

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE February 2018

Off to a bright start



Cool for school

Kayden Brooker and Jack Jenkins are bound for Newrybar Public School. Photo: Jenny Bird

Five-year-old Jack Jenkins is quite happy to be starting at Newrybar Public School this year. During his orientation he loved playing with test tubes and creating a volcano in science, which made the challenging transition seem exciting.

"I'm looking forward to making stuff, doing science, and playing with my friends at lunchtime," Jack says.

Not every 'first-timer' will be so positive but for every family it's an emotional rite of passage, and the beginning of a long and
(continued page 5)



**Vale
Bill
Jenner**
page 7

Your guide to what's going on in 2479 for February.

Writers Group

Bangalow Writers Group meet on the first Thursday of each month (**1 Feb**) at the Bangalow Scout Hall, at 9.15am. Everyone has a story inside them. Come along and share yours. All welcome.

Scouting

It's a new year, why not try Scouting in Bangalow. Contact Jim on 0408 546 522 for details. Scouts, aged 10½ to 14½, meet Tuesdays from 6.15pm and Cubs, aged 7½ to 10½, meet on Fridays from 6pm (starting **Friday, 2 February**) during school term at the Scout Hall next to the A&I Hall. To inquire about hall hire, call Jacinta on 0417 547 242. Cubs and Scouts are eligible for the Active Kids rebate.

BPA

The Bangalow Progress Association will hold its next meeting on **Wednesday, 7 February** at 7pm at Heritage House, cnr. Station and Deacon Streets, Bangalow.

Bangalow District Garden Club

The first meeting of the year, on **Wednesday, 7 February** at 1.30pm in the Moller Pavilion, will be a colourful one. Steven Wedd will display the dahlias he grows and members are invited to bring along their best blooms of Bangalow Ruby that Steven bred to mark last year's 40th anniversary of the club.

Men's Shed

From **8 February** the men at the Bangalow Men's Shed will be holding monthly workshops to show you how to make a rocking horse (see them run, below) that will become a family heirloom.

No previous experience required. Contact Des Toms on 6684 7231 for details.



For those about to rock, we salute you

Koala corridor tree planting

A working bee to plant 40 koala trees will be held on **Sunday, 11 February**, starting at the top of Rifle Range and Raftons Roads. Please bring spades/post diggers, whipper snippers if you can and wear protective clothing. Visit twodogsmedia@optusnet.com.au for more info.

Byron and Beyond Networking

Breakfast at Town Cafe, Bangalow, on **Thursday, 15 February**, 7.45-9am. Members \$30, visitors \$35. Guest speaker, Niki Joseph, will share some realities and solutions learned first-hand about working from home as a novice freelancer. To register go to rosemarie@byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au

byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au or phone 0412 475 543.



This way for swing, blues and bowling with no shoes.

Bowlo

Swing band **Friday, 16 February** and every third Friday.

Blues Club with FBI **Friday, 23 February** and every fourth Friday.

Book early for your birthday, trivia, social, fundraiser or any other event.

Boomerang Bags Sewing Bee

Saturday, 24 February from 3-5pm at Bangalow Public School Hall.

Sewing bees are held on the fourth Saturday of each month. Bring along scissors, pins, sewing chalk and a sewing machine if you have one. No sewing experience necessary

Now we're getting somewhere

It's rare for Byron Shire Council to receive praise for looking after the roads, but the renovated and newly sealed section at Hayters Hill seems to have pleased road users and local landholders alike.

For years before the upgrade, the section of road was very winding, potholed and dangerous, causing many anxious moments for drivers in both directions.

It also passes through an important remnant of the Big Scrub, which is carefully maintained by environmental groups and property holders such as Neil and Erica Holland, owners of the land on either side of the road.

They are among those very happy with the result.

"Planning has taken many years, with options which would have taken out various amounts of land and rainforest," Neil said. "When work was about to start the plan would have lost 130 trees. Fortunately a new planning engineer, on seeing the site, was unhappy with this. A hasty replan meant only a few trees gone, and the canopy maintained. We are very thankful."

"The new cuttings have been well stabilised, including some rock walling, and the stormwater planning seems sound," Erica



added. "It is a good balance between safety and conservation. Other nearby landholders and frequent road users we know are all happy."

Such roadworks of course don't come cheap. The Council has said this section cost some \$720,000.

Two of the engineers closely involved, Hank Spangler and Dominic Cavanough, are also thrilled with the work.

They said they hope to do more such projects "with this level of mindfulness to aesthetics, economics and quality of execution".

Amen to that.

Brian Sundstrom

just enthusiasm to join a great community project. If you can't make it donations of old fabric or tablecloths, pillow cases, doona covers, etc, can be dropped into Bangalow Public School.

For inquiries call Andi on 0438 924 609 or check out the Facebook site Boomerang Bags Bangalow.

Heritage House

We are now open from **Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4pm** so you can grab a coffee on the way to work and bring the kids for some afternoon tea straight from school.

Coming up in 2018 are a koala exhibition in March, and a high tea in May for Friends of Libraries Byron Shire, with Mandy Nolan and Ellen Briggs launching their new book.

Of course we are open for bookings for your special events to celebrate any occasion.

CWA

Save the Date: Women – young and not so young – are invited to attend CWA's celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) on **8 March**. A wine and cheese 'do' will be held at 55 Granuaille Rd, 7.30-9pm.

The theme for this year's IWD

Spotlight: The RSL Hall

There's plenty of life at the War Memorial Hall in Station Street – home of the Bangalow sub-branch of the RSL.

Most mornings the hall resounds with the grunts of martial arts practitioners, the more genteel tapping of ballerinas' feet, tinkling children's music or the cosmic Om of the yoga class.

On other occasions come the muted voices of members of a 12-Step fellowship, the shimmering of the Starlight Festival and much more. All of which make sub-branch secretary Col Draper and manager Charlotte Clark happy.

Not only because it signals a modest income to help maintain the hall, but also its value to the community.

