

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE July 2017

Your ladder to success



Leaders of the pack

Paula Bannan, Karen Preston and Christian Morrow outside their new gallery, Pack, which opens this month. Photo by Digby Hildreth

A spacious contemporary art gallery will open its doors this month behind the former hardware shop in Station Street – a bold new venture by three local artists.

Pack Gallery – a name formed from the first initial of each of the trio, Paula Bannan, Christian Morrow and Karen Preston – will

have about 22sq/m of exhibition floor area and an equal amount of studio workspace.

“None of us has enough room to be working in and we want to be producing work,” says Paula.

The gallery will feature the artwork of all three but will also show other well-

established artists – “those of a high calibre and emerging to well-established, not all of them local”, Paula says.

Byron artist Courtney Cook will be featured, along with Queensland-based Adam Lester and Leah Thiessen.

(continued page 5)

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

Garden Club

The next meeting is on **Wednesday, 5 July** at 1.30pm in the Moller Pavilion. One of our members, Kaye Pearson, is going to speak about the art of Ikebana. The Saturday Social Visit on **8 July** is to the garden of Diana Harden in Cumbalum. The members of the Garden Club extend our sympathy to the family of Marie Flick, our much loved patron and life member (see Marie's Obituary, page 8).

Helen Johnston

Writers' Group

The **first Thurs of each month**, the Bangalow Writers' Group gets together at the Bangalow Scout Hall, 9.15am for a 9.30 am start. We present our writing efforts to each other for feedback and encouragement. There is never a negative comment, but rather suggestions as to how to improve. The meeting is usually fun and provides a learning curve for would-be writers. We believe that inside everyone is a story and the group allows these stories to develop. We break usually at 11am for coffee and refreshments. The cost per meeting is \$3. Newcomers welcome. Contact June at 6687 1004.

June Zentveld

Friends gather round for festival

A Friends group is being formed to support the Bangalow Classical Music Festival, foster the love of music and encourage local classical music making at the festival and at other times throughout the year.

The particular aim is to engage young people. The Friends group will be launched at a soiree on **Sunday, 23 July** at 4.30pm, venue to be announced. For details, please email margaret@classicalmusician.com.au or phone 0425 274 903.

Margaret Curtis



At the Bowlo

BayFM Disco: The Great 80s. **Saturday, 8 July** from 8pm. Tickets \$25, \$22 subscribers, from www.bayfm.org

Black Tie in July: **Saturday, 15 July** from 6.30. Tickets \$50, includes drink on arrival and canapé style dinner. Available from Bowlo or Millar & More. Blues Club: **Thursday, 27 July**.

ADFAS: The Real Downton Abbey

The next lecture, The Real Downton Abbey: Clothing the Classes 1900-1930, is on **Monday, 10 July** at the A&I Hall in Bangalow. The TV series *Downton Abbey* is the perfect example of how class dominated dress for centuries. Using examples of original dress from the period, magazine editorial and contemporary photographs, the importance of dress across the social classes of both upstairs and downstairs will be discussed. The lecture, presented by Kate Strasdin, will explore how dress was central to status from Lord Grantham, the patriarch of the family, to Daisy the scullery maid. It will also chart the changes that occurred during and after the Great War, and how life was never quite the same again.

Kate has worked with objects of dress and textiles in museums for almost 20 years, is assistant curator at the Fashion and Textile Museum in Devon, and is a senior lecturer at Falmouth



University teaching history and contextual studies to fashion and textile students. Doors open at 6pm and the presentation will begin at 6.30pm. Guests welcome, \$25 includes wine and light supper. Enquiries: Anni Abbink 6684 3249 or anne.abbink@yahoo.com.au *Di Kirby*

Business Womens' Networking Lunch

Lunchtime meeting at Heritage House in Bangalow on **Thursday, 13 July** at noon. All women are welcome. Karly Nimmo will be our guest speaker. Enjoy a delicious lunch, great information and excellent networking. Tickets \$25. Bookings are essential – through our Facebook page or hello@bangalowbusinesswomen.org

Paula Todd

Let's drink – to reducing emissions

Shire action group, Zero Emissions Byron, will be holding a Sustainability Drinks event at the Bangalow Bowlo on **Friday, 14 July** from 6-8pm. The monthly event, held in various locations around Byron Shire, provides a regular networking opportunity for people involved, or interested, in projects that seek to reduce emissions in the Shire. Integral to the event is a 'soap box', where locals are given a three-minute opportunity to spruik the advantages of their own project. "We invite anyone with a project they'd like to share to come along to speak about it on our soap box, then discuss it over drinks in more detail with others of like

mind," said organiser, Sasha Mainsbridge. Contact Sasha by **12 July** if you'd like to speak, at sashamainsbridge@gmail.com or phone 0422 641 474. Food and drinks are available at the Bowlo, but bookings essential for dinner. For more information see www.zero Byron.org or contact Tiffany Harrison at zeroemissionsbyron@gmail.com *Christobel Munson*

Byron & Beyond Networking

Our July networking breakfast at Town in Bangalow is on **Thursday, 20 July** at 7.45am.

Our presenter will be Zanni Louise, a published children's author, with two books in store and another five due out in 2018. Zanni demystifies publishing for aspiring authors, and gives people options for getting their work out there. She also talks about ways to turn your creativity into a career or, at the very least, integrate creativity into your daily lives. www.zannilouise.com

Rosemarie Toynbee

Heritage House news

We had a good start to the cooler season with many events being held at Heritage House. Our garage sale in April went well and plans are underway to host another one in spring. On Anzac Day we staged a 'Feeding the troops' exhibition. Our scones and jam and cream are proving a favourite – and that's what we offer: good, old-fashioned food in a quiet ambience. We have two youngsters, Danial Cooper and Chloe Hart, doing traineeships which will allow them to work in and run a cafe.

