



Are we a tourist town?

Town from a drone. Photo: Property Shot Photography. Courtesy GNF Real Estate Bangalow

Over two million people visited Byron Shire last year, bringing a huge amount of money into the area, but also causing a whole slew of problems.

Hard data on tourism in the villages of the Shire, such as Bangalow, is very difficult to find. Most tourist activity is focused

on the Bay, as are most of the stories and statistics that you read. Yet there are distinct differences between the Bay and Bangalow, and our particular tourism profile gets lost inside larger Shire-wide and Byron-centric narratives.

(continued page 5)

Try time!
page 20



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

BPA

The Bangalow Progress Association will hold its next meeting **Wednesday 4 April** at 7pm at Heritage House, Bangalow.

Garden Club

The next meeting is **Wednesday 4 April** at 1.30 pm in the Moller Pavilion. Guest speakers are from One Organic Seedlings in Possum Creek.

The Saturday Social Garden Visit on **7 April** will be to the property of Chris Crowley in Eureka. Many thanks to Margaret and Robbie Orr for kindly opening their beautiful garden in Wollongbar after one week's delay due to the constant rain.

Networking Breakfast

The next Bangalow business networking breakfast is on **Thursday 5 April**, 7.45 to 9am, at Town Café. Guest speaker will be Anneli Knight talking about 'The Seven Secret Spices to Add for Great Storytelling'. Members: \$30, visitors: \$35. For more information and bookings: www.byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au



Grand Champion Ancona Bantam owned by club member by Aaron van den Heuvel

Red Cross

We had a big four weeks raising funds. Thanks to the Bangalow Markets for making us Charity of the Day in February, and we held a stall in early March for Red Cross Calling. A fantastic day and, happily, the three winners of our raffle were local shopkeepers. Our next meeting is **Friday 6 April**, 10am at the RSL Hall. All welcome.

Poultry Club

Bangalow Poultry Club meets again on **Sunday 8 April** at 2pm in the Poultry Pavilion in the Showgrounds. Everyone, including new members, is welcome. After the meeting there will be a 30-minute demonstration on 'preparing a bird for the Show', which will start

at 3pm and questions are welcome. This demonstration will be done by experienced breeders and exhibitors. Fellowship will follow with afternoon tea to finish.

ADFAS

The next lecture for the Australian Decorative and Fine Art Society, on **Monday 16 April**, is

'Painter in Revolutionary Times: John Singleton Copley and the American Revolution 1760-80'.



John Singleton Copley self portrait

This lecture by Peter McPhee, recently retired Provost of the University of Melbourne examines the harrowing story of an outstanding portraitist caught in the deadly divisions of revolution. Increasing friction between Britain and her American colony after 1763

polarised the élite into warring camps, and by 1774 Copley had to make a choice which would change his life tragically and permanently. Doors open at 6pm and lecture commences at 6.30pm. Members and guests welcome. For updates and information check our website or Facebook page: @ADFASByron Bay.

BB Hospital Auxiliary

The Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary volunteers will be holding a fund raising street stall in Byron Street, Bangalow, outside the newsagent on **Friday 20 April** from 8am. All the usual delicious goodies will be on sale, plus a selection of plants. Tickets will also be available for our Mother's Day raffle. Remember, it's our local hospital, so please support.

Anzac Day

Our March, on **Wednesday 25 April**, forms at the top roundabout, at 10.30am. If you have a relative's medals, join in behind the first body of ex-servicepeople, wearing medals on the right side – and sign the book in the Hall to recognise his/her service.

Local schools, sports, service and social groups are welcome.

The march heads down to the Hall for an outside service at 10.55am. Barry Stanford will blow the Last Post for about the



Mark Wilson with big blue The Hearing Bus.

Photo: Megan Savins

Now hear this

Every two months the Australian Hearing Bus pulls into the carpark at Bangalow Medical Centre to offer free hearing checks and raise associated health awareness for interested locals over 18. You don't have to be a patient there, and no appointment is necessary. The next opportunity is **Tuesday 10 April**, 9.30-12.30.

Mark Wilson, Manager of Australian Hearing, Ballina, points out that because age-related hearing loss develops gradually over time, it is common for people to be unaware their hearing is diminishing. "But not everyone who is experiencing problems hearing needs a hearing aid. Sometimes it's just about hearing your TV at normal volumes, or the doorbell, or friends on the phone."

The service provides not only a hearing check, but also information on a range of common hearing issues and devices for around the home, including things like headsets for watching TV and alert systems for doorbells.

Check it out – you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. If you miss this time, the Medical Centre can provide dates.

58th year. Guest speaker is Mark Cooper-White. There will be wreath laying, and appropriate floral tributes will later be given to Feros.

Following the service, all are invited for a cuppa and light lunch, catered by the Lions. Two-up at the Hotel from 2pm.

Boomerang Bags

We are holding another monthly sewing bee, on **Saturday 28 April**, at Bangalow Public School, 3-5pm. Bring your scissors, pins, sewing machine (if you have one) and enthusiasm.

MAY Art Open Studios

A group of 16 local artists of different genres are opening their studios to the public in the inaugural 'Open Studios – Ballina, Byron & Beyond', which will be held over two weekends, **5–6 May** and **12–13 May**.

Visitors can discover and experience these artists' craft close up. Call Angela on 0409 314 144 or muzzangel@bigpond.com

The Pit Stop

The Bangalow Public School is revamping their major annual fundraising event, coinciding with the Billycart Derby on

Spotlight: Bangalow Land and Rivercare

This year in June marks 20 years since Bangalow Land and Rivercare was formed.

A public meeting was held on 2 May, 1998, with the aim of addressing a large fish kill at the junction of Byron and Maori Creeks. There had also been algal blooms and poor water quality reported in Byron Creek.

The meeting was successful in establishing the Bangalow Land and Rivercare group. We were lucky to have two members attend from The Big Scrub Landcare group, and have continued to receive support from Dr Tony Parkes, the President of Big Scrub Landcare Inc.

Our aim is to work with landholders and Council to enhance water quality, riparian management (which means creating a buffer zone by planting along creek beds), weed eradication, erosion control and a river management plan.

Our first undertaking was to repair the eroded creek bank opposite the old Bangalow Creek Pool. We later extended the planting in both directions to link up with a remnant of the Big Scrub. Then we did a large planting on the junction of Maori and Byron Creek just downstream from the Bangalow sewerage treatment plant. Two members of our group were on the Bangalow Wastewater Steering Committee for ten years and worked very hard to have the sewerage plant upgraded. The group received an Olympic grant in 1998 and work began on the regeneration of the sections of Byron Creek that border the Sports Fields. We were later successful in receiving an Environmental Grant of \$36,000 to extend the planting in both directions.

Other projects include the plantings around the Park Wetlands. We are currently planting at the rear of All Souls Church, which is a huge undertaking.