The local RSL has never obtained a liquor licence, and Col isn't sorry about that. "So many people love this little hall as it is. Everybody looks after it," he says. Not least him, though he has clear direction from Charlotte, who keeps the keys – and an eye on things – from her 'Parlour' across the road. "She's the boss," says Col.

For the returned servicemen, there's a meeting every month, working bees with not too much work, and a newly formed Facebook page (whatever that is, jokes Col). Support and visits to members are organised here, including to residents at RSL Lifecare. There are about 30 members now, with just two dating back to World War II, Keith and Patricia, both 93. Vietnam vet Col has marched here since 1973, when there were at least 90 members. "We've lost too many in the past two years," he says. Meanwhile he is compiling an archive of those killed in the First World War.

Despite its sombre purpose, the hall makes people happy, says Charlotte. "It has such a nice vibe to it," she says. "I love the feeling here." For hall bookings call 6687 2828. *Digby Hildreth*



RSL Secretary Col Allen with hall manager Charlotte Clark and her boys Lawson and Magnus. Photo: Digby Hildreth

is Press for Progress. Our CWA will be pressing for progress on several fronts throughout 2018,

both in our local community and state-wide. CWA is the largest women's organisation in

Australia and one of its primary aims is to improve conditions for women and children.

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Courage needed for a fresh start

The Bard's snail-like student was nowhere to be found in *The Herald's* selection of youngsters starting school in 2018. They expressed enthusiasm and optimism, as the carefree smiles on the faces opposite show.

We wish them the best for the year ahead, and throughout their schooling, and to their parents – many no doubt relieved that the holidays are over.

The 'silly season' kicks off in Bangalow with the wonderful Christmas Eve carnival but ends with a very silly 'celebration' indeed – the beginning of European settlement on 'Australia' Day.

Bangalow was like a ghost town on the afternoon of 26 January. Few of us are jingoistic flag-wavers, or protestors marching to demythologise the day. If we have any reservations about its origins, we simply swallow them and enjoy the holiday.

We can do that, in our pocket of privilege. Whichever school they opt for, parents can feel confident their kids are safe and receiving an excellent education. All of us have ready access to first-class medical and social facilities, and enjoy security, a healthy environment and consumer comforts.

And yet ... comments about 'the changing face of Bangalow' are increasingly common, a reaction to the influx of young families. And it's true, our markets, streets and cafes sometimes seem jammed with poised and pretty creatures in white linen and finely tansured facial hair, pushing 4-wheel drive prams and calling loudly to their free-range little darlings and loveable dogs.

But we in Anglo-Bang'low have no real grounds for complaint. A mate of mine was born in Murwillumbah Hospital in the 50s, delivered on the veranda because his mother was Aboriginal. If he came into Bangalow today, his might be the only black face in sight. That's a cause for concern, not celebration, and puts any complaining into perspective.

The future – 2018 – offers new opportunities for us all and *The Herald* wishes 2479 folk, businesses and visitors, a fit and fulfilling year ahead. But Australians can never fully thrive, or experience the country's true riches, until we accept the truth about the past that our privilege is built upon.

Digby Hildreth

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LOCAL NEWS

Parking: beware the new time limits

If anyone missed it, late last year the Bangalow community came out roaring red against paid parking in the village centre.

First there was a 500-strong placard-waving, traffic-stopping march down the main street followed by a rousing rally, all led by Chamber of Commerce president Jo Millar.

A few days later a band of rebel resident and business owners stopped council workers installing the parking meters with a horn-tooting, hootin' and hollerin' blockade like the town had never seen.

As a result, council voted in December to rescind its paid parking decision for Bangalow and revert to the recommendations of its original consultants' reports.

So what happens now? Very soon new time zones, with new signs, will be applied to Byron and Station streets. The biggest change will be the introduction of one-hour parking on both sides of the main street from the roundabout down past the Cellar bottle shop and in some sections of Station St.

How Bangalow manages its parking will be reviewed by council over the next 12 months. They will review several matters, including gathering more data about visitors and the impact of the new time zones on the traffic flow, business and access to parking.

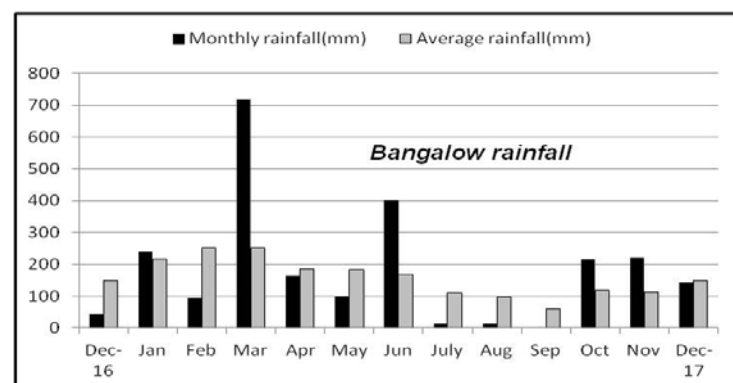
The degree to which we all comply with the new time zones will be a significant factor governing the recommendations that council's local traffic committee make at the end of the 12-month review. The RMS does not consider revenue-raising alone as a justification for implementing paid parking. From its perspective, paid parking is a response to a parking management problem, part of which is compliance with time zones.

Residents, friends, families and visitors need to be alert and aware that the time zones have changed and that heavy fines may be incurred for overstaying the time limit.

Jenny Bird



Bangalow on Christmas Day 2017. Now where can I park? Photo: Brian Sundstrom



Cool for school

(from page 1) important chapter in a child's life.

Mum Darlene thinks Jack is more than ready. "He's very social and I'm really excited for him – although I will miss our sushi days," she says.

Jack is not so sentimental. "I'm not going to miss my mum," he declares.

"I know Jack is going into a really good community-minded school with strong connections with local families," Darlene says.

Community links and two older siblings mean River Gammon, five, is already comfortable with the routines of Bangalow Public School and will cope really well, says her mum, Anouska. "And she is so ready," she adds.