We now have more than 450 followers on Facebook and recently had a special giveaway for our 450th liker. Happily the winner grew up in Bangalow, now lives in Brisbane, and will be very happy to bring her mum in for a morning tea of her choice. As well as our standard menu items we have specials every week, and more recently we

have started promoting our takeaway menu. Just think fish and chips, home-made pies, soups, bagels and the like.

We still operate mostly on the generosity of our volunteers. If you have a couple of spare hours during the week, or some computer skills, we would love to hear from you. Call us on 6687 2183 and we will do our best to accommodate your skills. Come and see us on **Saturday morning, 22 July** when we will be hosting a fundraising stall in the main street. There'll be



cakes, relishes, jams, chutneys and maybe even some local crafts.

Mary Nelson

Farm day, fair and fireworks

Newrybar Public School invites pre-schoolers and families to a Farm and Picnic Day at the

Spotlight: A people power win for the Parklands

The Bangalow Parklands group had good reason to celebrate recently, when it was announced that a \$250,000 grant had been given to build an adventure playground and create a car-park over the long-abandoned dip site behind Heritage House.

In announcing the funding from the federal government's Community Development Grants Programme, Byron mayor Simon Richardson said the weir and park was an area that had gone "from a tired space



Niels Arup with a Parklands sign. Photo: Stephanie King

to a well-loved place for Bangalow families to gather for play dates and celebrations. It's been a privilege to work with the community along the journey from the dark days of imminent deconstruction of the weir, and council walking away, to these bright days of an active, all-ages space of beauty and enjoyment. It is a testament to what can happen when community groups and council work together," he said.

The 'small but perfectly formed' Bangalow Parklands group began in 2010, desperately concerned about the collapsing state of the weir in Byron Creek. It has held many public community forums, made films, held working bees, and had endless meetings with relevant bodies ranging from Byron Shire councillors and staff to NSW Fisheries, Rous Water, the Department of Water, consultants WBM, Baulderstone and Lendlease, Bangalow Land and Rivercare, All Souls' Anglican Church and Bangalow Historical Society, all keen to find a way to preserve the disintegrating weir and upgrade the park facilities.

The group has had great success. It has identified and obtained grant money to remediate the weir, plant out the creek banks, create a wetlands (with Landcare), have a mural painted on the upgraded amenities block, build ceremonial rock circles, install more seats and picnic tables, and generally bring fresh life back into this well-used public green space. Three new benches were installed with funds donated by the Chamber of Commerce. Signs were erected, designed by *Bangalow Herald* designer, Niels Arup, outlining the waterfront's history and the function of the new rock ramp fishway, funded by a NSW Environmental Trust grant obtained by Byron Council.

school on **Wednesday, 26 July**.

Bring along a picnic rug and

morning tea. Also, please note

that the Fireworks and Fair,

postponed due to rain, will now

be held on **Saturday, 5 August**.



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Let's aim to be roadworthy

There's life in the old town yet. As we go to press, the monthly markets are drawing thousands of people to the showgrounds, ensuring an income for our artisans, creatives and cottage industries, not to mention the retailers and cafes in the CBD.

On a recent Saturday night, dancers twirled themselves into Latin configurations at the Bowlo, while outside bewhiskered dads cooked things on the barbie for their kids playing around them. At the other end of town, exotic music emanated from the Arts Yard, (a 'hub' of the desirable kind), where happy Spanish and local fans listened adoringly to the sounds of Easter Island.

That day the local rugby team, the Rebels, had sent their rivals packing and the following weekend both grades had victories over the auld enemy, Byron Bay. Similarly, the Bluedogs saw off Lismore Thistles in a 3-0 triumph. Bangalow football has more than 500 active participants, 480 or so of them regular players. The last weekend in June, the rugby and soccer clubs came together to stage a trivia night at the Bowlo to raise funds.

These are all signs of a healthy, vibrant community. Proof that the arts are also thriving here is seen in the opening of a new gallery, driven by local painters, with the support of existing galleries.

This month there's the Bluegrass Festival and next is one of the world's finest regional classical music festivals.

We are blessed indeed. But the times they are a'changing, and the old road is rapidly ageing (and not just the old "back road" to the coast, with its multitude of craters a wallaby could take a bath in).

Local heroes such as Marie Flick are passing. Community champion Tony Hart is leaving 2479, joining other long-term residents in Ballina, because there is no smaller scale affordable option for them here. Even Jenny "Over my dead body" Coman is retiring. They are our elders and will be missed. Let's hope there are others with the same selflessness coming through to replace them. *Digby Hildreth*

www.bangalowherald.com.au
Editor: Digby Hildreth
editors@bangalowherald.com.au
Advertising: Lolomi Russell
advertising@bangalowherald.com.au
Design: Niels Arup
Editorial team: Judy Baker, Jenny Bird, Tony Hart, Murray Hand, Helen Johnston, Stephanie King, Di Martin, Neil McKenzie, Christobel Munson, Lyn Plummer, Patrick Regnault, Sally Schofield, Brian Sundstrom
Distribution: Bangalow PO, Brian Sundstrom, Peter Bradridge, Neil McKenzie
Website: Joanna Wilkinson
Public Officer: Tony Hart
Accounts: Neville Maloney
Printed by Lismore City Print

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Basil Cameron, Simon Richardson, Tony Hart, Christina Hart, Jenny Coman

Tireless fighter says farewell

There was celebration and sadness as a large crowd gathered for a morning tea to farewell community stalwart and **Bangalow Herald** council affairs correspondent, **Tony Hart**, at Heritage House this month.