Our team of volunteers works every Saturday morning, weather permitting, from 8.30am-10.30am – rotating the various sites around town. All very welcome.

Contacts: bangalowlandcare@gmail.com or www.bangalowlandcare.org.au *Noelene Plummer*



Bangalow Land and Rivercare enjoy an uncharacteristic break.

Sunday 20 May. Once the Mad Hatters Tea Party, now it will feature all the elements of a classic school fete where the whole family can have fun – and raise funds for a great cause.

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A time of reflection

It being Easter, it was a time of much happening in and around 2479. There was a full moon, when our beautiful countryside was moonstruck, a magical moment that is recalled in Christobel Munson's story of rock concerts in Fowlers Lane (p.19), from late 70s to early 80s – a tale inspired by the beat of Bluesfest. As it's been holiday time, there has been an extra bustle in the place. Church services have heard the lilt of sacred music and All Souls invited the public in to light candles for refugee children. And this issue of *The Herald* dazzles with tempting tales of food to cook, places to go and people to see. We hope you enjoy. *Stephanie King*

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Printed by Lismore City Print

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Welcome to our new Advertising Co-ordinator

The Bangalow Herald welcomed a new Advertising Co-ordinator this month. Sue Franklin has taken over this position from the incredibly able but now too busy Jo Wilkinson. We wish Jo all the best with her full time job and express our deepest thanks for the foundational work she has done building *The Herald's* advertising base from scratch during its first 18 months. This was an awesome effort.

Sue will be well know to many of you, having been an active member of the Bangalow community since arriving here 16 years ago with her husband and two sons. Sue is well networked throughout the town having been involved with the pre-school, the primary school P&C, soccer, working in retail shops in town, and the Bangalow Masterplan Group.

"I'm really happy to be joining *The Bangalow Herald* team," says Sue. "I am delighted to be able to contribute to its ongoing success.

"I can see the value for local businesses advertising in *The Herald*. Not only are they advertising their goods and services but they are also getting a profile in the community and supporting this great little community paper," says Sue.

Jenny Bird (President, The Bangalow Herald Inc.)

JOINING UP

RSL young blood

Anzac Day each year brings the RSL Hall in Station Street into focus. It is home to the Bangalow RSL Sub-Branch where ex-service members meet regularly to give each other support and to visit veterans in need of assistance. As such it serves as an important community lifeline in the Bangalow area.

However the members of the sub-branch are of an ageing demographic, the average age being about 75 according to Secretary, Col Draper. Col is keen to redress this by encouraging younger ex-service personnel to join. "We have a few younger members who have joined recently. They are a breath of fresh air. We don't want to be known as a bunch of old farts, so having younger people who can carry on the work of the sub-branch is great."

Doug and Joanne Livingstone joined in October last year. They have been very active, volunteering to assist the older members with the administration and maintenance of the hall. Doug grew up on the family farm, Gaybrook, at Binna Burra. His son Marcus is the sixth generation of the family to live on the farm. Doug joined the army in 2002 where he stayed until 2009. He served twice in Iraq and also in Afghanistan and, since leaving the army, remains a reservist. Joanne is also an ex-service person having been an army nursing officer from 2002 until 2012. She was involved with humanitarian operations when the tsunami struck Indonesia in 2005 and in Pakistan the same year following the devastating earthquakes.

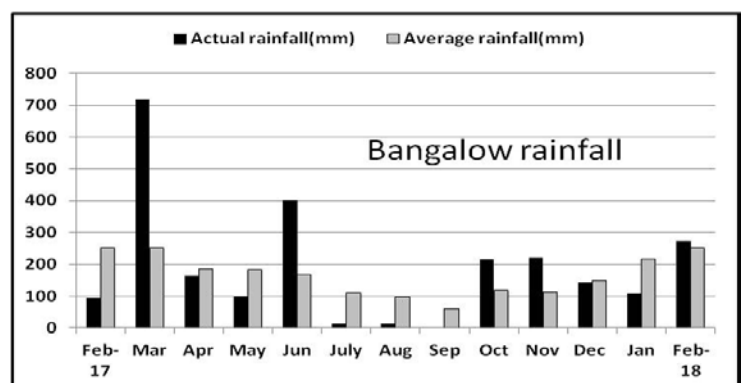
As younger members of the RSL they are changing the way in which the sub-branch operates by reaching out to younger people through social media (see the sub-branch's Facebook page). Jo has been active with administration, freshening up the hall with new plantings of the RSL Spirit of ANZAC Grevillia, and is now a trustee of the sub-branch. Doug has found it a good way to get back into the community. "Everyone seems to know Col. On Wednesdays we catch up to do some work around the hall. Meeting new people and becoming part of the community again has been easy."

The sub-branch has a meeting on the last Friday of each month at 1.30pm. Any ex-service men and women are welcome to attend.

Murray Hand



Joanne and Doug Livingstone with their son Marcus. Photo: Murray Hand



(from page 1) Every year the township of Bangalow hosts a parade of events across three main venues – the Showground, the A&I Hall and the main street. Each year a total of over 125,000 people attend the monthly markets, Sample Food Festival, local and regional horse events, BBQ and Bluegrass Festival, the agricultural Show, the Bangalow Music Festival, weddings, concerts and other one-off events, as well as the much loved Billycart Derby and the Christmas Eve Street Party. Organisers estimate that overall, more than half are visitors from outside the area.

The hills are also alive with weddings and events, both authorised and not. This is a hot topic, with Council currently looking to better manage the significant increase in unauthorised events and weddings on rural properties around the Shire.

It is difficult to estimate how many people stay overnight in Bangalow/2479. There are not many registered accommodation facilities, so the collecting of 'visitor night' figures is limited. Holiday accommodation managed through websites like airbnb and Stayz are self-managed where again it is difficult to collect 'visitor night' figures.

A listings count conducted in October 2017 on airbnb and Stayz.com shows that there are about 65 self-managed holiday lets in the township of Bangalow and about 37 in the surrounding hinterland. The listings are a mixture of rooms in houses, secondary dwellings studios/granny flats and whole houses. It does not appear that Bangalow is,



The Sample Food Festival and the Monthly Markets are great crowd pullers.

Photos: Judy Baker

at this point in time, suffering the explosion of 'whole house' lettings that afflicts Byron Bay.

In addition, between 500-800 people camp in the showground each year, either caravan clubs or people attending show and horse events.

Perhaps the most visible tourists in Bangalow on any day are the 'day trippers'. These are the people, increasingly from Queensland, who come to Bangalow to eat, shop, enjoy the ambience of the town, and then go home. Across the Shire 'day tripper' visits are increasing exponentially but there

are no reliable figures for Bangalow.

Thinking ahead 10 or 20 years, Bangalow may be a town that also hosts rail trail visitors; it may be a terminus town for a light train.