But for big sister Bronte and other 12-year-olds starting high school, there are perhaps bigger challenges, including a long bus ride to Byron Bay, Lismore or Lennox Head, and the leap from a small school to a huge one.

"It's like starting primary all over again," says Bronte, who is heading to Woodlawn.

Some will see their mates going off in different directions, but Bronte has some friends already in Year 8 at the school, who



Bronte and River Gammon are both stepping up into their first year, to Woodlawn and Bangalow Public School. Mick Kennedy is looking forward to making new friends at Byron High. Photos: Digby Hildreth



she says "know what Year 7 is like, and they can tell me", so she is more excited than scared.

What's she looking forward to most? "Well they have a pool," she half jokes, and among the many, 'confusing' classes, she can't wait to get into the art room, with its 'amazing' opportunities.

Just getting to the bus stop at 8am will be a challenge, says Anouska. There will be a lot of body-clock adjustments going on in the town, she says.

Mick Kennedy is going from Bangalow Public to Byron Bay High this year, and he has mixed feelings. "It's exciting and nerve-racking at the same time," he says.

"The last day of primary felt sad, leaving behind a whole lot of memories. It kinda feels like you're maybe going to lose some friends but then you're going to make some new ones as well."

Mick praised the orientation program at Byron High and was relieved to be starting a day early. "That feels good as there won't be a ton of people everywhere."

Mick's mum Bec thinks the transition is a natural one. "By the end of Year 6 they're ready for it, ready to spread their wings and move out of Bangalow," she says. "But it's still a big change, leaving the safety of Bangalow and moving into the unknown."

Jenny Bird

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A perfect park for playing

The Parklands behind Heritage House were alive with workers last month, mowing and brush-cutting to begin the grand project of transforming the former cattle dip/tick site into something useful.

Camphor laurel trees overlooking the site have been removed and landscape designers appointed to come up with the final plan for an adventure playground at the western end.

Initially the cattle dip and pound yard were sited next to Byron Creek, close to the original creek swimming pool. The pound yard was moved but the dip-site remains to this day. It has always presented as a concern because of the chemicals that were used, and the extensive pollution that occurred – resulting in a highly desirable piece of land being virtually a no-go area. It was deemed unacceptable to be used for much at all, but a parking area has turned out to be a grand – and useful – solution.

The work has been made possible thanks to a grant obtained by Byron Shire Council on behalf of Bangalow Parklands, but locals and the council have been working to make best use of the park since the 1920s.

Clippings from *The Northern Star* in the 20s and 30s show a concerned and keen local community fighting to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the park. In



Winner of the combined croquet without breathing competition.

the early days as Bangalow Parklands, a croquet court was developed just south of Heritage House – most recently used as a tennis court.

Council president JG Snow officially opened the croquet court in October 1926,

as reported in *The Northern Star*: “Some time ago the (croquet) club was formed and from the outset much interest was manifested. Through the generosity of the Byron Shire Council, the club was given a splendid site near the swimming pool.

Declaring the green open, Cr Snow said that he “felt sure the advantages would soon become known, and it would be a happy hunting ground... Games of croquet between several of the ladies and gentlemen and refreshments helped to make the afternoon very pleasant”.

A February 1933 *Star* report continued in the same vein: “Bangalow citizens want to make a beauty spot and park of the area at present used for a cattle dip and the pound yard.”

A deputation of citizens asked the council to enable this to be done and was told that “after the expiration of the present lease of the dip site to the Board of Tick Control, the lease would not be renewed”. Cr Snow stated that “the swimming pool and its surroundings was a delightful beauty spot and more than 1000 pounds had been spent there in improvements”. *Christobel Munson*



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Every row, column, cluster, including the fragmented pink cluster, must include the numbers 1 to 9.

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Vale Bill Jenner, who gave so much

Bill Jenner didn't move to Bangalow until 1974 but between then and his passing last November aged 90 he became so closely associated with the town that for many years he was widely known as Bangalow Bill.

The third of 14 children, the two-year-old Bill was declared a ward of the state and put into Tally Ho Boys' Home near Melbourne, where life was pretty tough.

A family he stayed with during holidays secured him work in Melbourne as a panel beater at the age of 18. One day a woman came into the workshop asking after Bill: it was the mother he had never known.

Bill liked to explore the wider world on a motorcycle and was an accomplished dancer, giving lessons in the jitterbug and ballroom styles. It was at a dance that he met his future bride, Freda Mason, and they were together for 64 years.

They bought a service station at Inverloch, in coastal Victoria, but on holidays north one year Bill 'found' their next servo at Lennox Head. He installed a fireman's pole from the upstairs residence to the workshop so he could quickly serve



Bangalow Bill Jenner

Photo: Judy Baker

customers at the bowser. After six years and with five children he and Freda found their last service station – on Granuaille Road in Bangalow in 1974.

That was when 'Hey-Man' or 'Have-a-Chat' and 'Mrs Have-a-Chat' became part of the Bangalow community. Lots of stories followed.

Bill would play his harmonica in the workshop when he wasn't working, and would often go out to the shop last thing at night to serenade Bangalow.

After he retired at 50, the couple bought a five-acre lot east of Bangalow and Bill proceeded to clear the fence line, wielding his electric chainsaw while Freda followed behind pushing the wheelbarrow that held the generator.

From the first Billycart Derby, in 1994, Bill was hooked and attended all but one. He was chuffed to be honoured in the parade last year and to be wished a happy birthday by the crowd.

Bill decided Bangalow needed its own song and in 2000 the *Ballad of Bangalow* was born. Bill would often busk at the Sunday markets, accompanying Grace Hughes on his piano accordion.

He was a true mentor to many young people and at his memorial service Grace recalled seeing him as the grandfather she never had.

Bill bought a motorised go-cart and all the kids learnt to drive it. He also insisted the children learned basic car mechanics and how to change a tyre before they got behind a wheel.

As his daughter Annette put it: "Dad was always looking to create a childhood for us that he never had. We had a very interesting childhood. So thank you Dad."

