affected by recent floods.

Good quality books, toys and educational items such as art and craft materials are desperately needed. If you can assist please drop them off to the Centre, located at Raftons Road, Bangalow.

Joanna Wilkinson



Singing in the Rain – naming cyclones

Veteran film star Debbie Reynolds died only three months ago. She first came to stardom in the film *Singing in the Rain*. You might be forgiven for thinking this had something to do with the name of last month's cyclone, which together with heavy weekend rains earlier in March delivered 720mm of rain to Bangalow. It was Bangalow's highest recorded monthly rainfall since January 2009 when we copped 779mm. Interestingly, in the 12 months to April 2017, we have had 2,100mm compared with the same period in 2009 which delivered 3,016mm.

If last month's cyclone had nothing to do with Debbie Reynolds, how did it get the name? Indeed how are names chosen for cyclones - where do names like Yasi, Oswald and Tracy come from? All is revealed on the Bureau of Meteorology website. Simply put, the name of a new tropical cyclone comes from a list of 104 names compiled in 2008/09. Female and male names are selected alternately. For example, Ernie (in the Indian Ocean) followed Debbie and Frances is likely to be next. If a cyclone moves into the Australia region from another country's zone of responsibility the name chosen by that country is retained – Yasi is a good example. At the time of writing a cyclone which Fiji named 'Cook', might enter the Australia region retaining that name. A full list of Australian cyclone names is on the BOM website – www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/about/names.shtml

Names of cyclones that have significantly affected the Australian region cannot be used again, so we are unlikely to have another Debbie.

Tony Hart



4th Sunday of each month

Supporting the Bangalow Community for 30 years ■ Supporting The Bangalow Herald

Shop-life in 1940s Byron Shire

Gloria Poynting speaks with **Melissa**, her daughter-in-law and Rifle Range Road resident, about life as a teenage shop assistant 60 years ago

I grew up at Mountain View Farm, Mullumbimby and started working in 1942 in Billinudgel at A.H. Poynting's General Store when I was 15 years old. I would ride my push bike to work Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and a half day Saturday. If someone knocked on the grocery store on Sunday, the Poyntings would open the shop.

I had two years in high school and it was hard to get jobs during the war, so I considered myself very lucky. If I hadn't got my job, I would have stayed one more year at school and got my Leaving Certificate. My wage was 10 shillings a week. When Betty Cunningham left to work in the Land Army, I was promoted and received one pound a week!

On my first day, I remember being all fingers and thumbs. The orders would come in during the morning, Mr Chauner had a horse and would do the rounds of farms and homes in the area and bring in their orders. Some people would phone orders in but there weren't a lot of telephones. I would take the docket for an order and put it together for customers. Orders would be wrapped in brown paper and tied with string. Money wasn't plentiful so people would only buy what they really needed.

When it was quiet, I weighed half-, one-, two- and four-pound amounts of sugar, flour, sultanas and currants, tea and salt from bulk containers, all kept in the special metal-lined store room to keep out the vermin.

There were ice chests for refrigeration. Butter was pre-packaged in half and one pound. People could buy milk powder. If you wanted fresh milk, you purchased it from your local dairy farmer. (We would walk to

Bridie Boyle's with our own billycan for the milk, which cost a shilling.) We sold one type of cheese and would cut off as much as the customer wanted, and charged by the pound. There was no cold meat like ham.

People mostly purchased groceries once a week, which the back-store man delivered with the store's horse and cart, rain hail or shine, excepting floods. The farmers would have the cream ready for the carrier, who would bring them to Billinudgel and Mr Cecil Gawler would take the cream to the Norco Byron Bay factory in his truck. The shop did deliveries to some areas and the cream man did deliveries in others. When Cecil came back from Norco, he would bring bags of ice with him for the ice chest orders. There were very few cash sales: you wrote out a docket for each person and they paid at the end of the month.

Groceries were sold in tins (jam, syrup, peaches, peas, biscuits, Camp Pie, Picnic Beef, salmon, etc.) or brown paper bags. Spices (pepper, Keen's curry powder) were sold in individual paper containers. Vanilla, lemon essence and cochineal were sold in glass bottles. Coffee wasn't popular back then; tea was the main seller. Veggies were supplied locally so you only sold what was in season. People used to grow a lot of their own.

Boiled lollies and biscuits came into the shop in a big tin. We weighed them and charged them out by the pound. (When my father would pay his account, I liked to go with him as Mr Poynting would give us a bag of broken boiled lollies or broken biscuits.)