Ian Holmes, President of the Bangalow Progress Association believes that "the starting point for Bangalow is preserving our heritage character and unique identity (agricultural land included) because that drives economic value".

And of course it is the precious social fabric of the community that must be preserved.

Jenny Bird

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Council matters

Heritage Grants – Bangalow rules!

Bangalow residents with an interest in conserving or restoring heritage places, buildings or streetscapes should keep an eye out for Council's Local Heritage Places Grants scheme later in the year.

Bangalow consistently outranks everywhere else in the Shire in successful applicants to this scheme. This year there were five projects approved Shire-wide with four of them in Bangalow. Projects are nearing completion and have included improving security infrastructure in the Readings building and Heritage House, restoration work to the CWA premises and a brick chimney restoration on one of the town's original cottages. Many of the buildings in Bangalow are over 100 years old and need care to preserve their original features.

Citizens' jury and infrastructure

Council's trial of a new way of involving the community in Council decision-making through a citizens' jury is underway, with 24 jurors randomly chosen from over 400 applicants to sit on the Byron Shire Community Solutions Panel. It is not known how many members of the jury are from Bangalow. The challenge for the jury is to answer this question: "What infrastructure spending should we prioritise, and how should we fund these priorities if the rates alone are not enough?"

The Bangalow Progress Association (BPA) made a submission to the jury outlining its priorities for infrastructure spending. The focus of the submission was on projects for Bangalow that included footpath renewal, improved pedestrian crossings, bus stops and shelters, bike racks and taking the initial steps that are required to create cycle ways.

Changes to parking times

New parking schemes were rolled out across the Shire's villages before Easter. The new signs have been installed in Bangalow and fines for infringements took effect on Monday, 26 March 2018.

"The important message is to make sure you double check the signage when you're parking in the townships. Make yourself familiar with the new parking restrictions and signage so you're not caught off guard," Council's Director of Infrastructure, Phil Holloway, said. For more information, and maps, see Council's new website or contact Project Engineer, Dominic Cavanough, on 6626 7242. *Jenny Bird*



Traffic: good news and bad

Tony Hart makes a mea culpa on previously reported traffic data for Granuaille Road.

Recently obtained Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) figures reveal that the traffic load on Granuaille Road has **decreased** by around 16% since the motorway opened. There are 1300 less vehicles per day travelling on the road through Bangalow, with the current total now sitting at 7000 vehicles per day. This is contrary to previously reported estimates in *The Bangalow Herald* (June 2017), which were estimated from more general statistics in the RMS T2E noise report.

These new figures are less than the original RMS estimates, which suggested at least a 25% decrease in traffic using the Bangalow-Lismore road as cars and trucks stayed on the motorway and used the Bruxner Highway to access Lismore. Whilst the decrease provides some relief, Granuaille Road residents still suffer the impacts of a very heavy traffic load.

It also appears that northbound trips originating at Clover Hill, the Bowling Club and other parts of the village could be preferring to enter or leave the area at the Hinterland Way/motorway roundabout instead of going up the main street and along Granuaille Road to reach the Ewingsdale intersection. This may be further reducing the load on Granuaille Road.

We still have much to understand about traffic flows in and around Bangalow. For instance, counts on Lismore Road indicate that approximately one in every five vehicles coming from the west along Lismore Road travels into or through the village centre. This means that every day about 5500 vehicles appear to not turn left onto Granuaille Road. Many of these will be local residents coming into town, but there is a suspicion that through-traffic from the west is increasingly using Byron Street to access the motorway.

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SAT 14 APR
2:30 & 7:30 PM

NORPA AT LISMORE CITY HALL

TICKETS
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norpa

The music group lets rip. Photo: Murray Hand



The Men's Shed

Brian Mackney and Andy Winton Brown, spokesmen from Bangalow's Men's Shed, are often described as 'glass half-full guys'. That falls rather short of the mark. As they reel off the projects and progress of the Men's Shed in its first year, they are more like an overflowing jug of enthusiasm.

The Shed, nestled at the bottom of the hill below St Kevin's, is a bustling building filled with – men: beaver away in the workshop, checking the kitchen before cooking classes begin, sorting out the computer learners or just relaxing with a cuppa after exercise classes.

According to Brian, "At its core the Men's Shed is about doing stuff together – that's our mantra – and the most important tool we use is the lunch table. It's a secure and non-threatening place for sharing life's experiences. What inspires us to create this safe space is the issue of men's health – the physical, mental and social well-being of men."

That statement is backed up by some disturbing facts and figures. Andy points

out that in Australia there are 178 attempted suicides a day, and most of them are men. In 2013 the median age for male suicides was reported at 44.5 years. A serious but seldom acknowledged statistic that they are meeting head-on.

Shed activities range from providing a welcoming space for a catch-up chat to hosting male refugees from Brisbane for a BBQ and an introduction to regional NSW life. Also available are wood and metal work facilities, a construction program and, just recently, an ambitious Three Generation Project that encourages the men in a family to create something together. At the moment the focus is on the Billycart Derby where family groups work to create the 'winning formula' cart – or at least give it a good rattle.

There is also talk of a plant nursery on top of the metalwork shop and working with Bangalow Landcare to extend the creek walk that runs at the side of their car park. But wait, there's more. Regular activities at the Shed are not confined to making things. As well as cooking and exercise, there is art

and music. On Monday afternoons local artist and teacher extraordinaire, Wendy Edwards, holds an art class, which has just completed its third term. The class has progressed from still life to painting in water colours and pastels, paper cut-out art, drawing and painting landscapes concentrating on executing trees, clouds and water. Next term the class is doing streetscapes and buildings. There may still be some vacancies.

Since mid last year, a jam session happens on Thursday afternoons when a bunch of wannabee bluesmen get together and riff on classic blues tunes for a couple of hours. With drums, bass, several guitarists, keyboards, blues harps and even a trumpeter, the acoustics of the Shed are put to the test. Often people passing by drop in to find out where the great sound is coming from.

It's easy to find out what's going on. If you see lights and things happening, pop your head in one of the doors. You too may make new friendships and expand your skills. Or call Brian on 0413 679 201.

Stephanie King & Murray Hand

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The new world of NDIS

Julia Gillard introduced the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Bill in 2012, and it clearly was ambitious. **Bec Sargeant** looks at the progress.

With the Northern Rivers rollout of the NDIS commencing in July last year, affected local residents are all too aware of the uncertainties such ambitious change creates. While optimistic about potential benefits, the NDIS is a fundamental shake-up to an industry on which their quality of life depends.

"I do think this is a better model, but the unknowns are unsettling," says Cathie Mitchell. Cathie began educating herself about the impending changes to her son Andre's disability funding over two years ago by undertaking research, attending seminars and networking. The individualised funding plan, which is the cornerstone of the NDIS, hinges on a planning meeting with the relevant Local Area Coordinator. Needless to say, preparing for this meeting can be a stressful process.

