



Tania Frazer and members of the Southern Cross Soloists

The larrikin and eccentric characteristics of some of history's most famous composers will be explored and celebrated in a performance at the Bangalow Music Festival this month.

"There is the impression that the great classical figures were all a bit stuffy," says

Tania Frazer, oboist and artistic director of the festival. "But once you look behind the scenes you see that some of them were quite crazy."

Take Erik Satie, one of the weirder composers, whose work features in a presentation at the festival entitled 'Rebels,

Renegades and Rascals', narrated by the actor Helen Morse.

He was "a total nutcase", Ms Frazer says. "Satie wore the same suit every single day, ate only white food and collected umbrellas. When he died, it was discovered that he had two grand pianos" (continued page 9)

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

Bangalow Garden Club

The next meeting is on **Wednesday, 2 August** at 1.30pm in the Moller Pavilion. The newly revised constitution will be presented to members for their approval. Please note that the Saturday Social Visit will be on **12 August** to the garden of Steven Wedd in Wollongbar.

Helen Johnston

Writers Group

The Bangalow Writers group will meet on **Thursday, 3 August**, as usual, at the Bangalow Scout Hall.

June Zentveld

At the Bowlo

Friday, August 4. Superbowlo, four bands

Thursday, August 24. Blues Club

Friday, August 25. Rod Murray Swing Trio band

Friday, August. Rebels' Junior presentation.

Shane Ironside

Chamber meeting

The Chamber's AGM is **Wednesday, 9 August** at 5.30pm at Heritage House.

Linda Sparrow

Bangalow Business Women's Networking Group

Evening meeting at Heritage House in Bangalow on

Thursday, 10 August, 5.30-7pm. All women are welcome. Finger food, wine, great information and excellent networking. Tickets \$25. Bookings essential – through our Facebook page or hello@bangalowbusinesswomen.org.

Paula Todd

North Coast Mud Trail

Several potters and their workshops within 2479 will feature in the North Coast Mud Trail open studios weekend this month – part of the Australian Ceramics Community's event. Richard Jones, of Rainforest Ceramics, 56 Gittoes Lane, Possum Creek, donates a portion of every dollar spent saving rainforests. Karen Jennings creates high-quality, functional pottery at 232 Tooheys Mill Rd, Fernleigh. Sharing her studio is ceramic artist Sasa Scheiner. At Red Door Studio, 444 Fernleigh Rd, Fernleigh, Brooke Clunie makes distinctive tableware to order. Villa Rustica Ceramics features Greg Furney's finely handcrafted work – and a secluded Moroccan courtyard!

August 19-20. See www.northcoastmudtrail.com.au

Digby Hildreth

ADFAS

Inside Stories: Real Stories behind Nazi Looted Art

The next lecture is on **Monday, 21 August** at the A&I Hall in Bangalow. The Inside Stories is a 'top 10 looted art cases' lecture.



Allied troops find Nazi loot

The Nazis looted over 20% of Western art during World War II and the effects of their looting are still evident today. Each artwork tells its own story and this presentation looks at the most famous stolen works of art.

The lecture, presented by Shauna Isaac, will discuss the provenance of the artworks and the journeys – from their wartime owners to now. Examples of works include Vincent van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr. Gachet* and Pablo Picasso's *Portrait of Angel Fernandez de Soto*.

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

Di Kirby

Calling all local veterans

A new management team has been elected at the Bangalow RSL Sub-Branch. We are a small group of ex-service members working for veterans and the local community.

The sub-branch was

established in 1919. Older members worked hard to build our hall and we owe it to our old Diggers to maintain the legacy they left to Bangalow village. We hold our monthly meeting on the **last Friday of each month** starting at 1.30, at the RSL Community Hall in Station Street. We invite you to



Visiting veteran Ernest (Jack) Foster at Heritage House.

come and meet us and become involved.

The average age of our members is 70, so we are desperately looking for younger members. Please come along, meet us and join in preserving the hall – and the ANZAC legend for our grandchildren. And hopefully have fun.

Contact me on 6688 2029 or Col Draper 0408 440 243.

David Spiteri, RSL Vice-President

Community helping community

When Heritage House sought help from the Bangalow Garden Club to get their garden back in shape, several members – like the lovely Mary Hendry –

Calling all bluesmen

Any bloke who would like to play some blues (guitar, bass, drums, etc) is welcome to come on down to the Bangalow Men's Shed and boogie on **Thursdays from 2pm**. Phone 0478 125 457 for more information.

Murray Hand



Blues jammers Zach Zytnik and Matcham Cain. Photo: Murray Hand

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generously donated their time. Thanks also to BGC president Margaret, who has also given time, and all those members



Mary, John and Glynis and garden bounty. Photo: Mary Nelson

who donated some cuttings. Now all we need is some tooled up people to help us prune some shrubs as we get ready for spring. Call Wendy on 6687 2183 or drop in and have a chat. *Mary Nelson*

Red Cross

Due to a range of personal concerns, we held our AGM in July instead of as advertised in August. Apologies.

Watch out for next month's notice on our big fund-raising cake, tea and coffee stall, to be held on **8 September** at the RSL Hall. Centrepiece will be our special hamper, with many delights for all. *Liz Parks*



White crested Black Polish painting by C.S.Th van Gink in Australian Poultry Standards, 2nd edition – Hector's judging 'bible'. Hec McKenzie at home with Black Pekin friend. Photo: Lisa Sharpe



Spotlight: The pre-eminent poultry people

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a household in possession of a chook or two must be amongst the happiest in the Bangalow region. And, for heightened joy, that household should become a member of the Bangalow Poultry Club.

