

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE April 2019

The stage is set



Photo: Kate Holmes/NORPA

The historic A&I Hall, Bangalow's own 'opera house', lies at the heart of village cultural life. More than a century of celebrations, tragedies, performances, conflict and entertainment have played out within its beautiful pressed-metal walls.

And next month, regional theatre company NORPA brings its production of *Dreamland* to the hall. Devised and directed by Julian Louis

and written by Janis Balodis, *Dreamland* was first developed in association with the Arts Northern Rivers' If These Halls Could Talk project and is inspired by stories gleaned from the communities that have been built around the district's country halls. "The stories have been fictionalised using some creative licence, which makes for a funny and very moving experience," says Julian.

The original production, at Eureka Hall in 2016, was a sell-out success. Bangalow's version features the same cast and crew but incorporates script changes to make it site-specific. "It's about designing the space in a new and reimagined way for Bangalow," says Julian, a local resident. "I'm very excited to bring NORPA here and include some of the town's character in *Dreamland*."

From the editor

Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of two members of our community who died recently. Both made significant contributions to the shire. Digby Hildreth's obituary to Ian Oelrichs (page 7) honours the enormous professional and personal contribution Ian made at every level, from the local to the global. Vale also Jane Fullerton, landscape architect, mother and partner of Mayor Simon Richardson.

As autumn struggles to assert itself after a sweltering summer, we take a short breather between the state election in March and a likely federal election in May. Bangalow is famous for its pork but, gee, the pork-barrelling by all political parties reached frenzied heights in March. The air positively crackled with millions of dollars worth of promises for projects in our electorate.

April is filled with the creative arts – theatre, art and music. NORPA, featured on the cover, has begun preparations for its season of *Dreamland* at the A&I Hall next month; the Archibald Prize finalists will, for the first time, be exhibited at Lismore Regional Gallery (page 5); renowned Australian artist Janet Laurence will speak at Pack Gallery about her passion for nature and its vulnerability (page 17); and Vox Caldera will perform its classical repertoire, also at Bangalow's A&I Hall (page 18).

Of course, the environment is never far from our concerns these days. While Cyclone Oma did bring welcome rain, its high winds displaced some of our platypus population, which popped up in a few odd places (page 9). Meanwhile, we humans continue to consume too much – something the Mullumbimby Library of Stuff hopes to help remedy (pages 10-11).

Fresh faces arrived at the Bowlo in March, along with One Green Acre's menu of international flavours (page 8). And the Bangalow Rugby Club has a new coach who's placing community values at the top of his list of priorities for the 2019 season (page 20).

Jenny Bird

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READ & WRITE



The travelling StoryBoard bus.

Photo: Byron Writers Festival

Never-ending stories

Renewed funding for Byron Writers Festival program enables tales to be told far and wide.

The StoryBoard program, run by the Byron Writers Festival (BWF), recently secured \$100,000 from the State Government, through arts funding body Create NSW, to provide schoolchildren with free creative-writing workshops.

"This is fantastic news for us," says project manager Gabby Le Brun. "We can continue our focus on making the program as broadly accessible as possible across the Northern Rivers region."

"StoryBoard provides an all-too-rare opportunity for kids to share their own stories – as a form of self-expression that is not being tested, marked or judged – in a safe space."

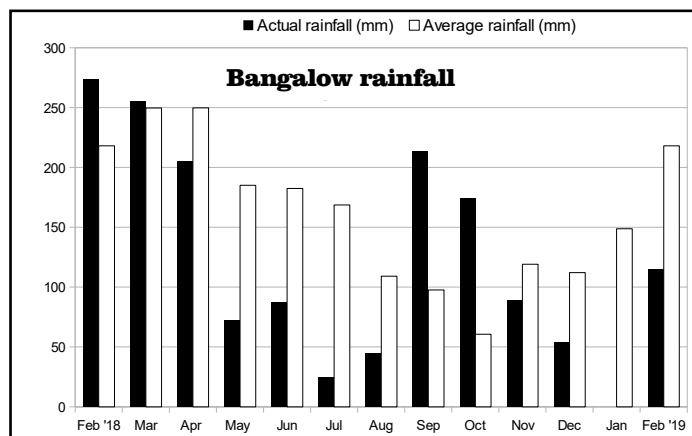
Local authors and illustrators facilitate StoryBoard workshops at schools and libraries, engaging young minds through the medium of storytelling. Gabby is passionate about the impact of the initiative, which she gets to see firsthand. "The first time a child approaches you to share their story, you're hooked. It's such a privilege."

Inspired by acclaimed author Dave Eggers' Californian-based non-profit 826 Valencia, StoryBoard received seed money from the BWF in 2016, as well as project funding from the NSW Government. Last year, the literacy program reached more than 8600 students, visiting schools from Tenterfield to Kempsey and Murwillumbah.

StoryBoard will also continue its popular library-based masterclass series, with upcoming workshops for writers aged 12 to 18 years held at Byron Bay Library in terms 2 and 3.