The NDIS adopts a lifetime approach and developing a plan is based around current and long-term goals, as distinct from simply rolling over current levels of support. Cathie, whose narrow focus on Andre's day-to-day needs is a necessary coping mechanism, faces the reality and limitations of long-term goals that were 'confronting'. Cathie received valuable support from professional advocates and family, but still described the planning meeting as a 'huge process'.

Another Bangalow resident, Richie Allen, is still in the preparation phase and describes his planning meeting as 'looming'. He, too, has spent significant time and energy educating himself about the process, but is keen to gain as much anecdotal evidence

as possible beforehand. "I've heard mixed stories locally," he says in describing his concerns with the subjective nature of the process. "It (the funding outcome) can depend on the experience and qualification of the person interviewing you." The broad, goals-oriented language of the NDIS leaves much scope for interpretation.

The industry shake-up extends beyond the levels of funding to the manner of its delivery. With the aim of empowering independence, the NDIS allows flexibility for participants to manage their funding and choose their service providers. Agencies are adjusting to a shift from upfront, block funding to payment post-service delivery, as well as moving into a deregulated, competitive environment. Richie anticipates this will give him more autonomy in employing carers directly, with efficiency gains to drive wage growth. Richie and Cathie agree that access to quality care is crucial. However, with experienced carers in demand, Cathie already sees the strain on agencies under pressure to adapt and is concerned with their on-going viability.



Top: Andre being taught by carer Karen Wilson the complicated process of self check-out. Bottom: Cathie Mitchell and son Andre. Photo: Bec Sargeant.

The success of the NDIS appears to hinge on the ability of individuals to advocate for their needs, the ability of the services industry to adapt and for the government to provide sufficient on-going funding. For those whose independence relies on the NDIS' success, the unknowns are unsettling.



2017 Bangalow Showgirl with Show Society President, Michael O'Meara.

Our Show Girl

Our 2017 Bangalow Showgirl, Neve Kelly, was among thirteen young women from across Northern NSW who competed at *The Land* Sydney Royal Showgirl Zone 1 finals in February, hosted by the Wauchope Show Society. The competition aims to find women to act as ambassadors for rural NSW.

Eighteen-year-old Neve did us all proud as our wonderful representative of the Bangalow Show, our local community and surrounding district.

Congratulations to Kaela McRae (Casino Show Society) and Nikki Gibbs (Wauchope Show Society) who will be competing in the final competition at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

For further information for young women, aged between 18 and 24 years, on how to enter the Bangalow Showgirl competition contact bangalowshow@bigpond.com.au

Karen Ryan



Deanne Grant working in Red Ginger.

Photo: Judy Baker

Who's That Girl?

She's Deanne Grant, 40, and you may have seen her friendly face peddling fish at The Bay Seafood Market, serving you at Orient Express, or presenting you with a perfect cup of creamy coffee in one of the many cafes she has worked at since arriving in the area thirteen years ago.

Born and raised in South Australia, Dee's passion for hospitality was born from a love of travel, affording her the opportunity to learn about beer and whiskey while working in a bar in Scotland, and to travel extensively throughout Europe and Africa. It was these travel experiences, which included white water rafting on the Nile in Uganda and getting up close and personal with gorillas in Rwanda, that Dee cites as being some of the most formative and rewarding of her life.

After returning from her overseas adventures, Dee managed bars and cafes in Adelaide and Sydney before "accidentally ending up in Byron" in 2005. In keeping with her habit of learning as much as she can about food, booze and culture from her workplaces, Dee is currently serving up delicious dumplings at Red Ginger while learning how to cook using their classic Asian groceries. Dee fills her spare time with Japanese language classes and regular trips to Japan, immersing herself in the culture, and indulging her fetish for toe-socks and Studio Ghibli merchandise. Every year Dee also goes on a pilgrimage to WOMAdelaide, recharging her batteries with music and festivities in her hometown.

If you can't find her in either the Byron or Bangalow Red Ginger stores, you might see her at the Farmers Markets, surrounded by the juicy Coopers Shoot Tomatoes she helps to sell and from which she makes flavoursome chutneys and relishes. Owing to her passion for learning, Dee's cheeky smile is always accompanied by the knowledge she has acquired through years of hospitality experience, making her a great person to chat with about food, wine and specialty beer.

In the interests of full disclosure, it was Dee who I called when I ran out of funds while travelling through South East Asia, and who arranged a thirtieth birthday party for me (complete with skydiving and ready-made friends!) when I first arrived in Byron and knew no-one at all. However, apart from my personal bias, there are many who would agree that Dee's friendly smiles and cheerful anecdotes are just the kind of little kindnesses we need to help brighten up our daily lives.

Carey Robertson

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Every row, column and cluster, including the fragmented pink and green clusters, must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Bangalow Parklands update

Good news! Byron Council has recently installed several enhancements to make Bangalow Parklands visitors even happier.



The new bubbler.

Photo: Judy Baker



Demolish or replace? What to do with the old bridge is a big question.

A new bright red multi-purpose water fountain has been connected, usefully located next to the free barbecues. Now the dog can drink from the lowest spout, your water bottle can be filled from the middle tap and someone can drink from the top tap, all at the same time. (If you're polite!)

The water fountain is sited a few metres from the shining silver BinyaButt container, delighting those who have been picking up discarded cigarette butts scattered around the park. Please encourage any smoking friends to make use of it.

You may have noticed a new concrete pad just south of the barbecues. It will soon be the site for two new rubbish bins: one for compostable rubbish, the other for

general waste. It is anticipated that relocating these bins will deter people from using them for domestic waste.

Finally, visitors to Bangalow Parklands will have observed the large orange plastic barriers preventing access to the 25-year-old bridge over the creek. Council has erected these to

stop people using the bridge due to its serious 'structural deficiencies'. Severe rust has developed at either end, wooden planks have badly deteriorated and, for safety reasons, it will have to go – a costly business whether it's simply demolished or replaced.

The Bangalow Parklands team is exploring the replacement options through upcoming grants. A bridge is clearly needed to access maintenance to Bangalow Land and Rivercare plantings on the opposite bank, but perhaps an alternate location and another style of bridge could be found. Got any ideas? Please message Bangalow Parklands on our Facebook page.

Christobel Munson



The giant watergum. Photo: Patrick Regnault

Amazing old timers

This month is about two plants from our area. One is exotic yet familiar, the other a native not often mentioned.

In the late 19th century *Plumeria rubra*, or frangipani, was introduced to Australian gardens. Originating in Central America, it became a popular tree regularly planted near the homestead. It is still possible to see some of these early specimens near old farmhouses or in the front yards of old houses in towns throughout the region.

I saw a magnificent frangipani while working in a garden a while ago. It was of magnificent stature with very few limbs damaged. After a light pruning it looked as if any wrinkle that may have been blemishing its vegetal face had been erased.