For some it may be an undiscovered delight, but the distinction between simply owning a cute but run-of-the-mill laying chook – with the associated joys of eggs and feathery cuddles – and becoming a breeder and continuously refining the best characteristics of your chosen breed, can lead to a whole-of-life fulfilling journey.

Longtime residents, Hector and Glenda McKenzie, and their son Dean, provide the dynamics behind the hugely successful Poultry Club – one that has earned accolades, adherents and passionate members from all over the Far North Coast.

Hector's particular passion is a lifetime

dedication (more than 60 years) to the pursuit of the perfect Black Pekin and Leghorns.

"There are many different varieties, colours, sizes and personalities," says Hector. "The genetics are fascinating. It's a whole different ball game to just hatching a fertilised egg. When you're breeding, you work with a family line for it – dad to daughter, mother to son."

Hec points out that artificial insemination plays a role in breeding some varieties.

The McKenzies are stalwarts of the November Show exhibits, which Hec runs, and Glenda is immersed in writing a huge tome, the History of the Bangalow Poultry Club – 100 years of poultry in Bangalow. Both have an encyclopedic knowledge of poultry welfare and are happy to provide advice.

There are three big poultry events in town each year: check their Facebook page: bangpoultryclub.com.au or join up at www.bangpoultryclub.com.au *Stephanie King*

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Real Estate

Keep calm, and resist

The coastal reaches of the shire are just recovering from the annual bacchanalian orgy known as 'Splendour' – an event that can only be enjoyed by those who don't mind being surrounded by beautiful young things in various stages of undress and intoxication, writhing rhythmically to the animal throb of primal music.

Which is all very well, but we in the hinterland breathe a more rarefied air; we are above that sort of thing, both topographically and spiritually, and can look down our long noses at it as we cultivate our crops, throw pots or ground ourselves with Tai Chi. Or perhaps it's just that most Bangalowians are simply too ... mature ... for such cavortings.

We prefer the refined compositions of Mozart and the other gods of music, though it seems many of them, too, were variously deranged, as we will learn at the classical music festival this month.

But 2479ers are not entirely immune to the pleasures of the flesh, and indeed take our carnality seriously, even carnivorously, drawn to the Bluegrass festival by the promise of whole pigs being roasted on a spit, or at least a Health and Safety certified barbecue.

Nor is Bangalow immune to other, less welcome, vagaries of contemporary society – as the defacing of the mural in the town centre demonstrates. No doubt some would wish to see the scallywags given a public flogging, but the artist, in a rare gesture of forgiveness, has extended a welcoming hand to them, an offer to have them work alongside her to restore it, while learning about painting and civic responsibility.

Bangalow is meanwhile threatened with a larger, more egregious disfigurement, where turning a sow's ear into a silk purse looks like an impossible undertaking.

The second application to build a vast food factory on farmland at our western gate shows few meaningful alterations from the first.

The obvious risks to our air, waterways, roads and rural ambience remain unaddressed, and the scale has not been reduced one whit. Having such a monstrosity imposed upon a reluctant community is simply unthinkable.

Digby Hildreth

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IN TOWN

Helping guide the Village Plan

After a slow start, the Bangalow Village Plan process is accelerating, with Byron council scheduling seven workshops between July and November.

Each workshop takes as a topic a 'slice' of what will become a full Village Plan: built form and heritage, movement, public spaces, culture and sustainability, economy, precinct plans, implementation and governance. The workshops run with expert input followed by a discussion of ideas by the Guidance Group, which contains elected representatives from 23 community organisations plus council staff.

The two July workshops (Built Form and Heritage, Movement Strategy) were well attended. There were feisty debates and occasional outbursts of frustration over past council neglect of Bangalow but overall, constructive conversations and respectful listening and learning prevailed.

Underpinning the process are the results from the community consultations of the past few years – the Have Your Say survey and the recent forums council ran about parking, traffic and human movement. A coherent set of values is emerging: don't change too much, keep our small village feel, protect our heritage, protect our green spaces, link the town with better walking/cycling pathways.

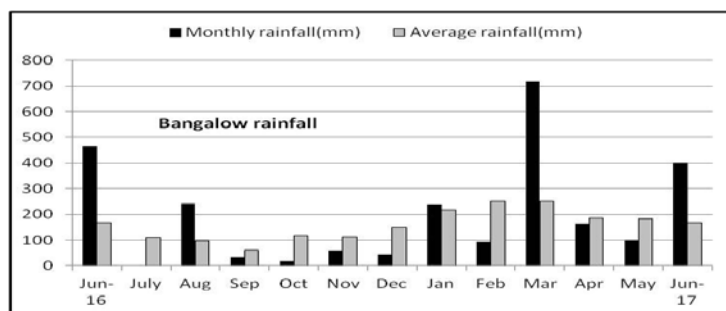
At the day-long Built Form and Heritage workshop, Vivienne Gorec from the Heritage Society gave a fascinating history of the role that fires have played in the built environment of the main street. Fires in 1908, 1911 and 1939 collectively destroyed nearly all of the original shop buildings. Deborah Ray, the council's heritage consultant, outlined the role of Conservation Protection Areas in protecting residential, industrial, commercial and recreational spaces in a town.