We sold linens for homewares from the drapery counter such as sheets, tea towels – individually or by the yard – and also some

make-up. There was basic hardware such as nails by the pound, wicks for lanterns, screwdrivers, hammers, files, rasps and saws; medicines such as Bex, Heenzo (cough mixture), bandages of different widths, Eno Fruit Salts, Mylanta, Vaseline, ointments and iodine (a disinfectant for cuts and scratches).

Sunlight soap was the only soap. It was bought as a large bar with markings to cut out 3-4 blocks. Rinso powder was for clothes. There was cloudy ammonia or soap for the floors. Steel wool and cotton wool were sold in a small roll. Phenol and sheep dip were the disinfectants.

During the war years, cigarettes, tobacco and papers were short and it was rationed so Mr Poynting had a book to write down the customer's name and the date they got it.

In the back-store shed, methylated spirits and kerosene came in drums. We would fill up glass bottles of them, sealed with a metal cap. We also sold pollard (calves food, to put in their milk) and wheat for chooks.

There were no biros; people mostly used lead pencils. We sold pens with nibs to dip into the ink we sold. There was no advertising, no specials, no plastic and most things were sold from behind the counter. In the centre of the store, there was shelving for men's straw hats, gum boots, crockery, kerosene lamps and men's socks.

When we pumped petrol for customers by manual hand pump, customers had to hold the hose.

In 1947 Mr Poynting died, and his son Lloyd took over the store. At the age of 21, Gloria married Lloyd.

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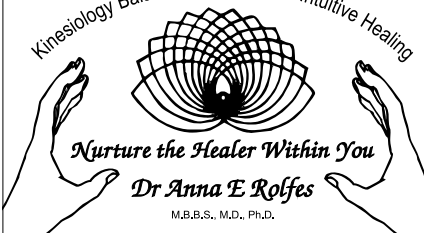
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Towards Emotional Fitness

Last year, Bangalow osteopath Julie Streckfuss found that for some of her clients, her sessions opened up emotional needs that the physical bodywork alone didn't address. Particular tools and skills were called for to tackle deeper issues.

Then she came across a book written by Possum Creek residents, Lisa Stacey-Martin and her partner Stace, called *Inner Boot Camp – The Journey of Your Emotional Awakening*. Last December Julie asked Lisa, an emotions practitioner, to join her practice to bring in an additional level of expertise to the already highly experienced team working at Bangalow Health Care in Granuaille Road.

Lisa, a former corporate business analyst and primary and secondary school teacher, who has long worked in the health field, explains her work like this: "Most of us look after our bodies – we may eat well, exercise, or meditate. But we need to keep our emotional life fit too; it's just as important as physical fitness. I help to empower people with the ability to build up their emotional courage and strength. That way, they can act differently in certain situations while also developing the ability to know what to do



with emotional overload and pain when it crops up."

After working with many different counselling modalities, Lisa was looking for something "more complete". Now she supports men and women, from 17 to 70, as well as troubled teenagers and younger children "to know a greater sense of harmony and connection through their own emotional empowerment". This coming term, she has been invited to work with years 5 and 6 children at the Coorabell School, attended by Freya, the youngest of her four children.

Apart from individual sessions aimed

at supporting people "wanting to free themselves from the unhealthy patterns that impact specific areas of their lives", Lisa runs a weekly 2-hour 'emotional fitness class' each Wednesday evening at the centre, for men and women "wishing to free themselves from recurring emotional patterns or past and present traumas, which continue to block the way forward to a joyful and authentic life".

Each evening circle has a particular focus, providing insights and a space to practice skills: how to communicate without blame, for instance; how to respond rather than react to emotionally triggering situations, or how to parent in a way that doesn't create conflict or division. Participants report having experienced increased confidence and courage, and more honest and fulfilling relationships.

At Bangalow Health Care, Lisa Stacey-Martin joins osteopaths Julie Streckfuss, Bimbi Gray and Kate Egan, as well as Elissa Pelling, an acupuncturist and herbalist with a clinical focus on women's health, fertility and pregnancy.