The Jenner family with Judy Baker



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Keeping track of the corridor

The rail corridor from Casino to Murwillumbah generates much discussion on possible uses of the land. There are four councils, State and Federal electorates of different persuasions, and various lobby groups – so ideas are plentiful. Among them is a proposal for a rail trail, but this is fiercely opposed by groups set on bringing back the trains

Supporters of a rail trail seek a bike riding and walking track along the corridor. One very active group – Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT) – has been working towards this for several years. Norm Case, from Federal, supports the rail trail group: “While

many of our members would like a train if possible, there are so many decaying wooden bridges and other costs that this will not happen for most of the line in the foreseeable future.

“The recent reopening of that small

Could be Bangalow: how the rail trail might look here.

section with the solar train in Byron was one of the easiest parts of the track to restore. Acknowledging this, our aim is to have the corridor retained in public ownership and to develop a facility for locals and tourists.”

As well as lobbying various levels of government, NRRT have crowdfunded \$75,000 for engineering surveys and planning. They have also raised \$20,000 for an environmental study. Engineers, other professionals and submission writers have volunteered time for the project.

State members Geoff Provest and Thomas George are strong supporters. They have secured a promise of \$6.5 million from the State Government towards the Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek section.

At the other end, Richmond Valley and



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The solar train at North Beach station, Byron Bay.

Lismore councils, with the support of Mr George, also want to progress a plan for Casino to Eltham. NRRT are assisting with a detailed submission and business case planning for this.

In the middle is Byron Shire and, of course, Bangalow. The shire has a feasibility study underway for a light rail link from Bangalow to Yelgun (via Mullumbimby), with a walking/cycling path adjacent.

Jo Millar, president of Bangalow Chamber of Commerce, is a keen supporter of a rail trail. "I come from New Zealand where rail trails have brought great benefits to communities such as ours," she said.

What about adjacent landholders, and those who feel we already have too many tourists? "Rail trails bring a different

tourist with no parking problems and many new opportunities," responds Jo. "I acknowledge landholder concerns, but point out trails have been very successful in Victoria and South Australia, through rural areas."

Another active lobby group is TOOT (Trains On Our Tracks), which is also campaigning to keep the corridor publicly owned, but whose priority is getting trains back. Their secretary, Angie Burgler, said, "We are very pleased to see the Byron Bay Railroad Company (BRRC) train from Byron township to the rapidly growing North Beach precinct under way and proving so popular. It is an important first step, with a world-first solar train and done for much less than the Arup study.

"We have always been happy to have a rail trail next to the tracks, but not to have the tracks removed. The BRRC train, for example, would not have been possible had this happened. In most cases the corridor is 40m wide, so ample room. The repair of the Belongil Creek bridge, done by BRRC, has provision for a walking/cycle pathway to be added, and their lease doesn't prevent a rail trail adjacent.

"We look forward to the current council study on options to have a light rail train service to Yelgun and Bangalow. Imagine the potential use for festivals and tourists, as well as locals."

Nadine Hood is a long-standing Bangalow resident, a member of Bangalow on Foot and the Bangalow Guidance Group working with council on the Village Plan.

Personally, she says, she would "certainly put the train as an ultimate".

But, she adds: "To be realistic that won't happen quickly and we should make a start with part of the rail trail. Making a walking/cycling path from Bangalow station to at least Rifle Range Road and perhaps the industrial estate is a top priority."

"This would give people a safe and healthy way to come into town from the west. Trying to walk or ride along Lismore Road is very unsafe. Our guidance group placed this as a high priority and I'm pleased to see it is being incorporated in the latest Village Plan draft. There are also concepts linking such a 'rail trail path' from Rifle Range Road to other walking/cycling options in town.

"Council staff we liaised with have been very helpful."

Brian Sundstrom

BANGALOW

MARKET

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Filmmaker focuses on climate change

Traversing the world 15 times in the three months before Christmas, actor and filmmaker Damon Gameau spoke to hundreds of people, including children, documenting what's most important to the next generation. Is humanity focussed on doing the right things to reverse climate change, or is the media so negative that its message is what people believe and what will happen?

Damon's been working on a feature documentary film set in the year 2040 that's very much a father's letter to his daughter – in this case his four-year old, Velvet. "Everywhere there's so much negativity that I think there's got to be a different way. There are solutions out there. We've visited school-age children in every country we've gone to, and asked them what sort of world they would like to see in 2040. Their responses have been spectacular; they crack your heart open. Hearing it straight from kids is very powerful. They say what they'd like to see, and I go out and find an existing solution."

What the kids would like to see reflects where they live. Village kids in Tanzania would like to see clean water so they don't



Actor and filmmaker Damon Gameau

get sick. Swedish kids don't want to be eating so much meat. A seven-year-old girl in London wanted to know why women don't get paid as much as men. Some don't want so much plastic polluting the oceans.

Damon's search for solutions has seen him interview 200 various experts to uncover the best practices in every field. A big motivation for him was the lack of government support in dealing with climate change. "The fact is that people today can buy solar panels and batteries from Ikea, or an energy system from Walmart, and that means that we're bypassing governments." He observes that a lot of solutions will come from people under 23, not driven by money but by creativity and a desire to contribute to making a better world. "Hopefully the film – due out in 2019 – brings that out, and will encourage people to get involved."

Meanwhile back in Byron Shire, Damon is working on the production of the film with fellow Bangalow resident Will Gammon from Cumulus Visual Effects. On **16 February**, Damon will 'co-star' with environmental activist and author Paul Hawken in an event called *On Reversing Global Warming*, at the Beach Hotel from 10.30am – 12.30pm. They will explore Project Drawdown, "the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming, and how it relates to our everyday lives". *Christobel Munson*

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		Ian	0414 959 936
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	2nd 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	Fay	6687 2096	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

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IT'S HOW WE CONNECT

A jewel in the culinary crown

Pumpkin: from the French pom-pom

Love pumpkin? Jap or Kent pumpkins are available at the Bangalow Farmers Market at the moment. According to Mike from Bangalow Farm, as long as it is warm with no frosts, pumpkins will continue through the year. Mike has had plenty of bees for pollination, which is a good sign of things to come.