Architect Dominic Finlay-Jones introduced the Burra Charter, Australia's primary statement for conserving heritage places, and challenged us with some of its principles. Rather than trying to replicate 'old' architecture and design, we should be unafraid to place the well designed 'new' beside the protected 'old'. This proved to be a big topic as we grappled with ideas for design guidelines that might help developers and renovators avoid 'faux' heritage designs and employ quality contemporary design that remains sympathetic to our existing heritage buildings.

The Movement Strategy workshop was presented by the council consultants who ran the recent sessions on parking and human movement. Parking, the maintenance of roads and footpaths (on which council got a real caning for its neglect), accessibility, walking and cycling, are all included in their draft report. A few of the many ideas discussed were: formalising the area in front of the A&I Hall as a forecourt; redesigning the road and footpaths in Station St; creating a shared pedestrian/traffic zone covering the whole intersection of Byron/ Station St; improving all footpaths; and protecting the rail corridor for recreational/community use.

We will keep you posted as the process unfolds.

Jenny Bird



Parklands bonanza

The restoration of Bangalow Parklands zone is a remarkable example of people power – concerned citizens taking up a project and finding a way of solving the problem.

An over-riding issue in Bangalow has been the disintegration and neglect of the weir and surrounding parklands at the eastern end of town. It's been a long saga, over seven years in the making, and now it is reaching a glorious crescendo of completion – due to a Federal grant of \$250,000 and a \$164,000 contribution from Byron Shire Council.

Most of the process of turning a broken-down weir and a once much-loved swimming hole into a useful and beautiful amenity has been chronicled over the years in our local papers. Now, at last, it's time to look at the final stage of its resurrection.

The core Parklands team has toiled to achieve restoration and a much improved, more modern open space. Central to this

were Christobel Munson, Lynn Smith whose father Bruce Beckinsale taught Bangalow's youngsters to swim back in the '20s, Jon Smith, who watched the finances, and Terry Bleakley who came up with practical ideas, inspiration and photographs. A few others hovered in the background in support, plus there was the very fruitful collaboration with Land and Rivercare who wove in their planting plans.

Christobel sums up the past, and looks to the future. "In recent years, we've found the funding and skills to repair the disintegrating weir and build a new fish ladder (together

with informative signs); to build a fabulous bandstand building (called The Waterfront); to install two ceremonial rock circles; to fund the painting of a colourful mural of the evolution of Bangalow around the upgraded amenities block; and – with help from the Bangalow Chamber of Commerce – to construct new tables and benches throughout the park.

Working with the Landcare group, thousands of native trees have been planted along Byron Creek, as well as the design and planting out of the wetlands.

"With this latest news, we're so delighted that our Council-community collaboration

can continue with the planning and construction of an adventure playground for older kids. We're hoping to include a tree house – fun for all ages.

"We've also been planning a new shelter shed designed in a style reflecting a settler's cottage, where parents can enjoy a barbecue while keeping an eye on the kids playing in the adventure playground."

Mayor Simon Richardson said the new multi-age playground was the finishing touch to all the hard work of the group and council.

"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."

Funds are now available to put a bitumen cap over the old heavily polluted dip site to create a much-needed parking lot.

Michael Matthews, Byron Shire manager of open spaces and resources recovery, and project manager for this final stage, says, "Stage 2 of this weir project is now fully funded through successful receipt of the CDG grant with contributing funds provided by council. This stage will see the construction of a shelter with barbecues, a new and well-improved all-abilities playground and supporting infrastructure. These facilities will provide necessary embellishments that support and encourage intergenerational use and enjoyment by all."

Stephanie King



A treehouse is one suggestion for the new playground. Photo: Terry Bleakley



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Trailblazing pilot lands in Bangalow

Many of us remember the moment in November, 1989, when an adventurous young woman in a flight suit emerged from her Piper single-engine aeroplane to greet a throng of reporters and onlookers at Darwin Airport. Tired but victorious, Gaby Kennard had become the first Australian woman to fly solo around the world.

The frenzy of media interest and enormous civic and public turnout upon her return to Sydney was in stark contrast to the modest gathering of family and friends when she had set off 99 days earlier. She had, in



Gaby Kennard Photo: Mery Stevens

her own words, become "a little famous".

Two years in the making, Gaby's solitary flight led to a life in the public eye. As a sought-after speaker and representative of the flight industry, she inspires people with the story of her often difficult and dangerous

journey, the obstacles and life lessons of such an undertaking and her absolute love of flying. She has been commemorated in song and had a Qantas 8380 named after her. Gaby's book, *Solo Woman*, is a candid and detailed account of her courageous and eventful journey.

Gaby developed an affinity with the Byron area on a visit here in the early 2000s. After completing a degree at The National Art School, she started looking for a place to

touch down. Now, from her elevated timber home in Possum Creek, Gaby looks to the north over a sweeping former pineapple farm. A resident diamond python drapes himself over the verandah beams, and a lovely red flowering cardinal vine glistens in the rain.

Gaby is still discovering the pleasures of living in a small rural community, shopping for food at the Bangalow Farmers' Market, gathering art supplies from the Art Shop in the Byron Industrial Estate and regularly conquering the lighthouse walk with friends.

Frequent flights to Sydney keep Gaby in touch with her children and beloved granddaughter, but her long term plan is to spend more time at her Bangalow property where she has discovered the pleasures of her established tropical fruit orchard, particularly her red dragon fruit. When asked what she would like to do with herself over the next year she says she plans to "paint, relax and get fit".