The self-described 'nuisance', who worked tirelessly on behalf of Bangalow, is leaving the town, downsizing to Ballina Shire – whose council he will no doubt soon be subjecting to a forensic study.

Byron Shire mayor Simon Richardson joined the throng, and spoke of Tony's "unwavering commitment to the community" – as one of those "strong people who, year after year, speak up in support of the town", his mission to preserve the quality of life for all who live here.

Tony had been a "ferocious community advocate" Cr Richardson said, "but also reasonable, open to alternative views, good at getting people together and looking for a solution.

"On behalf of the council and of the whole Shire, thank you."

Tony was a senior civil servant for most of his career, and at a high level, reforming the Federal Census process among other things. His experience allowed him to penetrate the barriers of government and bureaucracy, he said – "one of the most difficult challenges for community groups."

He was president of the Bangalow Progress Association for four years and served as a link between the community and the RMS, to ensure the highway 'upgrade' had a minimal impact on the town, as well as shouldering a plethora of other community tasks and commitments.

He was an unashamed thorn in the side of the RMS, a David against its Goliath, but he had to be vigilant, he says, because "when they've finished building their roads, the RMS are not around" and can't be held to account.

Tony was also a key part in keeping the Bowlo from going under, forming a business management committee in 2012 with Brian Mackney and others, turning it into a viable proposition which it remains today.

His first article for the *Herald*, then named *Heartbeat*, he recalls, was on a proposed development in Station Street (rejected, and since resurfaced), and he has been a regular contributor on this and the other issues facing the town ever since.

His move away from Bangalow reflects a wider trend: that of the town's elders leaving. He and his wife are reluctant to leave, but there is no good quality, low cost accommodation for the aged in the 2479 area.

"There are no affordable two-bedroom and study properties here," Tony says mournfully. *Digby Hildreth*

Leaders of the pack

(from page 1) Paula has been in Byron Shire for 35 years, and worked at the Cape Gallery and Byron Fine Art Gallery. She trained at the Queensland College of Arts, going on to make a living as a professional artist.

A lino cut she made as part of a series on the attitude of Christianity and Islam towards women was bought by the National Gallery. "It's more relevant than ever now," she says.

"Paula has a lot of experience as a gallerist, so has strong curatorial ability, with a great eye, as well as being a first-class painter herself," says Christian, a finalist in this year's Gallipoli Art Prize.

His partner, Karen Morrow, studied graphic design at the Karl von Busse Institute of Design, and was taught by Valerie Olsen at Hornsby TAFE. She has an arts degree and Diploma of Education, and has taught at Byron and Mullumbimby high schools.

Karen brings a sound academic background of art, colour theory and technical skills to the gallery, which Christian says will benefit people wanting guidance on building collections. "Teaching has honed my understanding of composition, of what makes a work successful," Karen says.

Both Paula and Karen will teach in the



Paula Bannan, with paintings by Leah Thiessen and Bangalow artist Renee Coren. Photo: Digby Hildreth

studios, and they also plan on holding 'Don't drink the paint' classes, in which students can bring along a bottle of wine. "It'll be lively," Paula says,

With Barebones Gallery and Poet bookstore down the road, Pack should establish Bangalow as the cultural centre of Byron Shire. But the gallery will not be

a forbidding white cube 'art church', says Christian.

In fact the vibe owes more to punk, says the former hardworking rock muso: "It's a do-it-yourself ethos ... like forming a band; we're artists, we need a studio so we're going to do it... It's the same drive. Let's do it and damn the torpedoes." *Digby Hildreth*

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to Mullumbimby High, studied fine arts at Sydney Technical College and worked as a photo colourist at a society photography studio. She remembered the excitement of being in Martin Place when peace was declared at the end of World War II. She returned to Byron Bay for her 21st birthday.

Marie met her husband Keith Flick, now 93, while she was holidaying in the area and serving tea and sandwiches at a local clearing sale. Her dad, Jim Armstrong, introduced them and to this day Keith claims "she was the best thing I'd ever picked up

at a clearing sale".

They married in 1950 and bought the farm in Newrybar where they lived, had three children and farmed for 67 years. She and Keith were very involved with the local hall, running the 'old time' dances there for many years.

Marie was the epitome of a fine country woman: loving, thoughtful, friendly, kind and a no-fuss giver and doer to her family and the community. She was a committed volunteer at the Op Shop, and was made a patron and life member of the Bowling Club for her 39 years of active service. A founding member of the Bangalow Garden Club, she

was made a patron and life member there too, in 2013.

Her love of flowers led her to study Ikebana, often doing the flower arranging and helping with catering at the church and many local events.

The hobby also took her around the world, with four trips to Japan, as well as New Zealand and Africa. She loved to travel but

she was just as happy at home in Newrybar where her back door was always open for a cup of tea and a scone.

She was an artist in her own right, says Keith: "She loved painting landscapes, and all the family have two or three of her paintings in their homes."

Making preserves, sewing and knitting were among her other interests and she won many awards

at the Bangalow Show. She was delighted with an article in *The Australian* a few years ago which read: "A visit to Bangalow is not complete without a visit to the CWA shop to buy one of their fabulous tea cosies," many made by Marie, whose crocheting skills were legendary.

Her granddaughter, one of seven grandchildren, described her as the behind-the-scenes pillar of strength in the family, understated, warm and generous to everyone. She was a much loved and shining example of a life well lived.

Helen Johnston and the Flick family



Some of Marie's craft

A fine country woman

The life of **Marie Flick** was celebrated on Thursday, 8 June at All Souls' Anglican Church, Bangalow, where she had also been christened, confirmed and married.