This is a delicious recipe for pumpkin and pomegranate salad, perfect for warm nights on the deck to accompany your next barbecue. It is courtesy of Mike McEneaney from Urban Harvest Cookbook. The pomegranate seeds add texture and refreshing flavour. They are like little jewels dotted through the bright orange pumpkin. A visual and flavourful delight!

Black sesame seeds are available from Red Ginger in Bangalow.



Painting: Lyn Hand

Roast pumpkin salad

½ Jap pumpkin (about 1.5kg)
oil spray
2 tablespoons of pomegranate seeds
1 tablespoon of black sesame or

nigella seeds
handful of flat leaf parsley

Pomegranate molasses dressing

2 tablespoons of pomegranate molasses
3 tablespoons of lime juice
80ml (1/3 cup) extra virgin olive oil
salt and pepper to season

Preheat oven to 220C. Cut pumpkin into wedges and place on a baking paper-lined tray. Spray with oil. Season both sides with salt flakes.

Make dressing. Whisk together all ingredients. Transfer roast pumpkin to serving platter. Pour over dressing. Scatter with pomegranate seeds, black sesame seeds and parsley.

Serve warm or at room temperature. Even better the next day. *Lyn Hand*

Petrol now on tap from pm to am

Drivers looking to refuel in Bangalow late at night will now be able to, thanks to Bangalow Fuel Supplies on Granuaille Road installing an automated self-service system for top-ups in the wee small hours.

Now, when business owner Gavin Gear shuts up shop at 7pm he'll switch on the machine, which operates just like an ATM.

"You just choose the pump number, put your card in, fill up at the activated pump, take the receipt and off you go," Gavin says.

"We saw a need to provide this additional service to the community, because people can sometimes get stuck, running on empty."

The new machine is a convenience, he says, but also something more: help in times of an emergency, such as having to get an expectant mother to a hospital quickly.

The property owner Anthony Macdonald, who lives next to the servo, has seen plenty of cases of people pulling in after hours, desperately low

on fuel, and had to sort out gerry cans of petrol to help them continue their journey.

Response to the new service has been good, Gavin says, and he expects it to be even more widely used by locals when word gets around.

There's no additional lights or noise problems for neighbours and Byron Shire Council has given its approval.

And a new security system will ensure that the service remains secure from vandals and other would-be miscreants.

Digby Hildreth

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Rehab up the road expands its programs

Most locals will be familiar with the drug and alcohol rehab centre, The Buttery – if not for its 40-year reputation as one of Australia's leading residential treatment centres, then as a recognisable Binna Burra landmark on Lismore Road.



Buttery Private counsellor Jenny McGee (left) speaks to a Buttery Private program participant.

But what is going on underneath that heritage tin roof and beyond in our Northern Rivers community?

While The Buttery is staying true to its roots, treating addiction with its evidence-based therapeutic community model, there have been a few changes to the organisation which aim to ensure its ongoing sustainability and accessibility.

In response to a growing need, and due to increased Commonwealth Health funding and community donations, The Buttery has increased the size and scope of its community programs. It has added a youth program for people aged 12-24 affected by drug abuse. It has also rolled out a day-stay rehab program known as CORE – perfect for single parents, for example, for whom a residential program isn't feasible.

However, the biggest change for the longstanding centre is its new social enterprise, The Buttery Private. The user-pays wellbeing program is in full swing

again in 2018 after a successful trial last year.

"The Buttery has developed a social enterprise not only to help more people in need but to also generate additional income to help safeguard the long-term future of The Buttery's free programs," said its CEO, John Mundy.

Australia now has 20,000 social enterprises. These ventures have an economic, social, cultural or environmental mission, consistent with a public or community benefit. In the case of The Buttery Private, it ensures The Buttery charity remains sustainable by generating surplus funds for its free drug, alcohol, mental health and gambling programs.

The Buttery Private provides an early intervention for those who could benefit from taking time out to address issues including stress, anxiety, depression, burn-out, substance misuse and even smartphone addiction.

The four-week residential course is held

in an idyllic setting at Gynea Eco Retreat Centre at Uki and is followed by a three-month non-residential program.

Although The Buttery – namedropped in Paul Kelly's popular song *To Her Door* – is a nationally-recognised centre, it is still very much a 2479 institution.

"The Buttery employs about 70 people in its residential and community-based programs," Mr Mundy said. "Most of these people work out of The Buttery in Binna Burra and shop locally, helping the Bangalow economy."

"The Buttery also makes a point of using local businesses, professional services and tradespeople, which benefits the local community," he said.

"The organisation helps people who may have mental health or substance misuse issues to reintegrate into society, and this is of huge community benefit."

For more information call 1300 851 695 or www.butteryprivate.org.au

Melissa Gulbin


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Popping up around Bangalow

A one-off relocation of the Saturday morning mobile library away from Bangalow's main street in December turned into a fantastic morning, coordinated by Bangalow Historical Society and the Richmond Tweed Regional Library.



There was a massive turnout at Heritage House, with every square inch of the House and lawns heaving with action. Friends of the Library had a varied and interesting selection of second-hand books on sale, and Byron Writers Festival produced the StoryBoard van for kids, with activities led by local author Jesse Blackadder and friends, aiming "to inspire creativity, literacy and creative expression in young people to help support the next generation of readers and writers".

Angel painted kids' faces. Heritage House turned on breakfast and scones and an

adult panel session was held in the space between Heritage House and the mobile library, itself a raging success.

MC Mick O'Regan introduced each local author in his usual charming and witty style: there was TV current affairs icon Kerry O'Brien; chef, cookbook author and teacher Belinda Jeffery; novelist Robert Drewe; famed netballer Liz Ellis AM and Ms Blackadder again.