Mery Stevens

A chance for taggers to put things right

People passing through Fire Station park, between the newsagents and the post office, have been dismayed to see that the Bangalow mural had been defaced, only weeks after its completion. Tags have been sprayed on the painted faces of the building owners' children – part of the 'present day' segment.

Artist Samantha Wortelhoff, who spent weeks painting the imaginative landscape, has never had her murals defaced before,

even though some have appeared in remote locations around Australia.

"The couple who commissioned the painting are devastated. It was their idea to feature their children," Sam says. "But I see this as an opportunity to educate whoever it was. Hours of work are needed to paint the faces, so I would like to turn this negative into a positive."

She has experience in working with troubled youth, and makes the following

offer: "If the person who did this comes forward, they can spend a day with me as I fix it, to see, and share their world view with me. I am offering to provide an opportunity to be heard, and to also understand the impact and reality of their actions."

If anyone is familiar with the tag, or knows who did it, they can make contact with Samantha by emailing *The Bangalow Herald*. editors@bangalowherald.com.au

Christobel Munson

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.

Tickets are \$30 and available at

Barebones Art Space 6687 1393

or www.eventbrite.com.au



Bangalow

Mad about the music

(from page 1) in his Paris apartment – one sitting on top of the other.

“Satie even claimed not to be a musician, yet his Gymnopedies are famous. So simple and stunningly beautiful.”

Mozart’s shenanigans are well-known, but behind one of his most sublime creations, the Clarinet Concerto in A major, are tales of debauched nights out drinking and playing pranks with his clarinetist mate Anton Stadler, for whom he wrote the piece. “Absolute hooligans,” Ms Frazer says.

Yet it is the work of such people, who thought and lived outside the box, that has lasted.

“We want to inquire what makes a musical genius and bring them to life: take them down from their pedestal,” she says.

Performing the concerto, one of Mozart’s last works, is Australia’s pre-eminent clarinetist Ashley Smith.

Inspiring in a different way is the didjeridu playing of William Barton, whose work ‘Bangalow Dreamsong’ will have its world premiere on the Thursday night, backed by local choirs, including children’s.

“William has been playing since he was 18 and his work has a great spiritual dimension to it, as well as an incredible rhythmic drive,” Ms Frazer says.

The headline artist in the weekend-long



William Barton, didjeridu master.

event is Sara MacIver, one of Australia’s finest sopranos, who will perform Strauss’s ‘Four Last Songs’ in the Friday night Festival Welcome. She returns on Saturday afternoon for an exploration of folk traditions behind several works, including Shostakovich’s String Quartet, produced under the yoke of Stalinism.

Saturday evening sees her fronting Light and Sparkling, a concert of popular classics such as ‘Summertime’ and ‘Somewhere Over the Rainbow’.

Curating the Bangalow festival poses a challenge to provide something fresh and inventive for the audience, Ms Frazer says.

But finding musicians is not something she has to worry about.

“Everyone who plays here loves it and wants to return. We have to rotate them!”

“It’s just such a magical formula: brilliant acoustics, great weather, a wonderful atmosphere and incredible local support – including from the Chamber of Commerce, who have been there from the start, and are key to the festival’s success.”

The Bangalow Music Festival runs from **Friday, 18 August to Sunday, 20 August**. Tickets can be bought online at www.southernxsoloists.com, or at Barebones Art Space, Byron St, Bangalow. *Digby Hildreth*

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Lindsay Murray (right) shows visitors around his sustainably run cattle farm. Photo: Digby Hildreth

Stimulating conversations at sustainable drinks

Farmers and horticulturalists are often accused of using too many chemicals, of depleting soil, and hastening climate change with stock emissions. But if speakers at a recent event are anything to go by, the truth around here is very different.

The occasion was the monthly Sustainability Drinks forum at the Bangalow Bowlo, organised by Zero Emissions Byron.

Initially, Rex Harris used herbicides and insecticides on the 18,000 macadamia trees on his 80ha Piccadilly Park property, which he bought in 1998. But, in 2011, nutritionist Ray O'Grady opened his eyes to a new way of farming. Rex converted the orchard to an organic system of compost and other non-chemical applications, which both improved its crop yields substantially, and resulted in superior quality nuts, with 4% fewer rejects.

Beef cattle farmer Lindsay Murray grew

up on his parents' farm, which followed post-war practices, but totally "misused the land" and destroyed the soil. With no future on the property, he became a doctor, but desperate to farm responsibly, he bought an abandoned dairy property in Dingo Lane, Myocum, in 2010.

He feels an "overwhelming responsibility to be the custodian of the land", with a view that "responsible farmers preserve and improve the soils for agricultural land". While raising British White cattle and heritage poultry, he has also regenerated rainforest over 15% of his property, protected his waterways and

introduced responsible grazing practices to increase sequestration into the soil. His no-spray, no-fertiliser practice has helped to double the farm's carrying capacity and improve water quality.

Rex and Lindsay were two of the speakers taking advantage of the opportunity the Sustainability Drinks event provides to speak for three uninterrupted minutes 'on the soap box' about any business or project that reduces emissions in the Byron Shire. This was the first session held in Bangalow.

"A maximum of 10 speakers each has time on the soap box to summarise their vision and mission and what they need from us as a community to accelerate their success," said organiser Sasha Mainsbridge. "Afterwards there is ample time to mingle and make new friends and connections."

Other speakers included Noelene Plummer, from Bangalow Land and Rivercare, who said planting thousands of native trees along 6km of Byron Creek in Bangalow had been the "best method for reducing carbon dioxide emissions".