Born across the road at the old hospital at Byron Creek on June 22, 1927, Marie grew up on a dairy farm in Coopers Shoot, went

Compose Yourself.

The Bangalow Music Festival Prelude
Thursday 17 August, 7:30pm at the A&I Hall.

Join us for a celebratory concert showcasing the true talents of Northern Rivers Musicians performing alongside world class artists from the Bangalow Music Festival.

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Bangalow

Move the hips, and your brain will follow

Once upon a time, Bangalow resident **David Roland** was a busy, highly qualified clinical and forensic psychologist. After a stroke and brain injury in 2009 he spent three years searching out different ways to restore his brain and body to working order.

After some exploration, David found the most useful tools for him were swimming, music and mindfulness meditation, as well as psychotherapy and computer-based brain training. He documented his recovery in a book, *How I Rescued My Brain*, published in 2014.

These days, he pursues another way of activating his brain: by dancing. "It feels like another healing activity," he explains at one of his regular haunts, a popular Bangalow coffee shop.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, David was lead singer in the Ryebuck Bush Band, also playing guitar, banjo and mandolin. Somehow a lot of traditional bush dancing was also involved. In the early 2000s, having moved to Bangalow, he attended



David Roland with a fellow follower of the light fantastic

salsa classes with his former wife, Leah, but having three daughters and a busy family and professional life left no time for dance.

Today, eight years after the stroke, he's "still improving". And once again he's writing and performing his songs, now in The Smashed Avocados with Nick Repin and Dan Ewald, and working on another book. And, after camping at the Woodford Folk Festival two years ago, he's dancing again. "I went to a Scottish ceilidh and felt this lovely joy of moving to the music," he says.

A friend referred him to the weekly salsa classes held at the Bangalow Bowlo by the Byron Latin Dance Collective. At first, travelling the country doing book publicity,

he couldn't attend classes consistently, but the following year he could.

He attends weekly classes and the monthly dance party and workshops. "In Latin dance, the man traditionally leads, so you have to remember the moves. It's a combination of physical and mental fitness," he says.

And importantly, it's not a solo practice. "You meet new people, and have permission to hold someone, to laugh and to chat."

So how is dance different from, say, swimming or meditation? "It seems to process emotions in a different way, not a heady way. You're challenged to lose your self-consciousness. It uses multiple levels of the brain, so is helpful for brain recovery. It's a 'team effort', incorporating physical mobility,

a sense of rhythm, sequencing, emotion (responding to the music) and there's a strong social component too. You have to read the body language of your partner and synchronise.

"As well, it increases your aerobic fitness, helps balance and coordination. Finally, it creates social inclusiveness. Dance has its own language, and human touch, which is so healing."

David explained that things like playing music, learning a new language and dancing all stave off cognitive decline and dementia. "Humans need social connection. Loneliness is a vice of modern society. For me, dance feels like a healing activity which reactivates my brain." *Christobel Munson*

A large, colorful graphic for 'BANGALOW MARKET'. The word 'BANGALOW' is in large, dark green letters, and 'MARKET' is in smaller, dark green letters below it. Each letter is filled with various small illustrations of food, drink, and lifestyle items like a burger, ice cream, guitar, flowers, pizza, watermelon, pineapple, and a teddy bear. To the right of the word 'MARKET' is the text '4th Sunday of each month' in a bold, dark green font. At the bottom, a dark green banner contains the text 'Supporting the Bangalow Community for 30 years' and 'Supporting The Bangalow Herald' separated by a small square icon.

BANGALOW MARKET 4th Sunday of each month

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

The smiling sweep

Chimney sweep **Res Tal** is as unlike the popular image of a soot-blackened slave of England's grim Victorian era as it is possible to be.

He is smiley and sunny, and sometimes even does a little song and dance act.

That's despite having to extricate the odd decomposing possum from a shonkily installed flue, or work his way around a pair of angry pythons in a ceiling cavity, or risk sliding off a roof and into the fracture clinic.

The grateful smiles from people whose fire systems he has fixed on a freezing winter's day make it all worthwhile, he says. "They love me for life."

Then there was the time he was called to unblock a chimney and extracted a rainbow lorikeet, still alive: "The look of relief on that sweet bird's face was priceless," he recalls.

Res left Israel in 2001, came to Australia for a year, then went to New Zealand, where he completed a carpentry apprenticeship. In 2008, he returned to Australia with his Sydney-born partner, Ev, and their son, Yonah.

He worked as a carpenter until the Northern Rivers mozzies gave him both Ross River and Barmah Forest fever, which laid him up for a year, unable to walk, locked up in pain. He was too depleted to return to building and the new career path occurred to him one cold day when he realised his family needed a fire.

His Kiwi experience came in handy, because fireplace installation, maintenance



Res Tal on the roof, and with his son, Yonah. Photos by Digby Hildreth



and regulations were part of the carpentry training.

After testing the waters with a newspaper ad, he suddenly found himself with weeks of bookings, and had to scurry to get the right kit, eventually importing the special brushes, rods and vacuum cleaner from England. Since then his business, The Original Chimney Sweep, has boomed, with a surprising number of people in the 2479 zone requiring his services.

Preventing fires is the main reason for sweeping, he says, and recommends a yearly check – for insurance safety as much as anything.

"The main problem is the build-up of creosote inside the chimney; the fireplace doesn't draw properly, it burns a lot of wood, there's smoke in the house, and it can catch on fire in the flue. It's 2000 degrees in there, and the melting metal can start to explode like fireworks."

He advises staying away from burning old floorboards and decking, or fence posts, which can be painted with old car oil. And both camphor laurel – "really bad, oily and

tarry" – and macadamia – "one of the worst".