Gabby believes the benefits of the program extend beyond students. "Not only do the workshops provide informal professional development for teachers, but I commonly receive feedback from teachers and volunteers that the workshops have inspired their own creative writing."

Rebecca Sargeant





Theatre in the round: *Dreamland* at Eureka Hall in 2016.

Photo: Kurt Petersen

Dream along with NORPA

NORPA will meet in mid-April with the business community and other groups. At this launch, the Northern Rivers-based regional theatre company will introduce the show in its Bangalow location and call for collaborators, such as food and beverage businesses, which may want to work with NORPA in making this production a truly special event for patrons (NORPA will not operate its usual diner at the venue). Artistic director Julian Louis says the show will be extended if there is enough demand, which is likely. "We really want the businesses and the whole town to have a positive experience of having NORPA in Bangalow," he says.

(Continued from page 1)

"Three years after first staging the show, we have decided to remount it to a slightly bigger space in Bangalow's A&I Hall and we'll try to reconnect the story to its community and the wider Northern Rivers community," he adds.

"The story relates to lots of different regional communities and towns and the role of these halls. The central character will take us on a journey where we'll experience a clash of cultures between the older farmer and new arrivals. We'll see the interaction of local groups, such as the Bluedogs Soccer Club, and we'll hear more from the Indigenous showman character."

In *Dreamland*, a new bloke in town comes across a meeting of the hall committee. The encounter awakens old memories and ghosts from the hall's past and we are transported through 100 years of local history. The committee members are like spirits of the hall, keepers of memories and time. Through them we hear tales of love and loneliness and get a sense of the changing nature of community. The newbie, Jason, struggles to give meaning to his new life in a regional area, just like successive waves of his predecessors, from those who cleared the Big Scrub to hippies and now tree changers.

Actors from the original show – including Toni Scanlon, Katia Molino, Phil Blackman, Darcy Grant and Kirk Page – have returned to work with artistic director Julian again.

Anyone who saw NORPA's *Railway Wonderland*, which was also site-specific (performed at Lismore's railway station in 2012 and 2015), will know how a story can be heightened dramatically through physical theatre, dance, song and plenty of humour.

Murray Hand

You can see *Dreamland* at the A&I Hall from May 15 to 25 at 7.30pm. Visit norpa.org.au for details and tickets.



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On the radar

100 Go Solar hits target

After three years, the not-for-profit 100 Go Solar initiative has reached its target to hook up 100 local businesses to solar power. "I'm thrilled that 100 businesses in Byron Shire have seen the advantages of solar," says founder Vicki Brooke. "It's been hard work convincing them they can save money – even though they're using most of their power during daylight hours – but more and more businesses are installing solar." Vicki nominated Darren Pearson as one of a few outstanding solar heroes. "Darren's Brunswick River Inn was the first business to go solar under the program and he installed the first Tesla battery charger there, too." He also has solar at his liquor shops, The Cellar, in Bangalow and Byron Bay. "For Darren, it's a huge money saver and a quick return on investment," she says.

The naked lunch

Coorabell Public School is running a competition to encourage and reward lunch boxes that are free of packaging and wrap or use recyclable materials. At the end of each week, the winning class will receive a Nude Lunchbox trophy. Ideas include: reusable lunch boxes and drink containers, stainless-steel cutlery, paper bags and reusable food containers from home.

inGrained Foundation grants scheme

Social or environmental not-for-profit organisations with DGR (deductible gift recipient) status are invited to apply for



Helicopter heroes. Photo courtesy of the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter

Walking to save lives

Start training now and get fit for the annual Coastal Charity Walk to raise money for the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter service. Just one helicopter based in Lismore responds to some 400 call-outs every year – that's more than one mission every day.

The service covers a huge area, from the Queensland border in the north, south to Macksville, west to Guyra and Tenterfield and sometimes as far as Inverell. That single chopper, which alone cost \$18 million, covers more than 40,000 square kilometres of ocean, responding to distress calls from offshore cruise ships, fishing vessels and leisure craft.

The Ballina-to-Byron Bay walk (26 May) starts at Missingham Park in Ballina and ends at Denning Park, next to the Byron Bay Surf Club. This is a stunning coastal walk with a range of distance options, including 13 kilometres to Lennox Head and the full 37 kilometres to Byron. Fuelling stations are located along the way. Individuals and teams can register at coastalcharitywalk.com.au