Sub-Tropical Farm Forestry Association president Martin Novak outlined its work fostering commercially viable, economically sustainable, perennial tree crops. Its members only harvest selectively, and build up organic matter in the soil, utilising microbes much like Rex Harris does with his macas – to stimulate soil fungi.

Sustainability Drinks is organised by Zero Emissions Byron, whose mission is to implement zero emission strategies by inspiring and working with the community. www.zeroemissionsbyron.org *Christobel Munson*

A fish called Qantas

Thomas Gloerfelt-Tarp is a marine biologist who resides in Bangalow.

From 1975-1980 Thomas was working on a fisheries survey stretching across southern Indonesia, conducted by the Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, while the CSIRO covered the northwest shelf of Australia.

"With between two and five bottom trawl hauls every day, we caught over 1000 different species and discovered many unidentified species of fish," Thomas says.

"The Indonesian museums unfortunately showed no interest in the specimens we caught, whereas Australian museums put up their hands to get as many as possible to complement their own fish collections."

The Indonesian part of the project



In-flight catering led to the *Parascloopsis qantasi*

was based in Bali, where the fish were preserved in formaldehyde, individually wrapped in cloth, and stored in drums.

Qantas, which was flying from Bali to various destinations in Australia, agreed to ship the fish for free. So over the last

couple of years of the project, sealed drums with preserved fish were flown to Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, where staff from different museums gratefully accepted them.

"We decided to say thank you to Qantas and name a fish after them, from one of the 84 new species we had found," Thomas says.

"There were some grumblings in the scientific fraternity about naming a fish after an airline, but I said 'Well, give it back then'.

"But they didn't want to relinquish a new species. And that is how a fish became *Parascloopsis qantasi*." *Melissa Poynting*



Morlene Templeton with Lola and Shelly Fletcher. Photo by Digby Hildreth

Baby brightens Morlene's day

Morlene Templeman has vascular dementia, a condition that affects powers of speech. The Feros resident's attempts to speak result in a stream of muttered, mainly indecipherable, words.

The staff at Feros see her frustration at her inability to express what she is thinking and feeling. Except, that is, when ehealth manager Shelly Fletcher comes into the home with her six-month-old daughter Lola.

Then, Morlene's whole body changes, says care manager, Jo Dwyer. "Her face lights up, her shoulders become upright, she puts her hands out to hold Lola. And she speaks in whole sentences."

The 83-year-old Morlene recognises her

two sons when they visit though she is less certain about her grandchildren, Jo says. But Lola's visits have been so frequent that when Shelly comes to work now, Morlene asks where the baby is.

"She's remembering my face and connecting it with Lola, which is a huge improvement," says Shelly.

But the big difference is in Morlene's speech. "She will be muttering away, with nothing clear except an occasional 'thank you' or 'pretty flower', but with the baby there's a huge difference in her," says Jo. "It's so heart-warming it brings tears to your eyes."

And the benefits are two-way, Shelly says. Lola recognises the place and starts

making an excited gurgle when they arrive to mingle with her 'extended family'.

"It's one of my favourite outings with Lola," says the first-time mum, who has recently returned to work at the home. "As a new mum, getting out of the house can be such a feat, and then you go to a café and she's crying, and everyone is looking at you. You can feel quite defeated and have to go home again.

"Whereas here, everything is welcome. It's non-judgmental; even poo explosions are okay. And I get this hands-free time, where I can watch my daughter being held by lots of other people, which is a really lovely experience."

All of the residents enjoy Lola, but she has developed a particular bond with Morlene, who has been helped to settle in by the baby's visits.

Jo believes Lola stimulates something profound in Morlene. "She is troubled sometimes but can't tell us why. But the release in her face when she sees Lola is just lovely. It must bring to the forefront a deep long-term memory and the amazing maternal love she obviously had for her children and grandchildren."

She would like to see more people bring their babies in to meet the residents.

Shelly is working on a project called 'Ask gran not Google' to tap the older generation's reservoir of knowledge.

She has learned a few things herself, she says, such as the fact young babies of both sexes tend to look like their dad. "It's an evolutionary device, so the father doesn't kick them out of the litter," she laughs.

Digby Hildreth

Soon he'll be back in the saddle

When local horseman **Gary Jarrett** was thrown from his horse, Rosie, few who know him doubted his determination to overcome his injuries.

Gary and his offsider Pete Everingham were mustering cattle outside Tenterfield when some cattle broke away from the mob. Gary took off after them and Rosie struck a deep hole hidden by long grass. He was thrown forward head first with the horse landing on his back.

Gary blacked out, but when he came to, he realised he had terrible back pain and couldn't move from the chest down. Luckily, Rosie stayed faithfully by his side and some time later Pete noticed the lone horse with no Gary in sight.

With no mobile phone coverage on the property, Pete had to race to a cabin to ring 000. The Westpac Rescue Helicopter picked up the call and arrived just after the ambulance. Gary was airlifted straight to Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane where he was diagnosed with a broken back, a cracked sternum and three broken ribs.

Gary's wife Donna was constantly by his side during his time in hospital. Complications with infection after his back operation meant two follow-up trips to Brisbane for more surgery and flushing with antibiotics. Once home, nurses from the Byron Hospital came



Gary Jarrett with Rosie. Photo: Lyn Plummer

every day to give IV antibiotics. Gary will continue to take antibiotics for 12 months, until further surgery to remove the metalwork supporting his spine.