Mixed timbers are best: "One kind can burn too hot and the fireplace can warp. Wattle burns way too hot so don't use it by itself. Ironbark by itself will bugger a fireplace. And stay away from soft woods like pine."

As well as sweeping, he refurbishes fire systems, and installs low-emission burners in old, inefficient fireplaces.

And the entertainment on the side?

"Little kids associate me with Mary Poppins, so I give them a bit of a song and a dance and they love it."

But there's more. An old English tradition says it's good luck to have a sweep at your wedding, so Res will don traditional garb, turn up, "steal some drinks and be a bit loud, give a present of creosote, kiss the bride, give a blessing".

Yonah used to accompany him, but doesn't so much now he's 12. But his daughter Silan, aged nine, still likes to come along.

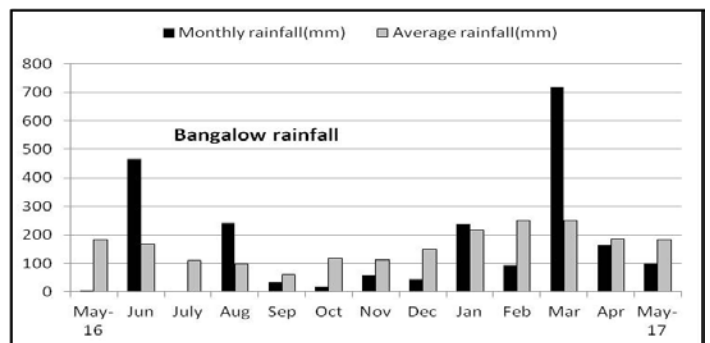
"She's more theatrical," he says.

Digby Hildreth

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The mysterious case of the airman

He was killed in action during World War II, but Reg Hast's name is on a metal plate on the side wall outside All Souls' Anglican Church, not on the brick entrance posts, where the names of seven other young men who died are inscribed. Why not?

The immediate answer is simple; he was not a local. His memorial there involves a longer answer, a story, as so many of the era, full of loss and loyalty.

Flight Lt Reginald Alfred Hast was born in 1922, the son of Tom and Eunice Hast.

Tom was one of three children born in Armidale in the early 1890s to Walter and Lucy Hast. Walter died in 1894, leaving Tom and his twin Reg, sister Muriel and mum.

Lucy remarried and had three more children but died young, aged 36 in 1910, by which time the Tom and his siblings were old enough to make their way in the world.

The twins enlisted for World War I; Tom serving from 1915-1919, including at

Gallipoli. Reg died of wounds in Belgium in October 1917. Their sister Muriel died in 1919 aged 24, after an appendix operation that went wrong.

Tom Hast returned from WW1, married Eunice, a Victorian girl, and in 1921 had a son whom he named Reginald, in memory of his dead twin. Young Reg signed up for World War II in 1941, aged 19. He flew Kittyhawks for the Desert Harassers in Tunisia, Sicily and Italy and had a stint instructing pilots to fly Spitfires. On 17 December, 1944, aged just 23 he was shot down in his Kittyhawk over Italy.

But how did he turn up on a church wall in Bangalow? The answer, according to

Bangalow RSL members, lies in an Armidale connection, and one of the other seven names on the entrance post – Guy Saunders, who was serving with the RAF in England when he died from an illness in 1943.

Guy was the son of Englishman Cecil Saunders, who came out to Armidale in his early 30s to complete his religious training, and married Ivy Dale, a nurse, in 1918.

Ivy had attended West Armidale Public School ... at the same time as Tom, Reg and Muriel Hast.

The Rev Cecil Saunders, with Ivy, served the Anglican Church in Mungindi (where Guy was born 1919) and many other places, including Papua New Guinea, before landing at Bangalow in 1939.

The couple remained at All Souls until Cecil died in 1955, but two years before that a public meeting had voted to build a memorial wall in memory of those parishioners lost in WWII.

A Tom Hast from Brisbane turned up with the promise of a 50 pound donation for the wall and RSL member Col Draper thinks it's likely that Reg's name is on the wall because his father had a lifelong friendship with Canon Saunders and his wife, the very special 'Saundy'.

"Saundy had a little Austin A30, but had no idea of moving off from a parked position," Col recalls.

"We lost Saundy in the late 1970s," he says. "She wanted to drive lots of older ladies around. My late grandmother would desperately try to think of excuses not to ride with her. Saundy would say 'God is watching over me'. My grandmother wasn't sure if she was also protected." *Digby Hildreth*

If you go down to the woods today ...

The many rainforests in this area can provide a great variety of surprises. But none of them so startling, surely, as the sight of a gleaming copper still lurking amidst 12 hectares of regenerated rainforest in the centre of a lush macadamia orchard at St Helena.

Yes, you've guessed – it's the new Cape Byron Distillery at Brook Farm, which adorns the ridge at the edge of the Byron Shire hinterland, and is the source of Brookie's Gin.

The idea of Brook Farm extending its product range beyond muesli into alcohol was hatched while Eddie Brook worked in the spirits industry. He ran a tour for a visiting Scottish distillery expert, Jim McEwan, with whom he quickly developed a rapport and an interest in using local botanicals to flavour gin. They have jointly established the new enterprise: Brookie's Gin.

The distillery is on Eddie's parents' property, Brook Farm, which Martin and Pam Brook have owned for 30 years, toiling to regenerate with subtropical rainforest, and planting out the rest in macadamias trees.