Have a look around and see if you can spot any early frangipani in Bangalow's heritage streets.

Our next botanical wonder is to be found a bit further afield in the Booyong Nature Reserve. There, on the right-

hand side after the bridge if you come from Clunes, is a *Syzygium francisii* or watergum. Park and enter the wood and you cannot miss it. Its buttress roots are of gigantic proportion, its 37m straight trunk a pale salmon colour, and its presence clearly felt as you enter the reserve. The common name is deceptive as it is not a gum but a lilly pilly, with beautiful purplish-blue fruits. You cannot see them on the tree as the canopy is too high, but you may see them on the forest floor from January to April. This giant was placed on the National Register of Big Trees a few years back.

Have a look around for both of these old timers. We should do much more to protect and appreciate them, as they teach us about time, history and our place in it.

Patrick Regnault

In the air tonight

As dusk descends, many of us notice the flocks of flying-foxes moving out from their day camps to feed.

Many of us know them as fruit bats. Bangalow is a natural habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-Fox. We have good areas of native bushland with feed trees such as large Moreton Bay figs, and access to water in Byron Creek. Some people worry about them but they are a native species, and there are ways to minimise their sometimes damaging impact on us.

Last October the Council adopted the Byron Shire Flying-Fox Camp Management Plan, following the introduction of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) in August 2017. Under the BC Act, and the *Local Government Act 1993*, it is an offence for a person to damage any habitat of a threatened species or ecological community. Any unlawful activity relating to damage to flying-fox habitat will be investigated by Council's Community Enforcement Team and/or the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

The critical reproductive period for Grey-headed or Black Flying-fox is generally from August to the end of April. Dependent pups are usually present from September to March. This is the period when Council receives a high level of reports relating to community disturbances such as noise and smell.



Just hangin' about. Do not disturb.

Photo: supplied by Landcare

What to do to minimise flying-fox impacts?

You can take some simple interim measures to help minimise disturbances if you live close to a flying-fox camp.

First, leave them alone. When flying-foxes are stressed or frightened, they make a lot more noise. Colonies tend to be noisiest when they are disturbed by people and quietest when left alone.

Second, to prevent flying-fox droppings

from spoiling clothes, take washing indoors prior to sunset. If you tend to leave washing out overnight, install an undercover clothesline, perhaps under a veranda.

Last, to protect fruit trees, OEH recommends the use of wildlife-friendly netting that is well secured and has a gap size of less than five millimetres. For more information go to the Byron Shire Council website.

Noelene Plummer



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Illustration: Lyn Hand

Mocha Lamington Bites

Who doesn't love a sweet bite with a morning or afternoon cuppa?

Here is something to have with your coffee instead of a couple of squares of dark chocolate. These little cake bites are covered in a chocolate topping, espresso coffee and a dash of spice.

Lamingtons are allegedly named after Lord Lamington, Governor of Queensland from 1896 to 1901, whose chef made them accidentally. His Lordship referred to them as "those bloody puffy woolly biscuits!"

Mocha Lamington Bites

For the cake

125g butter
1 cup raw sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 eggs, room temperature
1¾ cup self-raising flour
½ cup milk
½ cup raspberry or cherry jam

For the topping

3½ cups icing sugar
¼ cup good quality cocoa powder
1 tablespoon butter, softened

½ cup brewed Turkish coffee, very hot
dash each of cinnamon and allspice
2 cups desiccated coconut

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Grease a 20cm x 30cm cake tin and line with baking paper with about 5cm overhang.

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter, sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy (about two minutes). Add the eggs one at a time, beating until well combined. The mixture may curdle – that's okay.

Using a spatula, fold half the flour into the butter mixture until combined, followed by half the milk. Gently fold in the remainder of the flour until combined, then the milk until the batter is smooth. Pour into the prepared tin and bake for 30 minutes until lightly golden and a skewer comes out clean. Remove from the tin and place on a wire rack to cool completely.

Slice the cooked sponge cake into 'fingers' about 2cm wide and 10cm long. Spread a thin layer of jam in the middle of each. Sandwich the halves back together and set aside.

In a large bowl, combine the cocoa powder, softened butter and spices. Prepare the Turkish coffee and, while still hot, measure out ½ cup, being careful not to get any of the grounds into the finished coffee. Whisk the hot coffee into the cocoa powder mixture until smooth.

Dip the cake fingers into the chocolate, coating each side, letting any excess chocolate drip off. Roll in the desiccated coconut and repeat until all the lamingtons are coated.

Tip: chilling the cake/jam sandwiches before coating them in chocolate can help keep the cake crumbs from mixing into the chocolate. Pop them into the fridge for 30 minutes before icing. *Lyn Hand*

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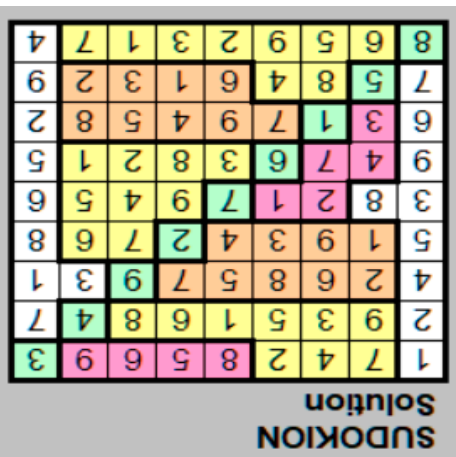
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John Jnr and Rebecca Zentveld in their plantation.

Photo: Judy Baker

More than bean counters

Most of us love coffee. Some of us can't live without it. Many of us buy local beans, but we don't know much about the local industry. On **Saturday 5 May**, as part of the inaugural Harvest Food Trail, the Zentveld Coffee Plantation and Roastery in Newrybar opens its gates for tastings and tours.

The 2479 area is smack bang in the middle of one of only two regions in Australia that grow coffee, the other being the North Queensland tablelands. Unlike elsewhere in the world (think Brazil, Central America, Africa) Australian coffee is grown in the cooler subtropics at low altitude. It is, literally, grown in 'cool-for-coffee' conditions.

Australia grows *coffea arabica*, and because of the cooler climate it takes longer for the beans to develop. This produces coffee with a sweeter, more chocolatey flavour than most imports, and it is some 25-28% lower in caffeine than other quality Arabica coffees. Rebecca Zentveld says reassuringly, "Don't be afraid, our coffee still works."

Local coffees have consistently won awards at major international coffee competitions over the past six years. Three local growers blitzed the medal tally at the 2016 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show, winning six silver and five bronze medals between them, whilst others have won plenty of awards and industry accolades in years past.

Growers in the Northern Rivers are represented by The Australian Subtropical Coffee Association (ASTCA), of which Rebecca Zentveld is the President. With demand outstripping supply, the industry is calling out for more growers. The message is clear says Rebecca, "Australian coffee is really rare, and we

need more growers!" A small holding of frost-free land and access to water is the basic starting point, and then of course horticultural skills. ASTCA members willingly supply advice to new growers.