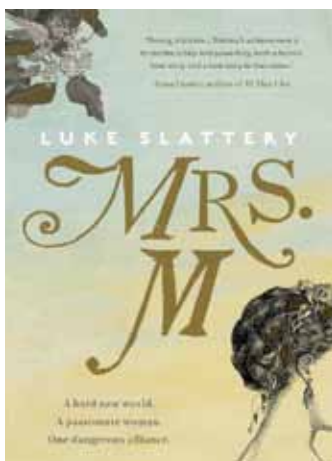
Mick asked each author to recount their childhood library experiences. Without exception, each memory spelled out the value of libraries to the emerging writers:

what better proof than these five successful local writers?

The discussion covered favourite childhood books, the evolution of libraries from quiet, austere locations to the useful info hubs they have become, including current-day craft and story reading sessions for very young kids, amusingly described by Liz Ellis.

Sadly, the new location of the mobile library was not a trial, despite the peaceful setting, proximity to tea and sandwiches and the ever fabulous Bangalow Parklands. It returned to its Byron St location in the new year.

Christobel Munson



Mrs M by Luke Slattery

Historical fiction is a genre I have found to be most satisfying in recent years. Not just because it presents an opportunity for some great story-telling, but because an author who has researched their subject matter well can open a window onto a bygone era.

Luke Slattery achieves this with ease. The story of Mrs M paints a picture of the time Governor Lachlan Macquarie and his wife Elizabeth spent in Australia – from 1810 to 1821. Macquarie was the fifth and last of the autocratic governors of NSW, and Slattery's book explores his contribution to NSW infrastructure and the collaborative nature of his relationship with the convict architect Francis Greenway.

Between the three of them they were responsible for some iconic places still found in Sydney, including the Hornby Lighthouse at South Head, Mrs Macquarie's Chair, the Domain and the Castellated Stables, now the home of the Conservatorium of Music. What a joy it was to Google all of these places once I had finished the book.

There is an imagined attraction between Elizabeth Macquarie (who was several years younger than her husband) and the architect, which gives the book an enjoyable tension and good pace. Mrs Macquarie is the narrator of this story and she is back in Scotland ruminating, after the death of her husband, about their time spent living in Sydney.

I was unaware of the controversy that existed around Governor Macquarie and subsequent attempts to disgrace him on his return to the UK. He was progressive in his thinking and believed that once a convict had served his time his emancipation should allow the same opportunities as the free settlers to improve his position in life. This was not well accepted by many of the free settlers, nor was it condoned by the government in London. It contributed to his being investigated and returned to Britain.

This was a well-written book and a thoroughly enjoyable read.

Carolyn Adams



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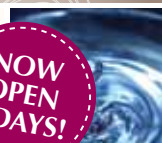
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Trees reveal the town's history

Tourism is one of Bangalow's main industries, creating employment and a vibrancy in the town. People are attracted to its charm; the village has some lovely and interesting architectural features and has conserved its rural town beauty.

Other towns have developed signed heritage walks to guide and help the visitors explore. Bangalow has very little of this, yet different walks could be signposted and leaflets created and left in the main street businesses for the visitors to use.

Imagine coming with me for a short horticultural visit to the town: through the plants we will come to discover the history of Bangalow and the people who have inhabited it since European settlement.

I propose we meet at the Bangalow Hotel and look around. The bangalow palms planted there are a simple reminder of where Bangalow got its name. When the place was settled it was first given the name Byron Creek, which was changed to Granuaille, then Bangalow in 1892.

The first settlers cut down all or nearly all the existing vegetation as part of the conditions for land allocation. We can see by looking at pictures of the early 1900s how little vegetation cover was left. The trees of the town were therefore all planted after the town was built.

King Edward Park has a few nice trees such as the silky oaks, which were donated by the CWA in 1956. But by far the oldest recorded trees in town are the camphor laurels in the showground. In 1907, WH Reading noticed that the cow penned for the Fat Cow Contest, where you had



Original shade tree for The Fat Cow contest, showing a scrap of the fence where the animal was penned. Photo: Patrick Regnauld

to guess the weight of the animal, was suffering from the heat due to a complete lack of tree shade.

This retired seaman and accountant looked around and saw that the best shading tree he could see were camphor laurels. He decided to plant an avenue of those trees to improve the welfare of the penned animals in future years. Mr Reading became the longest serving secretary of the showground committee and for years afterwards camphor seedlings were given to participants in the Bangalow Show.

It is easy, in hindsight, to judge William Reading for contributing to the spread

of camphor in the region, but it was his desire to protect the animals from the harsh sun that prompted him to plant those trees. If you look carefully at one of those camphors, you will notice that the trunk has grown around a timber post. This post is the reminder of the fat cow pen.

Through the history of the trees of our towns we can learn more about the people who inhabited them, what drove them to clear but also to revegetate. By looking at the vegetation around us and learning about it we can start to comprehend the early years of our urban centres, be they big or small.

Patrick Regnauld

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2	5	4	1	8	6	9	3	7

**SUDOKION
SOLUTION**

Going further with flowers: Fay takes a guiding role

Fay Dwyer has become co-president of the Bangalow Garden Club.

Fay grew up on a property in the Maclean area overlooking the Clarence River. She attended Armidale Teacher's College and spent nine years teaching in Sydney, where she met her husband, Garry. Because they wanted their two boys to have a country upbringing, they bought a picturesque property of seven hectares just off Fowlers Lane in 1987.

For 26 years Fay taught in the Mullumbimby area and it wasn't until she retired that she had some spare time to join the Garden Club. By then her mother, Elsie, was living with them and Fay credits her for instilling in her the love of gardening. At the moment she is growing flowers and drying some to decorate the Ewingsdale Hall when her younger son marries in early May.

Fay only joined the club in October, 2016,



Garden Club co-presidents Robyn Armstrong and Fay Dwyer.
Photo: Judy Baker

so was a little bemused to be nominated for co-president but, after some consideration, she thought "why not?" She has found the club so friendly and welcoming and this was a chance to extend her sense of belonging in the area.