Christobel Munson



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Dr Victoria Maud: Clinical Psychologist (victoriamaud.com)
Mary Guest: Psychologist (maryguest.com.au)
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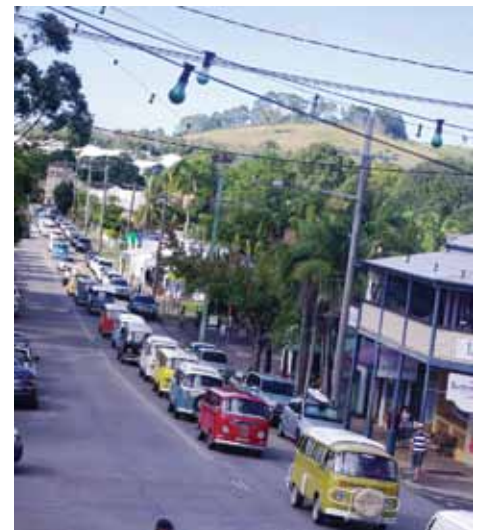
Bangalow village plan update

In March the village plan guidance group got together at Heritage House to establish how development of the plan should proceed. Our lead consultant, Andrew Hammonds, seemed somewhat taken aback at the negative comments he received after cheerfully asking each of us to tell the group about their feelings as to how we were progressing. What resulted was a serious venting of frustration at the process, the lack of progress over the last 12 months, the slowness of the process and a concern that planning was being ignored and over-ridden by council activities without adequate acknowledgement of the planning group. This was a cathartic session, after which the group got down to some serious setting of objectives, governance, and prioritising. By the end of the day we were much happier, all feeling a lot had been achieved and the session had succeeded despite what seemed a rocky start. Looking back on the meeting, and having been a consultant myself and managed many corporate planning sessions, I suspect the

initial session was not unexpected by our coordinator and designed to get us all to feel our concerns were being heard and acted upon. Regardless of whether we were manipulated or not it appears most participants found it a satisfying meeting and a good base for going forward.

One important outcome was a change to the council's publicised investigation into the possible implementation of paid parking in the Bangalow central area - the shops and Station Street. The point was made by all and subsequently accepted by council staff, that the plan was based on inadequate information about people and traffic movement within and around the town and why existing parking habits had developed. As a result, further work on parking will become part of the next guidance group workshop which will identify issues and directions for change in regards to traffic, carparking, cycling, walking, accessibility and movement in Bangalow. Hopefully, the findings of this workshop will be made public for feedback from all. More in our June edition.

Tony Hart



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/Fri 5.45pm	Jim	0408 546 522
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 9.30-12.30		6687 2228	Coorabell Hall	Coolamon Scenic	Ouida	6687 1307
Parks Committee	3rd Tues 7.30pm	Jan	6684 7214	Newrybar Hall	Newrybar Village	Tom	0407 189 308
Playgroup	Tues 10am	Sue	0421 030 438	RSL Hall	Station St	Charlotte	6687 2828
Police		Peta	6687 1404	Scout Hall	Showgrounds	Jacinta	0417 547 242
Pony Club		Kim	6687 8007	Heritage House	Deacon St	Wendy	6687 2183

Dear Dom

This month **Dominique Mills** looks at the perplexing, even confronting, question of how to ensure that your finished renovation looks just as satisfying as you imagined it would be.

Dear Dom,

We are planning a major renovation/extension to our house. Though we know the basics, like how many bedrooms and an eat-in kitchen, have no idea where to start in terms of style and direction. Can you help?

Many thanks,

Fiona from Bangalow.

Dear Fiona,

I know at this point you are feeling very overwhelmed but there are a few tips to ensure your renovation stays on track and enjoyable at the same time.

Firstly, it is very important to ascertain exactly what it is you want to achieve and how you want your final renovation to look. Do not lift a hammer until you are very clear on this. I have always told my clients to imagine at least two words (even three) which best describe what it is they are wanting to create. These will relate to both construction and decoration. There are a zillion words out there to pick from but I have detailed some below to get you started.

Modern, airy, traditional, Hamptons, country, rustic, sophisticated, charming, Provincial, light, Art Deco, colourful, clean-lines, industrial, chic, bohemian, light, spacious, cosy, unique, coastal, earthy, homestead, architectural, elegant.

Once you have settled on your descriptive words, always refer to them every time you need to make a decision on anything. You will be surprised how many times you think you have made a correct choice and then you refer to your 'words', and you need to have a re-think. You can be assured by following this pattern, you will not make any mistakes, you will stay on track and you will eliminate any confusion or anxiety about your choices. The end result will be a beautiful, consistent story just as you imagined it.

Secondly, find yourself a good builder and start your search early. If you have your builder on board early, he will be an amazing support to you in the design and planning stage of your build. Many of us are very good at putting fabulous plans together but it is pointless if its not in the budget. A builder can help you through this maze if you can appoint him early.