He is walking again and exercising diligently to improve the weakness in his legs. He's hoping to ride his horse around the farm soon. Gary says his dog Robbo is a bit lost since the accident and has taken to sitting down in the paddock with the stallion

or bull for company, waiting until he can start work again.

"I'm just taking every day as it comes and making the most of each day," Gary says. "I'm so grateful for the outstanding work done by the doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and all those who have helped me recover. I also really appreciate my great family and friends who have given so much help and support."

Donna says she was overwhelmed with calls, emails and beautiful home cooked meals from friends and family when they arrived home from hospital.

We won't be seeing Gary's great horsemanship in camp drafting or the iron man competition at

Bangalow Show this year, but he intends to still conduct the auction that raises about \$3000 for the Rescue Helicopter and local charities.

"All those years I've been doing the auction I never thought I'd need the helicopter myself," he says. "I can't thank them enough for their prompt and professional help. Without them the outcome could have been much more serious."

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Food hub furore shows up failure to plan

The proposal to develop a large-scale food manufacturing 'hub' on farmland on the outskirts of Bangalow continues to polarise opinion. **Digby Hildreth** sums up where the conversation's at.

Objectors focus on the industrial scale of the proposal, the movement of trucks along Lismore Rd and through or around the town, the threat posed to the rural and heritage ambience of the area, and environment.

Proponents say the project will create jobs, cater to the needs of some of Byron Shire's most well-respected producers and establish the region as a foodie's destination.

Stepping aside from the at-times heated debate is Coopers' Shoot resident Ian Oelrichs, a land use expert and advocate for good design, who says the animosity around the issue could have been avoided.

"The proposal would have been simpler to evaluate if the master plan for Bangalow was complete," Ian says.

The process for the master plan had been disjointed and drawn out, he says.

"Similarly, the Rural Land Use strategy has been a work in progress for a very long time. Its completion should have been the precursor to evaluating the Lismore Rd proposal.

"That is where the issues of using agricultural land for manufacturing would be



Site of the proposed food hub.

best debated," Oelrichs explains.

He believes the things the proposal has going for it "are not really site or planning principle related.

"This means the proposed land uses could be located in a number of locations in the region.

"While there is inadequate industrial land in Byron Shire, sterilising agricultural land with permanent development is not sensible. And while an innovative food hub could be good for the region, is this the best site for it and has the developer explored it fully?"

Agricultural land is a non-renewable resource and there are many good reasons for protecting it in the context of the shire.

As to the architectural design of the proposed hub, it should be a 'style leader', he says. "Surely they can be better designed than if Bunnings was to be the tenant?"

It makes sense to have a number of food related manufacturers in the same location, creating efficiencies, and enabling tenants to promote, research and exhibit together, Ian says.

But while the proposed tenants are pillars of the region's food manufacturing industry, with proven track records, "this is not a licence to step around planning legislation or to interpret in ways that are not intended.

"Bangalow is a village and community that has qualities that lend it to have empathy with the concept of a food hub but of what size and what location?

"If it overshadows the village's qualities, is that fair and reasonable?"

Submissions to Byron council on the development application for the project are due in by **2 August**. The council will then make a recommendation to the State government's Joint Regional Planning Panel.



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Inga returns!

Dr Inga Schader will be returning to Bangalow Medical Centre from 5 August.

She will be working every second Saturday from 9am to 3pm. Bookings are essential. Please phone The Bangalow Medical Centre on 6687 1079 during business hours to make an appointment.

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Whipbird by Robert Drewe

It was a 'vital interest' of Bangalow author Robert Drewe to put the absurdities and affectations of contemporary Australia – including in the Byron Shire – 'on the slab' in his latest, and 10th novel, *Whipbird*.

The venture into satirical comedy is a departure from the other 18 or 19 books he's written, and he enjoyed it.

"I had fun," he says, and although there is seriousness of purpose here, and some pathos, that sense of fun runs throughout the novel.

The story centres on the weekend of a somewhat grandiose family reunion held at lawyer Hugh Cleary's new winery outside Ballarat, where over 2500 of the clan gather to celebrate their ancestor Conor Cleary.

Amid the quaffing and gorging of BBQ food (or the vegan option), resentments rise to the surface, secrets and subterfuges are revealed, and family beliefs come under the spotlight.

The satirical pokes are hilariously accurate, whether it be at wine snobbery, rock 'n' roll excess, the pretensions of the newly rich, or, more darkly, the ugly face of late capitalism.

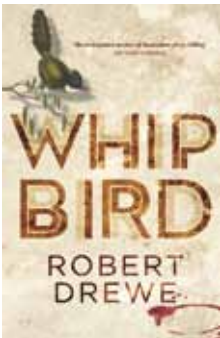
Drewe's favourite character is former banker, Mick, unceremoniously dumped from



Bangalow author Robert Drewe.

the profession because his old-school values don't fit modern practices. Mick's decency is contrasted with his smug cousin, for whom values are judged by the bottom line.

Drewe took his family history as a starting point – a runty, starving teenager joins



the British Army to escape the potato famine and ends up shooting at fellow Irishmen at the Eureka Stockade.

The ghostly protagonist is based on the author's great-grandfather, who had the last of his 15

children in Richmond, at the age of 70.

Drewe was born in Richmond, Vic, and the novel brings to life the mid-20th century pub culture of the area, the fanatical following of AFL's Tigers, the burgeoning (and gentrification) of the Irish diaspora.

There's even a sub-story about an army priest, burned out after pastoral duties in Afghanistan, finding catharsis (and love) while in his cups in a pub in rural Ireland.