"I have so much confidence in the capabilities of my co-president, Robyn Armstrong, and the talented and hard-working committee supporting us," she says.

Garry is also very supportive, accompanying Fay and Elsie to the Saturday social garden visits and speaking at a meeting last year on the topic of garden tools, which all members found most useful.

The Garden Club has 150 members and Fay's gentle people skills are sure to contribute to making it a successful 41st year.
Helen Johnston

Still weeding after all these years

2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the Bangalow Landcare team – some of whom who have been active from the beginning, and others for many of those years. Volunteers have come and gone but each of them has made some contribution to the greening of our village and replacement of the once magnificent rainforest that dominated this landscape.

The aim of the group has always been to plant the banks of the creeks to stop erosion and improve the water quality. The work started on Byron Creek and continued to include Maori, Paddy's and Little Maori Creeks. When working on private or public land the aim is always to get the planting to canopy closure so it can sustain itself, leaving us free to move on to a new area. We have been able to leave a few plantings on private property to the landholders to manage, but the public land is a different story. It needs



The golden rain tree is an environmental weed with yellow flowers that is spreading through our region.

constant maintenance and this takes all our time.

The biggest problem with planting on creeks is the spreading of weeds by flooding: just when you feel the weeds are under control the water brings a new crop of seeds. Vines are the worst as they can quickly get into the canopy and bring it down. Garden plants that

seed and are spread by fauna and wind are another invader, and the time spent controlling these would be better spent planting new forests. So this year the focus is on helping the community identify the weeds in our gardens so that they don't spread into bushland.

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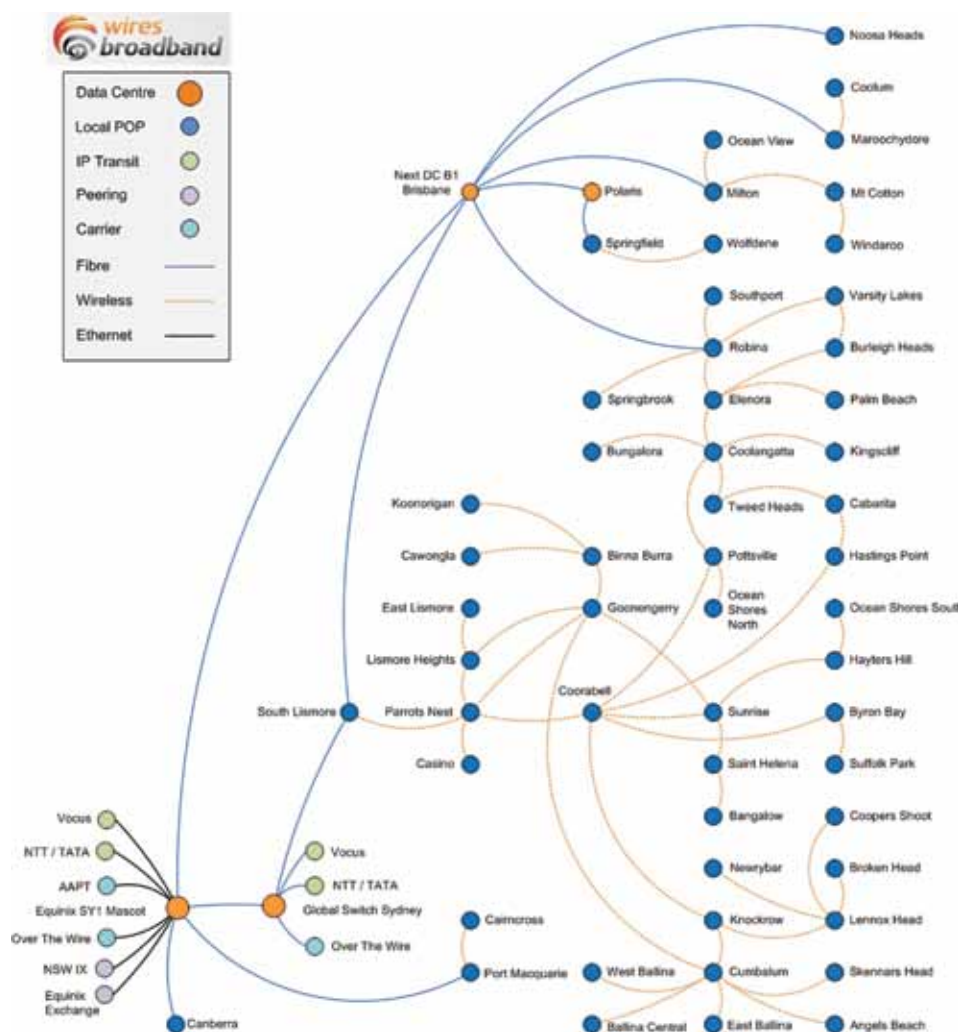
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Broadband to Bangalow: what are the options?

Bangalow residents are advised that the NBN is fast approaching. But is it the only 'kid on the block'? **Christobel Munson** speaks with **Dainen Keogh**, founder of Wires Broadband, to hear about another option. Its focus is "on regional communities that are being under-served by other providers".

Q: What can Wires Broadband offer Bangalow residents that the NBN can't?

A: There are generally three factors that determine a good Broadband service: Speed, Allowance and Price.

Speed is how quickly you are able to send or receive information. For example, if you have a family of four all watching Netflix, each will need approximately 3Mbps or 12Mbps in total.

Allowance is how much data can be sent or received over a particular period of time. Most households use less than 500 Gigabytes per month.

And finally, Price. The Internet service provider needs to charge the customer enough to cover operational costs of the local network, and connections to the rest of

the world via national and international fibre optic cables. Commercial operators, such as Wires Broadband, balance these factors without the need to resort to taxation of other citizens.

We are also able to offer much higher quality services as we know in advance how much our customers are likely to use, and have a vested interest in maintaining quality. We are directly accountable to customers and can't hide behind retailers, or shift blame for poor quality to those that sell it to the customer.