Thirdly, do lots of research. It is very easy for a builder to cost and then create



something if you have something to show him. There are endless sources to refer to, so collate loads of information from such as Pinterest and Houzz and I suggest you make a folder with torn pages from the doctors surgery. However, to avoid confusion, please ensure all your images fall within your selected words. It's fine to like it but we need it to fit with what you are creating.

Fourthly, no matter what your budget, make sure you concentrate on three important areas of your renovation. If you get your FLOORING, WINDOWS AND DOORS and your SPACIAL PLAN correct, you will achieve your ultimate goal of an amazing renovation. Spend time thinking about these areas and research them well.

I hope these hints help you to get started. Good luck.

Note: If you have a design question you'd like answered, I'd love to hear from you. Please send it to:

Dear Dom

at editors@bangalowherald.com.au

Patron of the Environment

A call for your contribution to the beauty of our town creek – from **Bangalow Land and Rivercare**

Bangalow Land and Rivercare has been working in the local community since 1998. The aim of the group is to re-vegetate with native flora the six km of Byron Creek that flows through our town. This work was started to address concerns of fish kills and other water quality issues observed in the creeks. This is designed to prevent further bank slumping caused by the weed camphor laurel growing thickly along our watercourses, pollution from unfiltered run-off and adding shade to cool the water.

We are asking the local community to become 'Patrons' of the environment to show your support and help with ongoing work. We are a small group and all have busy lives but make time to do the work that needs to be done. It can be hard but it is very rewarding. Becoming a patron allows you to also contribute to the work either financially or physically or both. We hope

you will choose an option that suits your lifestyle and helps us keep going.

Optional for all:

- All Patrons listed on our website www.bangalowlandcare.org.au
- New Patrons listed in *The Herald* quarterly
- Updates via email on our work, Landcare newsletters, working bees
- Personal invitations to social gatherings and meetings

Other benefits include:

- reducing your carbon footprint
- providing habitat for native birds and animals
- improving water quality in our creeks
- restoring green space for everyone to enjoy
- making a better future for generations to come.

Certificates:

Laminated for display, stating the level of patronage, so you can show that you support our local environment. Renewable 12 months from date of issue.

Diamond : A once a year donation of \$1000

Platinum: A once a year donation of \$500

Gold: A once a year donation of \$100

Silver: A once a year donation of \$50

Bronze: A once a year donation of \$25

Regular: \$25 per family, \$15 individual. Renewal due at the AGM.

Working bees are currently held on Saturday mornings 8.30 to 10.30am on a two-month rotating calendar across all the sites we maintain. The location and work to be done will be advised by email to subscribers in the week prior. All welcome. *Liz Gander*

Reminder to make a difference

RenewFest 2017 is in the Mullumbimby Showgrounds, **Saturday, 6 and Sunday, 7 May**. It is a showcase of ideas and practical information on how we can act to ensure this planet does not become an impossible place to live. A strong vision of the organisers is that the Shire will be zero waste by 2020, so visitors are requested to bring their own plates, cutlery and cup.

There are many panel discussions and workshops, dealing with every aspect of planet survival, from how to hold a protest rally and lock-out to ethical economics, good parenting, supportive food production and the impact of climate change on species and ecosystems.

As well as fun and food, there will be representatives from ZEB (Zero Emissions

Byron), COREM (Community Owned Renewable Energy Mullumbimby), Enova Energy and the recently formed Suncrowd group who are pioneering solar panel bulk buy in the region. All groups have websites for more information, but if you can make the RenewFest weekend it will be more powerful. www.renewfest.org.au for ticket and program details. *Stephanie King*



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Bangalow's koalas

Bangalow has a significant population of koalas with recorded sightings from Granuaille Crescent/Road, heading west along Keith Street, Raftons Road near the pre school and creek and the off shoot streets right up to Rifle Range Road and around to Palm Lily Crescent and Dudgeons Lane. Byron Shire Council has advised the population may carry a gene pool to help the species survive into the future.

Bangalow now has a community group devoted to the village's unique koala population – Bangalow Koalas Inc. It became active in May 2016 with the local community realising the importance of our koala population on the western side of our village. It is mapping sightings and food trees and progressively building and protecting the habitat of our local koalas (as well as other threatened species).

Through a strong passionate commitment, the group members have maintained regular three monthly working bees from just a small base of members. The focus now is on a membership drive in order to

increase our awareness and volunteer base for working bees, fundraising and applying for grants in order to achieve our goal.