The 2000-litre pot still, of Scottish design, was made in Tasmania and has been customised to optimise the use of local botanicals. Eddie starts with Australian, neutral, wheat-based spirit and Mt Warning spring water. This is infused with the 'compulsory' juniper, seven other traditional gin botanicals and up to 18 local botanicals. These include aniseed and cinnamon myrtles, lemon aspen, native ginger, raspberries, various



Still life with Eddie Brook. Photo: Judy Baker

lilly pillys and Davidson plums. White aspen and finger and blood limes also go into the mix.

Some of these are harvested from the Brook Farm rainforest, but the bulk are bought from local growers. Crushed macadamias

are also added to create a buttery sensation in the mouth. The brew is marinated for up to 17 hours, then trickle-distilled for 10 hours.

Currently two tipples are made: dry gin – a traditional London-style gin, 46% alcohol, often mixed with tonic; and the 26% alcohol slow gin – the dry gin base with an infusion of Davidson plums and some sugar. The sugar is required to ensure the juice is extracted from the fruit. This is not a shot in the dark but a nod to Eddie's great-grandmother, who made her own sloe gin with the sloe (blackthorn) fruit, producing a pink gin. Try sipping it neat, like a liqueur – and, of course, slowly. Or add a little ice or a dash of water. This really is a revelation – allowing the botanicals to open out for a wonderful flavour sensation.

The gins are sold through local bottle shops and during farm and distillery tours. To further acknowledge the importance of rainforest regeneration, a percentage of the profits from Brookies Gin goes to Big Scrub Landcare. Brookie's recently won a gold medal in the Contemporary Gin section at the San Francisco World Spirits Competition.

Perhaps our rainforest will give them another one?

Brian Sundstrom and Judy Baker



Stephanie Dengate and Monica Shaw, who sold the winning ticket. Photo: Digby Hildreth

Just the ticket

We'll all be lining up at the Bangalow Newsagency from now on, after owners Richard Rombouts and Carolyn Adams sold their first Lucky Lotteries Mega Jackpot winning entry in June. A regular customer walked away \$200,000 richer from the win.

"This is our first direct bullseye so we're thrilled," Carolyn said. "We're hoping for a run of wins for our customers."

"The winner was absolutely thrilled when he found out. There were a few tears and he gave the staff a big hug. It was so sweet."

"We wish him all the very best with his win."

The gift that goes on living

Organ transplant is something Brooklet's **Deirdre Cox** can smile about: "It's close to my heart," she says. In fact, just below it. Receiving a new liver has granted her 25 years of extra life.

In 1991 Deidre was given two years to live, "and not necessarily two good years", she says. A transplant was needed to save her life, but it took four months of anxious waiting before the good news came through – right on midnight on New Years' Day, 1992.

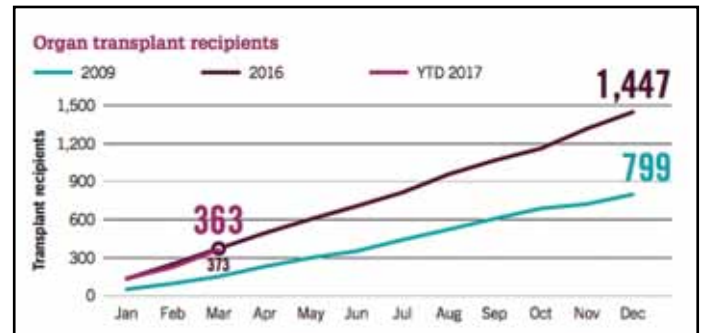
A suitable liver had become available and she was to be at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney within three hours. Still, she couldn't be sure that the operation would be a success. "It was now in the hands of God and the doctors and staff of RPAH.

"The suddenness threw us into a panic. We had visitors staying, our family was asleep and, being tired after New Year's Day celebrations, I had also retired, deciding for once in my life to leave the huge wash up until the next morning.

"I roused everyone to tell them the time had come, hoping it would only be 'goodnight' and not 'goodbye'. Being assured the washing up would eventually get done, I was bundled into the car for the 10km trip. The seven hour operation was a success and I am forever grateful for the extra 25 years I have enjoyed (happily most of them in Brooklet)."

She prays regularly for her unknown donor and for the family who made the decision to donate their loved one's organs, and for the Prince Alfred staff. "Thanks to all these marvellous people and my caring husband, George, I have had the chance to see our eight children, and 17 grandchildren grow and to celebrate our first great-grand-child in May this year."

Australia has a shamefully low organ donation rate, Deirdre says, and she tries to draw attention to the need for donors. "Please add



Graph showing the rise in organ transplant recipients. source: DonateLife

your name to the Organ Donor Register. And remember to discuss it with your family to be sure they are aware of your wishes."

DonateLife Week runs from 30 July – 6 August. 2017. You can join the Australian Organ Donor Register at donatelife.gov.au



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Sussing out the story-teller's secrets

Mick O'Regan will be interviewing crime writer Michael Robotham in Bangalow next month. Here he introduces the novelist's latest work.

Michael Robotham knows a lot about murder. In fact, he's got a dagger to prove it – the Golden Dagger awarded to him by the UK's prestigious Crime Writers' Association in 2015 for his novel *Life or Death*. As you might imagine, the roll call of previous winners is a who's-who of famous crime writers, from John Le Carre to Ann Cleeves.

Robotham's latest novel, *The Secrets She Keeps*, is his 12th, and it's another example of his ability to bring to life complex characters facing diabolical circumstances. No less a critic than Stephen King has described *Secrets* as a "nerve-shredding thriller" and called Robotham "an absolute master" of the genre. As you progress through this gripping yarn, King's praise is validated; you don't merely feel scared for the characters, your heart aches for them.