The Zentveld family are pioneers of our local coffee industry. Informed by trials at the Wollongbar Research Station near Alstonville, the Zentvelds took the plunge back in the 80s and established a 30-acre plantation. Rebecca describes their family business as "showcasing the story of coffee from seed to cup".

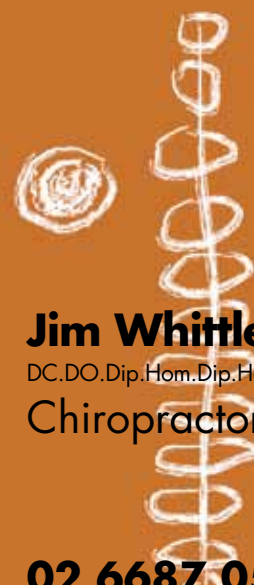
A visit to the plantation will show you coffee growing on the bush, and the various stages of coffee in husk, green and roasted form. The property also has 4ha of beautifully restored rainforest, which, together with similar work by neighbouring Harris farm, protects the riparian zone along Skinners Creek.

If your interests lie in healthy soil, take a look at the interesting new mulch that is being trialed on the plantation – organic hemp-seed shells, a by-product from Bangalow's Hemp Foods Australia. Combined with ground covers and other organic matter such as aged manures, the property is becoming truly 'green' in colour and by action.

This event is part of the Northern Rivers Food Harvest Festival, which runs from **3 to 6 May**. See northernriversfood.org.au/harvest-fest for more information.

Jenny Bird and Brian Sundstrom

Bangalow Chiropractic

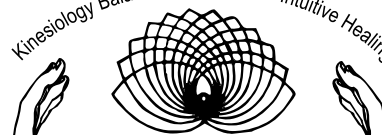


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Funds raised for Newrybar Hall

The well-known and well-utilized Newrybar Community Hall is to have an upgrade of its kitchen and amenities to enhance its use for weddings and social events.

On Friday 2 March, members of the local community filled the hall to capacity, participating in a fun-filled night of trivia competition, auction and raffles. Preceding the event was a curry feast from Bev Singh that had the potential to set the night alight if one did not choose wisely.

The trivia competition was the highlight of the night, ably hosted by Windhorse Gallery owner Peter Mortimore. The result was evenly contested with four teams tying for first place. One knockout question sorted the winner.

Another feature of the evening was the highly competitive auction, with an opportunity to buy a unique painting, a brass sculpture and a Bomboka Blanket.

The night was so successful that a further fun night is planned for next spring.

The support given by our local business community was widespread, and the following businesses deserve recognition: The Cellar Bangalow, Our Corner Store Bangalow, Harvest, Laneway Design, Newrybar Merchants, Driftlab, Zentveld's Coffee and Island Luxe Bangalow.

Michele Hogan, Secretary

Writing prize

Young creatives on the Northern Rivers are invited to submit an entry into the Byron Writers Festival Anzac Project, with the chance of winning \$1000, mentoring and an appearance at this year's Festival.

The aim of the project is to encourage local people aged between 14 and 22 to engage with the memory of war and the ANZAC legacy. The Festival will commission six creative projects that respond to the title 'Northern Rivers' Memory of War: Stories of then, told by people of now'.

Project submissions can be in any medium (such as an essay, story, podcast, video, work of art, photographs, digital medium, animation, song-writing, sculpture or performance art) that illustrate and respond to the title.

The six successful applicants will each receive \$1000, mentor assistance and an invitation to appear at the 2018 Festival, plus an opportunity to present their work publicly and discuss their creative journey. Submissions close **25 April**.

For more information visit byronwritersfestival.com/anzac

WHAT'S THAT NUMBER?

AA	Tues 5.30	Richard	0466 885 820	Pool Trust	3rd Wed	Dominic	6687 1425
ADFAS		John	0438 778 055	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

Business Wise

Oh No! The lovely Megan Kearney, vet extraordinaire of Bangalow's **Vitality Vetcare**, is shutting up shop for the next six months as she takes a sabbatical. Dogs in our town are weeping into their food bowls – as are their owners – she will be sorely missed.

Windhorse Gallery is moving out of town. The Mortimers were very involved with the town and Peter served as President of the Chamber. They will be a loss to the main street shops, with their focus on Australian

and locally made products.

Magpie, which we reported last month as taking a perch in the old bank building has now flown on to other things.

Oh Yes! For those of us interested in the big new trend for tiny houses, **Humpy Co.** has taken space in the Industrial Estate with a really fascinating setup featuring a range of small and perfectly formed cabins. The structures are designed to be adaptable to a range of needs – from

liveable cabin to massage studio. The huts come in a knock-down form, but help can be provided.

McGraths Real Estate. Run by Bangalow locals, this agency now completes the picture perfect real estate businesses in town. There's no better sign that the housing market is still very strong.

The Flower Bar. Fresh from being at The Farm, this beautifully set-up shop in the old bank is inspiring and a lovely, sweet-smelling extra to street life.



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Wed Barre 9.15 - 10.15am, Gentle Pilates 10.30 - 11.30am,

Mens 4.45 - 5.45pm & Yin Yoga 6 - 7.15pm

Thurs Yogalates 9.30 - 11am & Vinyasa Flow 5.45 - 6.45pm

Fri Barre 6.30 - 7.30 am

Sat Yogalates 8 - 9.30am & Pilates Mat 10 - 11am

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Dr Victoria Maud	Clinical Psychologist
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From Balgo to Bangalow

James and Wendy Cowan are active members of the Bangalow community, Wendy as Treasurer of the CWA, and James as the convenor of the Byron Philo Café. They once spent two years in one of the most remote communities in Australia.

In 1995 Wendy Cowan packed up her corporate life in Sydney and travelled to Balgo, a tiny community on the edge of the Tanami Desert in the east Kimberleys. Her husband James, already busy as the new Art Coordinator at the Artists Co-operative, met her.

"I had written books on Aborigines, including one about Balgo, and I felt it was time to give back, and Wendy wanted to get out of corporate life," said James.

The art centre was languishing when they arrived. "I remember sitting down with the old men and saying, 'Look give me six months, but you are going to have to paint for nothing until we get this back onto a firm footing.' The old men agreed to paint themselves out of debt," recalls James. "I revalued the prices of the art, they were way too cheap at the time, and the quality we managed to achieve was just extraordinary."

The painting became healing. "The old men realised that they could contribute, that they could do something, not necessarily always for money, but for an inner health. They decided that they could show the younger ones what they knew. The art became good art because they wanted to do it." And "the women were just as



Wendy and James Cowan with a painting by Muntja Nunguri.

Photo: Jenny Bird

articulate and just as painterly as the men," adds Wendy.