In essence, Wires Broadband is a genuine free market alternative to what is becoming an entrenched monopoly government-owned provider. We offer higher quality services at lower prices and can do this

without any tax-payer handouts.

Q: So what's the difference between the two services?

A: The NBN doesn't sell directly to the customer. Instead, they sell to retailers who rebrand the service, add a miniscule margin and, through mass marketing, try to get as many customers as possible to stay in business. Essentially it's a numbers game.

At Wires Broadband we own and operate our own network. This allows us to be far more responsive to our customers, and provide higher quality services.

Q: What's your relationship with Spirit Telecom, and how does that change the services that WIRES can offer?

A: Since the inception of the NBN over 10 years ago, the Government has enacted an enormous amount of regulation of the telecommunications sector. This has caused a significant market consolidation and some smaller providers have gone out of business.

In July 2017 Wires joined Spirit Telecom – a larger organisation that shared our values around quality and being a genuine



Wires tower at St Helena

alternative to the NBN. Being part of a company like Spirit has allowed us all the benefits of a larger Telco, while maintaining the same focus on quality and customer service.

Q: How many customers do you currently have in Bangalow? And in total?

A: Approximately 100 in Bangalow and 2000 across our network.

Q: How has Wires evolved since the first interview I did with you in 2005 for Bangalow's Heartbeat?

A: In 2005 Wires was a year old. We recently celebrated our 100th customer and sixth transmission site. Since then we spent all our efforts, and have ploughed all our resources, back into the business. By 2017 we had built more than 80 sites and extended our coverage from Woodburn to Noosa Heads. In 2018 we plan to take a more national approach, focusing on regional communities that are being under-served by other providers.



Yoga teacher Michael Stone.

Photo: Judy Baker

Much more than Namaste

Michael Stone is perhaps Bangalow's longest serving yoga teacher, having set up a practice here in 2000.

Born in Sydney in 1957, Michael describes his upbringing as 'unusual'. His father not only lived by Buddhist philosophies but had a jewellery business in Kings Cross, so Michael was exposed to a bohemian lifestyle at a very young age.

After leaving Chatswood High School he completed an apprenticeship in fitting and turning, but found the work stultifying. In 1979, aged 22, he sold his motorbike and set off to India – drawn by an interest in his mother's Anglo-Indian heritage and the promise of inexpensive travel.

Not long after arriving he met a French ballet dancer who practised yoga to keep fit. Michael was attracted to the grace and movement of this physical, mental and spiritual discipline and asked him for lessons.

"Discovering yoga changed my life for ever, and kicked the crude Aussie boy out of me," Michael says.

For the next 20 years he went back and forth to India, settling for some time in Goa. There he met Anouk, now his partner of 28 years, and on their return to Australia they settled in Federal and have been renting a picturesque property in Myocum for the past 12 years.

Michael set up the Bangalow Yoga Studio in a large home on the old Ballina Road and after many years of teaching all over the place he now limits himself to two classes a week in Bangalow. He regards it as more of a community service than a business, and these days is happy to just cover costs.

He stresses how important all exercise and good nutrition are to basic health and says yoga can improve all systems of the body and keep it in balance. It helps the body stay supple and strong, builds bone density and the all-important breathing technique lowers the heart rate and increases blood flow.

Yoga also activates endorphins, which can lead to better psychological wellbeing, he says.

Asked if he is a spiritual person Michael replies with a wry smile, "I would like to say no but I feel my 38 years of daily yoga practice has connected me to something bigger than myself."

Now that he is in his 60s, Michael's emphasis is on keeping people healthy as they grow older. "Healthy body, healthy mind, happy life" is his catch-phrase and he is certainly a testament to that.

Helen Johnston

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Artist Nelly Patterson

Look, dream, join with Nelly

A recent chance encounter in Byron Bay between Ninbella art gallery owner Grant Rasheed and Anangu elder Nelly Patterson (Napananga) led to something special.

Nelly, who is nearly 90, is the custodian of the dreaming stories of Mt. Connor, Uluru and the Olgas in central Australia, and was visiting Bundjalung family here.

Grant grew up north of the Flinders Ranges in South Australia and has been dealing art on behalf of central desert Aboriginal community art centres for decades.

So when Nelly came to Bangalow recently she was thrilled to see some of her work hanging in Ninbella and she asked Grant to exhibit works from her New Way Dreaming series, which advocates connection and unity.

"This is my dreaming, really strong. I talk to that really strong, strong way, new way. And you mob gotta think 'em bout, then turn around and come back to good way, new way," Nelly says.

Everyone is welcome. "Everybody join to me for the dreaming. I'm dreaming for the Tjukurrpa Pulka (sacred strong lore) for the strong spirit. Everybody gotta look and come and join with me."

The exhibition will raise money for Nelly's community. New Way Dreaming will be hosted by Ninbella in Byron Street, Bangalow from **1-8 February**. *Jenny Bird*

February diary

- 1** Writers Group; New Way Dreaming starts
- 2** Cubs start
- 7** BPA meeting; Garden Club; Voices of Man
- 8** Men's Shed workshop
- 11** Koala tree planting
- 15** B&B Bangalow Networking breakfast
- 16** Swing Band; On Reversing Global Warming
- 23** Blues Club
- 24** Boomerang Bags sewing bee
- 25** Bangalow Market

Bangalow Herald deadlines:

Ads Wednesday 14/02

Copy Monday 19/02

Men in harmony

The mocking cries of kookaburras in the tall gums by the creek behind the Arts Yard on Lismore Road have been drowned out recently by a deeper sound: the voices of up to 40 men singing together.

The group, Voices of Man, kicked off in December, organised by Yard tenant Paul Thomas Hunt and run by singer/songwriter and musician Murray Kyle, who encourages the blokes to tune in, open their hearts ... and sing.

Call and response, gospel and tribal 'rounds' are all part of the mix. It's a rare and much-needed chance for men to gather in a space where they can connect and create, says Murray.

Next meeting is on **7 February**. Visit Facebook/Voices of Man.

Digby Hildreth



Men giving voice

Photo: Digby Hildreth



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