Focused on two women from very different backgrounds, who share little more than



Michael Robotham

both being pregnant, the novel explores how they struggle with their lives and dashed desires. One is wealthy and socially connected, enjoying the fruits of what seems a perfect life. The other spends her days stacking supermarket shelves, dreaming of what might be. The shadowy gap between expectation and fulfillment is explored relentlessly, revealing how different a life

can seem when knowledge of its unseen dimensions is divulged.

Like many crime writers, Robotham began his career in journalism, initially in Australia and then in the UK. The daily grind of news and comment finally gave way to a celebrated career as a ghost writer, adding flair and precision to accounts of disparate lives. Perhaps the discipline of writing in the first person about someone else is what gives his characters such authenticity. For a man to write authentic female characters is hard enough; to do

it this well is an achievement.

*Friends of Libraries, in conjunction with the Byron Writers Festival, invite you to an afternoon of crime: Michael Robotham in conversation with Mick O'Regan in the Moller Pavilion at the Bangalow Showground on **Thursday, 3 August** at 2pm. Bookings essential. Tickets \$15 online at www.byronbayfol.com or 6687 1396 at Bookworms & Papermites.*

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	Sporting Field	bookings	Nick	6687 1607
CWA	2nd Wed	Di	6685 4694	Tennis Court Hire			6687 1803
Garden Club	1st Wed	Margaret	0403 583 766	Writers Group	1st Thurs	June	6687 1004
George the Snake Man		George	0407 965 092	WIRES			6628 1898
Historical Society/Museum/Cafe		Wendy	6687 2183				
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

Falling for the Bancks effects

Tristan Bancks' latest novel, **The Fall**, is aimed at readers aged 10 and up. So we asked Bangalow Public School pupil **Sunny Duncombe**, 11, to tell us what she thought



Our reviewer, Sunny Duncombe.

"I moved slowly, quietly to the window and opened it a little more. When I saw what was down there, my breath froze in my throat. Someone was standing over the body."

Tristan Bancks' new novel *The Fall* combines murder and mystery in which Sam, a 13-year-old with staples in his knee, peers out of his father's apartment window, only to see a man fall from the top floor.

What follows is a sensational story which makes you feel as if you are inside the book, witnessing all that happens alongside Sam's dog, Magic, a flame-haired teen named Scarlet, and Harry Garner, a crime reporter and Sam's irresponsible father.

Bancks uses descriptive language to make us feel Sam's states of mind, such as "A winding coil of red-hot rage inside my chest" and weaves an intricate tale that left this reader always wanting more.

I sat down with the book and stood up only to eat and sleep. The only thing I missed in the story is a backstory for the mysterious antagonist Mick Kelly. He is a powerful character, but I wanted more beyond the one-dimensional. How did he come to be so nasty?

That aside, *The Fall* is an awesome book with inspiring characters, great descriptive language and a plot which thrilled and excited me.

I recommend it to anyone who enjoys murder mystery stories. *The Fall* is a great book with cool characters, a thrilling plot line and an exciting ending, which will leave you wanting more of Sam, Scarlet and Magic, the best dog in the world.

Overall, I thought it was amazing, deserving a 10 out of 10.



Fall guys

When Bangalow author Tristan Bancks launched *The Fall* at Bangalow Public School in early June, it was met with a rapturous reception.

Photo: Digby Hildreth

The Bangalow Herald has a signed copy of *The Fall* to give away to a reader aged under 16. Tell us, in 25 words or less, your idea for a novel entitled *The Rise*. The most imaginative and well-written response will win. Send entries to editors@bangalowherald.com.au by **15 July**.

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Stairways to heaven

A variety of both native and exotic climbers thrive in the gardens in our area, growing on fences or pergolas to form a beautiful display throughout the year.

Climbers require a support, which can take many forms, some more unusual than others.

Apart from the usual man-made structures, we can use climbing plants to grow on stumps, or cover sheds. Tree trunks make a good support but the choice of climber needs to be well thought out or the tree will be entirely covered and may not survive.

Ladders

Old ladders can serve as a frame for climbers. A not-too-vigorous climber such as *Dipladenia diamantina* Citrine, with its gorgeous trumpet-shaped yellow flowers, would suit a small step-ladder or you could combine the different forms of the native *Hardenbergia violacea* which comes in white, pink and purple. For a tall ladder, you will need a semi vigorous plant, which you can keep in check. Why not try *Ficus pumila* trimmed to stick closely to the sides and rungs?

Clothes lines

Disused Hills Hoists are fun to play with but you will need to secure them to keep them still. For these, I suggest the blue flowering *Petrea volubilis*, with its sandpaper leaves or the eye-catching *Thumbergia mysorensis*.

Swings

Old swings are suitable, but make sure



Recycled vine trellis

they're robust enough to support the weight of the vine. For heavy frames, you can use larger climbers such as *Beaumontia grandiflora* with its large scented trumpet flowers and big leaves, or the magnificent *Strongylodon macrobotrys* with its turquoise flowers.

Odder ideas

An old metal-framed bed would make an ideal support for the red flowering and scented *Passiflora alata* or the giant of all passionfruits, *P. quadrangularis*.

Old bicycles or even just the wheels can be used to support annual edible climbing vegetables such as the climbing bean *Scarlet Emperor*, with its ornamental red flowers, *Goldfield*, and its long yellow pods, or *Blauhilde*, which boasts amazing stringless purple pods. And don't forget peas for a quick snack.

Rigid PVC pipes can be used to create frames of many shapes and forms; it is better to use the 50mm pipes and elbows as they are less intrusive and easier to work with. Plan well ahead by designing the shape you want and establishing which fittings are available.

You can make a modular frame to grow a kiwi fruit or a grape such as muscadine.