Amid the unravelling of aspirational Hugh's grand plans, it's a ray of innocent joy – like the wry, gentle, innocent joy we can find reading this sympathetic comedy of manners.

Digby Hildreth

The Australian's literary editor Geordie Williamson will help launch Whipbird at this month's Byron Writers' Festival.

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

Sparrow by Scot Gardner

Another page turner from the Australian author for the young adult market.

Sparrow is a really good swimmer, a skill he learned from Sharky, an old man who befriended him when he was living on the streets. When we meet Sparrow he has narrowly escaped being killed by an



exploding boat and is swimming for his life in the shark and crocodile infested waters of the Northern Territory.

Sparrow's story is one of survival: surviving the neglect

of his druggie mother and his psycho brother, living on the streets and staying out of trouble and then, the ultimate survival test, living off the land and sea on an isolated NT beach knowing that returning to the mainland will mean juvenile detention.

Gardner's novels are exciting and mysterious, his protagonists always interesting.

Carolyn Adams – Bookworms & Papermites

The liberated librarians

They are popping up all over the world – in disused telephone boxes, renovated doll's houses, and recycled cabinets. They are appearing on the front fences of private homes, outside businesses, in men's sheds, even on tree trunks.



Murray Hand. Photo: Digby Hildreth

They are street libraries – a collection of books that someone decides to put in a public space for people to browse, borrow, swap or return. All for free.

Pop-up street libraries are proving to be popular with all ages, including children. Two of them have recently appeared in Bangalow – one in Thomas Street and one in Leslie.

"I have too many books," says David Morgan, the creator of the Leslie St library. "I want to share them, and give people a chance to take them home, read and return them, or swap them for books they

no longer need. I love the idea that other people can bring their books and add them to the library."

Murray Hand noticed "quite a turnover" in the collection in the first few days after opening the Thomas St Free Library – an old, painted and waterproof rubbish bin. There are more there than when he started.

From the experience of existing libraries elsewhere, it seems that everyone 'gets the rules' and the books and libraries are being treated with respect.

If you too want to set one up, you can get help from the Street Library Australia Facebook page. Otherwise take a walk locally and have a look.

Jenny Bird

A blow for literacy

Staff at Solways garage have proved local heroes in the fight for considerate parking in Bangalow.

The mobile library van, which comes to town every Saturday morning, was routinely unable to park in its regular spot in front of the school because the space was being taken up by people ignoring the parking instruction signs. This was disappointing for

the growing number of readers using it.

Hearing about the problem, Solways came to their aid. When the garage opens at 6am, staff put out 'no-parking witches hats' to reserve the space ready for the van when it arrives for its 9.30 opening – and letting local children and other readers get on with their literary adventures.

It gives hope for finding a sensible, community-brokered solution for the bigger parking issues town faces.



Librarian Gary Dardengo. Photo: Judy Baker.

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Winter colour in the garden

When planning a garden we need to consider the seasonal tapestry of colour. Winter offers the opportunity to bring some vibrant hues to enliven the garden and bring warmth in the cold days. Some of the winter blooming plants can also be highly scented and have a place of pride in any gardens.

The deciduous magnolias grow well in the Bangalow region, mostly in the cooler hilly areas. *Magnolia x soulangeana* Burgundy Glow has dark purplish and white very fragrant flowers, *M. Vulcan* has deep magenta blooms, *M. Atlas* has huge 30cm soft pink flowers – just to name a few.

Rondeletia amoena is a hardy evergreen shrub or small tree reaching 5x4m with very fragrant pink flowers. This is an old fashioned plant which was widely used and can still be found in the old established gardens of the region.

For the vibrancy, you cannot pass the prolific and fast growing *Pyrostegia venusta* with its orange flowers, which we can see in Bangalow at the moment. A warning must be issued regarding this climber; it is regarded as an environmental weed in Qld and NSW.

Native plants flowering in winter include



Magnolia

many grevilleas, which in fact flower all year round and provide much-needed nectar for birds and insects in the cooler months.

Leptospermum cardwell will be covered in white flowers in late winter early spring and will give the wow factor. *Banksia* Giant Candles has its large orange flowers in

profusion in winter. *Hardenbergia violacea* is a small climber which will provide colour for the fence or container, and food for butterflies.

Let's not forget the colour provided by fruits; the citrus provide the splashes of oranges and yellows and, if well selected, will flower through part of winter as well giving out their sweet perfume.

Euphorbia pulcherrima or poinsettia, with their coloured bracts of various shades, are a splendid addition to gardens. There are many cultivars to choose from including dwarf ones. The most commonly used are red, pink and yellow but many other colours are available including bicolour such as *Ice Punch* pink with white margin or *Ice Crystal* with a light centre darkening to red on the outer edges.

Xanthorrhoea, or grass trees, have already started to flower and *Tibouchina* nowadays seem to be flowering year-round. So, keep an eye out and, for the keen gardener, take note of the flowering time and the changes which are occurring quite rapidly in the plant kingdom.

Good gardening.

Patrick Regnault ,Registered Horticulturist

Letter to the Bangalow community

It will be two years in October since we left Bangalow and so much has happened. Ross and I would like to acknowledge the strong support we have received, and want to say a huge thank you to the residents and business operators in Bangalow.

So many of you have re-directed people to our new home in Burringbar and this has helped us to re-establish our shop.