The main project goal is to create a koala wildlife corridor connecting existing sections of koala habitat and food trees on the western side of Bangalow. This involves planting along the existing koala corridor to enhance and expand current habitat creating a connection to new corridors, thereby encouraging koalas out of urban areas away from threats of dog attacks and car strikes. The outcome of this ambitious plan should be an effective koala safe haven away from residential areas.

Community involvement is critical. Various properties to the west along these routes have shown keen interest to assist the project and plant koala-friendly trees. With funding to purchase and plant trees and then ongoing maintenance to ensure a good survival rate this plan will become a reality. Without community support of Bangalow Land and Rivercare and Bangalow Koalas Inc. invasive weeds would over-run the



areas surrounding the base of the Koala trees restricting their access and movement between trees.

If you wish to help or donate and for more information, contact Linda Sparrow, the president and driving force behind Bangalow Koalas Inc. at twodogsmedia@optusnet.com.au

Tony Hart



WIRES is recruiting

Your local branch of NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service is an all-volunteer organisation that needs new members throughout the Northern Rivers region. WIRES offers a basic training course that will teach you how to safely rescue and

provide emergency care for injured and orphaned wildlife. If you would like to join WIRES and participate in our RICC on **28 May**, please contact us as soon as possible. Call our 24 hour hotline on 6628 1898 or see <http://wiresnr.org/Helping.html>.

Muriel Kinson

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Fine feathers

Bangalow Poultry Club is holding its Annual Poultry Exhibition on **Saturday, 27 May** in the poultry pavilion on the show ground. Judging will commence at 8.30am and the public is welcome to attend free of charge.

There is a special feature for the Pekin Bantam which is expected to attract over 12 different colours and 130 birds in that section. That will be a great sight to see.

Four judges will officiate, travelling from Bundaberg, Qld and Gloucester, NSW, and will have around 800 birds to judge.

Presentations to all winners will take place between 1pm and 2pm so that travelling exhibitors can return home with their birds.



About \$1000 worth of trophies, rosettes and ribbons will be presented, with a special ribbon in black and silver from our sister club in Dunedin in New Zealand.

Glenda McKenzie

May diary

- 2** Pool Trust AGM
- 3** Red Cross meeting
- 6/7** RenewFest 2017
- 11** Business womens breakfast
- 12** NORPA show
- 15** ADFAS: Frankly Speaking
- 19** Red Cross stall
- 21** Billycart Derby; Mad Hatters Tea Party; Ballina Arts & Crafts exhibition
- 27** Poultry exhibition; Timber Toy exhibition
- 28** Wires training; Sunday Market
- 31** Anzac exhibition ends

Bangalow Herald deadlines:

Ads Wednesday 17/05

Copy Monday 22/04

Piecing the community together

Two years ago, 2479 residents Chloe Rowland and Kerry Stanton shared a vision to create a community art project in a public space in our town. They hoped to involve a cross section of the town in a collaborative mosaic piece aimed at bringing together the youngest and oldest residents of Bangalow to brighten up the streetscape.

Chloe, with a background in prop and puppet making for theatre and opera, and Kerry, a local ceramist, started work on it in August 2016.

The day they arrived at aged care facility Feros Village with a gaggle of Bangalow school students, they wondered if perhaps their plans to create a large-scale hinterland inspired mosaic was a little ambitious.

Initially, both children and residents looked uncomfortable. To break the ice, Chloe explained the plans for the artwork and its intended location on the post office wall. Soon some of Bangalow's oldest residents were sharing stories about the post office, one revealing he had worked on its construction.

"Sharing stories of the past broke down the barriers between residents and kids," says Chloe. Two primary school students were paired with each resident, tasked with cutting out leaf shapes from clay to form foliage on the mosaic tree.

"Once the kids started fussing around, the residents, who had been a bit reluctant at first, became alert and engaged." The children also relaxed and began chatting freely with the residents about their hobbies, homes and families.

Young children enrolled at the BCCC also became involved. After the leaf shapes were cut and fired, it was their task to apply glazes in shades of green to every leaf to ensure the foliage was vibrant and varied. Students at Bangalow Public School then worked with parents to piece together the whole design.

The result is an impressive six square metre framed mosaic that captures the vibrancy and warmth of our community and is a talking point for locals and visitors alike. "Many residents – young and old – have made their mark through this artwork," says Chloe. *Sally Schofield*



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