Standards

For those who like more work, try to standardise your climber. Bougainvilleas, wisteria, roses, even allamanda have been used that way for a very long time.

Remember to try to reuse, reduce and recycle things to grow your climbers on, and have fun with them. After all, gardens are there to nourish your creative spirit as well.

Patrick Regnault, registered horticulturist

Fungis to have around

Some of our readers have been discovering beautiful but strange fungi popping up in their gardens following the recent heavy rains. If you can identify any of these, please let us know, or send in any photos of anything similar you have come across.



Rebels becoming heroes

Bangalow's rugby team is going from strength to strength, with a new captain leading the charge.

The Rebels downed defending premiers Wollongbar-Alstonville 26-14 on 17 June, and triumphed against 'grudge' rivals Byron Bay the following week.

After an injury-plagued start to the season, they have won their last five matches and are only going to get better, says new captain Dan Rollinson.

While he claims to have only been 'lumped' with the job because Matt Gibson suffered a calf injury, Rollinson has shown true leadership and been a calming influence on the team, according to coach Warren Fisher.

The towering No 8, who previously played for Bond University, got the Wollongbar-Alstonville match's best player gong from Fisher, who also credited Chris Bleakley as possessing the right stuff.

"Bleakley has that X-factor out wide," he said of the winger who ran in two of the three early tries that had their hard-working rivals on the back foot.

New teammates, Welshmen Matt Tabb



Jock Craigie takes control of the lineout.



Chris Bleakley runs in his second try unmolested.

Photos: Digby Hildreth

and Daniel White, had added power to the side, Fisher said, while solid loose forward Otty Fifita and second-rower Angus Dickson were both improving.

Rollinson, 32, and originally from Surat, Qld, is an agronomist working for Eden Country Store. He is loving the 'country feel' of Northern Rivers rugby, which is a little more relaxed after the 'really fast' premier comp on the Gold Coast.

Which is not to say he isn't hugely ambitious for the rising Rebels. "We're looking to get into the final," he said.

Digby Hildreth

Holding back the years

Age is no barrier to physical fitness and to prove this, three members of Bangalow Lions Club defied the ravages of time and entered a team in the annual Byron Bay Triathlon in May.

Neil McKenzie completed the 1500m swimming leg, Neil Sowerby the 40km bike ride and Chris Hayward finished off with the 10km run.

And, just quietly, their combined team age was a staggering 191 years!

While they didn't match the performance of some younger teams, they did finish before dark without major injury or mishap. And they're already in training for next year. *Neil McKenzie*



Chris Hayward, Neil Sowerby and Neil McKenzie.



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The Arts Yard on Lismore Road proved a warm sanctuary on a cold and wet Saturday mid-month, with the sunny, sultry sounds of music from Easter Island (Rapa Nui), courtesy of a man who grew up there, Jorge 'Yoyo' Tuki.

Singing his own songs, based on Rapa Nui culture, with Latin and

Anglo influences, Yoyo and his band lit up the night.

More Latin warmth came from the guitar of Danny Ross the next night, as he launched his Live in Cuba video.

The Yard, where nine diverse creatives toil during the week, is aiming to host more such concerts in the future.

July diary

- 5** Garden Club
- 6** Writers' Group
- 8** Garden Club social visit
- 10** Clothing the Classes
- 13** Business Women's lunch
- 14** Sustainability drinks
- 15** Black tie in July; Entries close for **The Rise**
- 20** Byron & Beyond breakfast
- 22** Heritage House stall
- 23** Friends of BMF soiree
- 26** Newrybar PS farm picnic
- 27** Blues Club
- 30** DonateLife week starts
- 3 Aug** Michael Robotham
- 5 Aug** Newrybar fireworks
- Bangalow Herald deadlines:**
- Ads** Wednesday 12/07
- Copy** Monday 17/07

Introducing, the one and only ... you!

Have you ever wanted to get up on a stage in front of a live audience and sing a few of those songs that you like to sing to yourself in the car or practise on guitar in private? Are you a wannabe bluesman, bluegrass, folkie or jive artist – but aren't sure you could actually perform live because of self doubt or the fear of making a fool of yourself?

Well, a lot of locals have felt that way, but for a couple of decades they've been doing something about it every Tuesday night at the Bangalow Hotel.

Tuesday evening is open mic night (or 'Brackets') at the pub. It's been running for more than 20 years so has become something of a Bangalow institution. For the past 20 years the evening has been run

by Peter Woolnough (himself something of an institution). He reckons that over that time most of the well-known musicians on the North Coast have graced the small stage at the pub on a Tuesday night.

While Peter's reluctant to throw names around, it's fair to say that this is a much cherished institution where musos of all types love to drop in and do their thing. But the stage is not just for the pros. Far from it. Most nights see people getting up in front of an audience for the first time. Everyone feels comfortable up there, as it is very informal and non-judgmental. Get up and warble a Dylan ballad? Easy. Play something you've composed yourself? Ideal. Recite an original poem? Why not. All you have to do is get there some time after

7.30 and put your name on the whiteboard in one of the 20 minute slots. If Dutch courage is needed ... well it is a pub!

The other attraction on Tuesdays is the pool tables. There is a regular mob of locals on the tables. At first it may seem to be a bit disrespectful to the person up on the stage, having pool balls bashing around while they perform, but it is what it is: informal. To my knowledge no performer has been hit by a flying pool ball (not accidentally anyway). Perhaps the clatter and chatter make it easier for a novice to perform rather than confronting a rapt audience.

We are fortunate to have pubs and clubs keen to foster live music. Live music performed by those wanting to get up and have a go is to be treasured. *Murray Hand*



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