The journey has been made much easier with your support so thank you, thank you, thank you. Ross and Eva Heath



Eva Heath at Heath's Old Wares. Photo: Digby Hildreth

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Hemp's a healthy business

The Federal government's recent easing of regulations to allow hemp products in food was a long time coming for Bangalow businessman **Paul Benhaim**.

This change in the food laws, which made it legal to manufacture and sell hemp seed as food products in Australia, was largely brought about by a 17-year campaign by Paul Benhaim, the CEO of Hemp Foods Australia. Earlier attempts to allow hemp as a food source were rejected due to fears that consuming hemp food could deliver a positive roadside drug test. But hemp foods contain minimal THC: you can't get high.

Based in Bangalow, Hemp Foods Australia is the largest wholesaler, retailer, manufacturer and exporter of consumable hemp products in the southern hemisphere.

Paul founded the company in 1999 after moving from the UK, where he had pioneered in the hemp industry since 1993. As well as the edible seeds, the factory in the Industrial Estate produces milk soap, protein and oils from hemp that is organically grown.

The Bangalow Herald asked Paul how he first became interested in hemp:



Paul Benhaim. Photo: Murray Hand

"I was particularly interested in food nutrition. I was especially interested in natural foods and what made people healthy and happy, rather than what nutrition books said. I realised that eating as close to natural foods as possible was quite important: specifically consuming essential fatty acids that we could get from unprocessed foods.

"I looked into sources of essential fatty acids such as Omega 3 and 6 and soon found that hemp was one of the best sources in the world of these EFAs."

Paul wondered why people weren't into hemp as a food source and soon discovered that it was because of preconceived ideas about hemp being cannabis.

"I met with the experts, professors and

doctors, all of whom confirmed that, yes, it was a great source of essential fatty acids and, no, it doesn't get you high and will not cause any adverse health problems. Quite the opposite in fact.

"It was a political issue so I decided to educate the world about the nutritional benefits of hemp."

Why did he choose Bangalow as a place to establish his business?

"Originally I moved to Brisbane but didn't last a year there after I found the wonderful Northern Rivers hinterland. I fell in love with the geography and the eclectic type of people."

He has family here, a brother and his children, and also a son who goes to school in the area. "So this is now home."

Hemp Foods Australia is a great local employer, with 15 fulltime staff.

"But we are constantly looking for more great people to recruit locally, from executive level to production and all jobs between," he says.

And how will the changes in the regulations affect his business?

"I anticipate it will mean an increase in business and of course we'll need more staff here in Bangalow. We will now be able to sell to local and national businesses which can make foods from our raw ingredients.

"We are hoping local cafes, restaurants and bakeries will use our products in their foods. As we have lots of visitors to Bangalow, it would be great to be able to show them how hemp can be used in foods."

Murray Hand



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The blend of finger-lickin' good food and ferocious finger pickin' music creates a magic formula that will keep about 2000 people happy at the fourth Bangalow BBQ & Bluegrass Festival & Oldtime Variety Show on **11-12 August**.

The Morrisons will answer the huge audience demand and return from Sydney, NZ's six-piece punk-gospel-country band The Eastern will make spirits soar and locals Sarah Tindley,

Ben Wilson and The Mumbler's (above) will have their supporters kicking up their heels.

The 'low and slow' school of barbecuing will take care of the inner fan, with a new 'whole hog' competition challenging cooks to deal with an entire animal.

Ten local schools benefit from the proceeds. Check out www.bbqbluegrass.com.au/ for info and tickets.

August diary

- 2** Garden Club
- 3** Writers' Group
- 4** Superbowlo
- 5** Newrybar fireworks & fair
- 8** Strength for Everyday fitness
- 9** Chamber AGM
- 10** Business Women's
- 11** BBQ Old-time Variety show
- 12** BBQ & Bluegrass Festival; Garden Club social visit
- 17** Music Festival Prelude
- 18** Music Festival commences
- 19** North Coast Mud Trail
- 21** ADFAS Inside stories
- 24** Blues Club
- 25** RSL meeting
- Bangalow Herald deadlines:**
- Ads Wednesday 16/08**
- Copy Monday 21/08**

Let's hear it for our unpaid heroes

Data from the 2016 Census revealed a small increase of NSW residents over 15 becoming involved in volunteering: more women than men volunteer and the largest age-group is between 45-54.

We mostly hear about volunteering when it is attached to economic data; for example, grandparents caring for preschool children save the government many dollars per year. Volunteers also make the news when they leap to help in disaster recovery, such as the recent floods.

But the everyday volunteering work carried out receives little fanfare. Many of the services in Bangalow are provided by volunteers and we are a stronger, more cohesive community for it. We have the Show Society, the Scouts, sporting groups,



Volunteers, Linda Sparrow (BCA), Ruth Ryan (CWA), Hilary Wise (Rail Trail), Karen Ryan (Bangalow Show). Photo: Judy Baker

the Red Cross, and my own passion, CWA.

The quality of our volunteer efforts is enviable. We have such a professional

range of talents and skills, including music, media, organisational, craft, cookery, artistic and financial.

The community benefits are self-evident. Without volunteers we would not have a music festival, an annual show, an op shop, a progress association, CWA, sporting events, a billycart derby or a bowling club – or even *The Bangalow Herald*!

The time and effort donated cannot be calculated in dollars and cents. It's priceless, and the volunteers in Bangalow deserve an award. To all those who share their skills and time in our time-poor world, THANK YOU!

Bangalow is a better place because of you.
Di Campbell, Bangalow CWA



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