James and Wendy spent the next two years nurturing the elders, many of whom spoke no English and had come in from the desert, to paint their stories onto canvas for the first time. Younger generations joined in too, but it was the elders, with their deep knowledge of country and Dreaming stories, who created the most vivid and extraordinary work.

"It was a tough job, seven days a week, but being with Aborigines is such an extraordinary and enriching experience that you put all that aside," says Wendy.

"We had to find out where the market was. We started to fly people in for a couple of

days at a time and billet them. I would feed them, and they would view the art and select the paintings with the stories," she adds, "and then we started to get international people flying in."

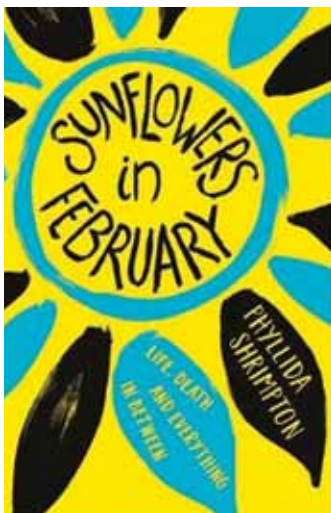
Balgo art became famous for its 'extraordinary effervescence of colour.'

"The Balgo community is made up of four tribal groups, an interesting mix that resulted in the style that is unique to Balgo," explains James. "We encouraged them to stay with their style and not get caught up in any of the other styles."

James and Wendy set themselves a goal to buy two paintings each month. A combination of pragmatics, aesthetics and cultural matters informed their choice. They could only afford the smaller paintings on their threadbare salary. They sometimes bought from artists who needed the money most. They preferred the art of the elders who were most able to visually express in their work the profound knowledge of country and Dreaming stories that they held. And of course they had an eye for what pleased them aesthetically.

James and Wendy's highly personal Balgo collection is on exhibition at Ninbella Gallery, Bangalow until **20 April 2018**.

Jenny Bird



Sunflowers in February by Phyllida Shrimpton

Fifteen-year-old Lily wakes up one crisp Sunday morning to find herself sitting on the side of the road. Not knowing how she got there, and wondering why her new white Converse shoes are lying muddled in a puddle beside her, she looks around to discover that she is no longer in her body. Her body is in fact beside her with broken legs and a head that is no longer on the right way. When the police arrive it is definitely too late to resuscitate Lily. Her state of limbo begins, first with a journey to the morgue, and then back home with her grieving family.

Lily is the narrator of this excellent young adult novel, which held my attention for the two days it took to devour it. She is not ready to die. She is not ready to be parted from her beloved twin brother Ben, her best friend Beth, or Nathan her new boyfriend of seven weeks and two days. She is a girl who had a lot planned for her life, she is not willing to depart with the wispy vapours around her, and she is furious with the hit and run driver who has robbed her of life. Trapped in this state she is able to follow her family and friends around, watching the devastation her death has caused. Then, one day, an opportunity presents itself – a once-in-a-deathtime opportunity – will she take it?

A wonderful read exploring twins, grief, love and forgiveness. This book is sometimes angry, sometimes funny, sometimes tender, but always engaging.

Carolyn Adams



Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal teaches how to get physical.

Let's get physical

Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal encourages the students in her physical theatre classes to dig deep. 'Excavate' is the word the Australian-Javanese dancer and choreographer uses to explain the process that unfolds in the four-week course on offer at NORPA this month.

Named Natural Mobility and Uses of Improvisation, the course aims to 'excavate' the body – "uncovering the layers of connection with our bones, skin, breath and air", she says.

Individuals' physical experience is also ripe for exploration, whether it be with surfing, sport, or even gardening, any such practice "that activates our relationship to our body and the Earth", says Jade, ideally setting off a spontaneous creative process, or improvisation.

Born in Gosford and raised in Angourie, Jade has a wealth of experience as a dance artist and contemporary performance-maker of work in theatres, galleries and museums as well as urban and wilderness 'untheatre' locations, such as city laneways, substation basements, ancient temple gardens and tidal rock pools.

Her approach stems from an interest in "the voice of the dancing body, perception, chaos, dreams, mythology, relations of art with different cosmologies, inter-arts collaborative processes in cultural practice and performance as collective memory".

And you don't have to be a dancer, actor or other performer to take part in and benefit from the course; it's open to anyone with a creative interest in those ideas. From it springs "a celebration of diversity and the freedom of expression, a way to create original material, and develop that into a performance. There's no time to hesitate or for self-doubt. It's a lot of fun," Jade says.

The four weeks will connect participants with their skeletal system, which both anchors us to the ground and allows us to push away from it; and help them fully inhabit their skin, "which shares a role with the skin of the Earth – soil – a living, breathing surface layer that provides nourishments and support".

The week three topic, Breath and Voice, focuses on the feel of our own breath. Expect a purring from deep within the body.

Meanwhile, for those who prefer to remain seated and watch others be active, NORPA this month has 360 ALLSTARS on **13 and 14 April**, featuring champion BMX riders and break-dancers, a basketball freestyler and an exceptional mono wheel artist, all moving in co-ordination to a stunning live soundtrack and spectacular AV projections. And you don't have to lift a finger, except to clap now and again of course.

Jade's course runs for four Wednesdays from **April 4**, from 6-8pm at The Studio, Lismore City Hall.

Digby Hildreth

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Oh, what a Lovey time

Sunday afternoon, no rain, and the hills of Eureka were alive to the divine harmonies of local Loveys as they entertained at a special fundraiser for Zero Emissions Byron. **Mery Stevens** grooved along with a large crowd.



The Loveys serenade an entranced audience in the shade of a leopard tree.

Photo: Judy Baker

Gretel Farm in Eureka has a most inviting shaded clearing which is perfectly suited to parties and performances. Under the leafy leopard tree on a warm autumn afternoon there is an air of expectation and intrigue. Here The Loveys have arranged their mike stands, sound equipment, promotional banner and various musical instruments, including several ukuleles.

A 'lovey' is defined by *The Oxford English Dictionary* as an actor or actress who is 'particularly effusive or affected'. With this in mind the assembled audience is confident of being entertained and The Loveys do not disappoint at all.

Since their inception in 2014, The Loveys have attracted a following both locally and further afield. As a vocal quintet, ukulele (and much more) orchestra and comedy team they are favourites on the festival circuit.

With their expertly arranged songs (mostly originals, though fans of Sia), and with every member of the group contributing, they seem to have tapped into a wellspring of creative energy.

Outrageously clad in op-shop finery and dramatic accessories, the ladies get their costume inspiration from New Yorker Iris Apfel, the muse of style blogger Ari Seth Cohen. The effect is kooky and endearing, lending an air of inclusiveness that allows them to perform everything from the social satire of *Keeping Up Appearances*, to the sensitive yet humorous lament *Old Age*, and the slightly maudlin *Dinner for One*.

Underlying the comedy and dramatic antics of The Loveys is a solid, well-rehearsed musicality. Janet Swain, chief arranger and spokesperson, is a classically trained musician and teacher. As the sassy

'Delphi Coral' she employs her bassoon (a notoriously difficult instrument) with nonchalance and skill, adding an exotic layer of tone colour to the mix of strings, voice and percussion.

Jenny Parenteau, or 'Jen Jen', is the vocal linchpin with her warm, earthy alto and lovely true pitch. Around her the other members can yodel, strum, tap and clang with seeming abandon yet, somehow, produce a gorgeous blend of vocal harmonies and instrumental sound.

The Loveys love what they do, and it shows. They will be appearing at several festivals this year and are available for house concerts.

Proceeds from this concert go to Zero Emissions Byron, a groundbreaking initiative seeking to engage the whole Shire in building a zero carbon community by 2025.

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Mi-Sex take the stage for a creek-side rocking good time in Fowlers Lane in the '80s. An original poster.



Early music festivals in Fowlers Lane

Today, a 5-day entry to the famous Bluesfest Byron Bay can set you back over \$700. But 40-something years ago the price for local outdoor music festivals was a more modest '\$7 for 7 bands'. **Christobel Munson** gets nostalgic.

The attraction for festivalgoers seems to have remained the same: "...to enjoy music to their liking in a remote area chosen so as not to conflict with other people", according to a

Letter to the Editor in the *Northern Star*, 1980.

One notable Bangalow location for very early Shire music festivals was on Harry Fowler's farm in Fowlers Lane. For about eight years, from 1976, "the farm's natural amphitheatre has been used for an annual music concert, never failing to pull in large crowds", reports the *Northern Star* in 1980.

In the early years the music was largely country. Golden Guitar Award winner Anne Kirkpatrick, daughter of Slim Dusty, headed a 12-hour event of country and reggae bands. By 1980 it was rock, with a line-up including Mi-Sex, Jimmy and the Boys, Rose Tattoo and Dutch Tilders hitting the hills for a 'farm rage'.

Back then, Jimmy and the Boys were one of the most popular live acts on the Australian music scene, and it was likely promoter Michael Chugg pulled strings so that they performed in Fowlers Lane.

Another promoter, Roger Danne and his company Putty Productions, regularly pulled in between 2,500-3,000 fans for a one-day event, billed as Australia's only annual one-day music festival and picnic.

Over the years, Danne organised events with performers who went on to become household names. Lee Kernigan, Richard Clapton, Kevin Borich, Moving Pictures, Mark Gillespie and Hoodwink all played Fowlers, while INXS and Jimmy Barnes shook the Bangalow Bowlo. The bands were paid peanuts by today's standards and Harry provided the location for free.

Facilities were primitive, Danne recalls. A dug trench provided a long-drop toilet. The swimming hole was a great attraction as were pony rides. "Harry built a stage near the creek and bought in power for the small PA system," Danne said. "The kitchen (and Green Room) was by the shed, and people had market stalls and barbecues."

One year, the event was taken-over by bikies. "They arrived, dumped a big bag of cash on the table, brought in a ute, two trucks and a keg and set up their own party. It ran into the night," recalls Danne. Another time police closed the lane due to parking concerns. People had to walk 1.7km in from the Pacific Highway. In typical FNC fashion, the Easter event was often rained out.

Danne's favourite memory was a creek side show by Split Enz. "They played their 1980 hit *I Hope I Never*. In the background, the hills were lit by a full moon. The crowd was enchanted. It was just magnificent."

Today, the farm is Jindibah, an intentional community, with 12 houses built across 113 acres. The old hall remains.

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With a Rebel yell.

Photo: Matt Williamson

Bangalow Rebels with a cause

If you've been near Bangalow's playing fields in the early evening recently, you may have seen dozens of men lugging lumps of lumber, playing tug-o-war, flipping tyres and gasping.

"We're working them really hard," says new head coach Marty Clapp, "It's a long season, and we want them to be really fit."

Marty moved to the Northern Rivers in 2010, and spent two years involved with Bangalow juniors, and five years as a keen spectator of the senior club.

"Marty's a passionate rugby man who played high level rugby in Australia and New Zealand," says Bangalow Rugby Club President Dave Phillips. "We're thrilled he's stepped up to lead the new coaching group."

That group comprises Finn Jones and Will Latham. Recently arrived Jones has top-level conditioning and coaching experience with clubs in NSW and QLD. Latham is well known to the local community as a recent First Grade Player, NSW Rugby Development Officer and Level 2 accredited coach who has mentored many Bangalow juniors.

"With plenty of new recruits wearing the Rebels' strip for the first time, things are looking promising", says Marty. Those new faces include some overseas players who

are in Bangalow purely to play rugby.

"For many years, Bangalow has enjoyed wonderful player exchanges with clubs all over the world," says Dave Phillips. And this year, it seems, is no different.

"Our quality local talent will be boosted with players from England, New Zealand and even the Philippines," he explains.

Bangalow's 2018 international playing stocks include: Ryan Biscoe, a no.7 from England; Junior Mira, a prop with Fijian and Kiwi heritage; Tom Slater, a fly-half from England; and Vincent Young, a centre, who played 7s rugby for the Philippines.

Other rookies Darcy Hilton, Dan Proudman and Ryan Graham (former Lismore players) haven't travelled quite so far.

They join local youngsters Benson Lockyer and Jed Erickson who come to the club from rugby league, and Omar Sella, who has recently returned to the area.

"We have an exciting season ahead. I've watched this club come agonisingly close to playing semi-finals in recent seasons. It's

April diary

4 BPA; Garden Club; Jade's classes

5 Networking breakfast

6 Red Cross

7 Garden Club visit

8 Poultry Club

10 Free Hearing Bus

13 ALLSTARS

14 Rebels' home game

16 ADFAS

20 BB Hospital street stall; Balgo Collection closes

22 Bangalow Market

25 ANZAC Day; 'Young Creatives' close

28 Boomerang Bags

Bangalow Herald deadlines:

Ads Wednesday 11/04

Copy Monday 15/04

time to go one or two better," says Marty, who sounds up to the task.

"I'm 64, and as excited about rugby now as I was as a kid. I'm here to make an impact in Bangalow," he says.

Marty Clapp played in the last Country side to win the annual clash against Sydney, a come-from-behind 18-17 victory. No mean feat considering that the Sydney side had 11 Wallabies in its ranks.

With that kind of experience, we think he might just be up to it, too.

Bangalow's season started in Casino on 24 March and a first home game is on **Saturday 14 April 2018** against Southern Cross University.

Senior sides train at Shultz Oval on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6.00pm. Juniors train Tuesday afternoons and play on Friday nights. New players of all ages are always welcome. *Ben Alcock*



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