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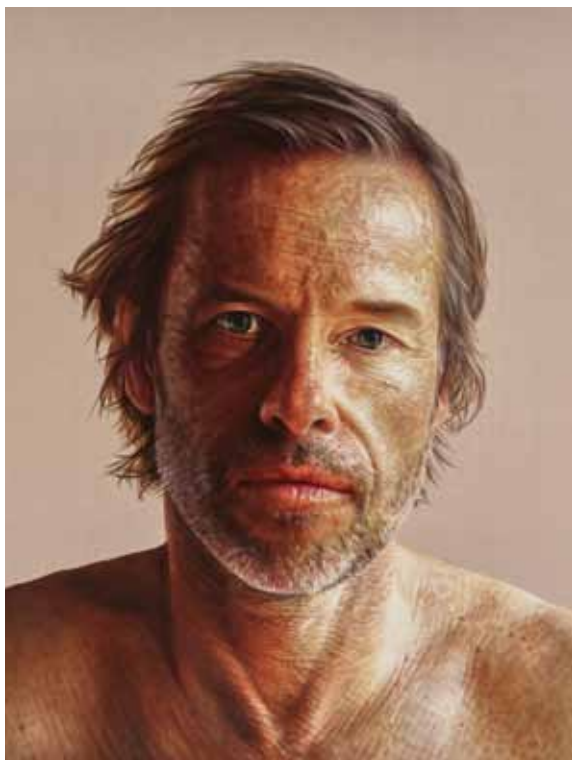
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an inaugural public grants scheme set up last year by local brewery Stone & Wood. Established as a national not-for-profit, the inGrained Foundation aims to foster community capacity-building by supporting grassroots charitable organisations. Apply online before 19 April at ingrainedfoundation.com.au, addressing how your project will 'create connections'.



Anne Middleton's *Guy*, winner of the Archibald Prize People's Choice award. Photo: Art Gallery of NSW

Archibald Prize tour

Lismore Regional Gallery will, for the first time, host a touring exhibition of the 2018 Archibald Prize finalists. Lismore will be the furthest north that this prestigious portraiture exhibition will travel, with the gallery describing it as a "coup for the region". The exhibition runs from 18 April to 16 June 2019 and entry is a \$10 donation to the gallery. A ticketed gala opening event is scheduled for 17 April at 5.30pm. Visit lismoregallery.org for details.

New defibrillator in town

Thanks to the local Lions Club, a NSW Government grant and Bangalow Bowling Club member Bobby Dudgeon, a lifesaving defibrillator has been installed on one of the club's exterior walls, making it accessible to all sporting groups, club patrons and the public. Another defibrillator is located on the wall outside FoodWorks Supermarket.



Asaf Zakay with his dazzling *Tetra Matrix* pendant light. Photo: Zakay Studio & Gallery

Glass sculpture trips the light fantastic

Local glass artist Asaf Zakay recently shipped a large, privately commissioned geometric sculpture titled *Tetra Matrix* to New York. It was constructed from 576 triangles of glass, joined in such a way that they make 64 tetrahedrons.

Writers: Jenny Bird and Brian Sundstrom

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Purple patch

A local's garden project is helping those struggling to put food on the table.

Last year, when Richie Allen's mother-in-law asked him what gifts he'd like for his birthday and Christmas, his reply was simple: "fertiliser and seedlings" for the large vegetable garden he's cultivating at the end of Paperbark Place, a cul-de-sac in Bangalow.

The patch is now so abundant that he is able to donate fresh produce every week to Liberation Larder, Byron Shire's food rescue and lifeline service. As well as cucumbers, tomatoes, spinach, kale, lettuce, chillies and beans, he recently supplied 14 kilograms of eggplants alone.

But Richie's plans don't end there. The industrious grower is set to join forces with the Bangalow Lion Hearts group and the Men's Shed to cook and freeze food for local people in need, whether they be homeless, victims of abuse or just struggling to make ends meet. Assistance for the monthly cook-up will also come from the Lions Club and suppliers of other food items such as meat and rice.

Richie is looking for agricultural producers who can donate food to expand the project, along with volunteers who can donate time gardening or preparing and cooking meals. A working bee in the garden is scheduled for April. Call Richie on 0403 334 850 if you would like to help.

Murray Hand



Richie 'green fingers' Allen with garden helper Lulu.

Photo: Murray Hand

Council matters

Let's talk about tourism

Byron Shire Council has launched a six-week shire-wide "conversation" with the community about tourism and how it should best be managed. Findings will inform the new 10-year *Sustainable Visitation Strategy 2020-2030*, which will consider both the economics of tourism and its impacts on community and the environment.

More than two million tourists visited Byron Shire last year, yet information is scarce about tourism specific to its villages and towns. For instance, daytrippers in the shire have increased by 74 per cent over the past decade, but specific figures for the 2479 area are unknown. Nor do we know how many short-term holiday letting facilities operate. However, we do know that accommodation/food was Bangalow's second-highest-employing industry in 2016 and that it's growing faster than any other industry.

Express your opinions on the question 'Where do we want to be in 10 years' time

with tourism?' by completing the online survey ([surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com)) by 14 April and you could be in the running to win one of two one-day VIP passes to Bluesfest 2019. Or contact Council's tourism officer, Sarah Workman, on 6626 7170.

Unapproved dwellings targeted

Council, which recently won a court case against a home owner who converted a garage to a dwelling without development consent, is cracking down on unlawful building works. The maximum penalty for the offence is \$1 million if it's prosecuted in the NSW Land and Environment Court and \$110,000 in the state's Local Court. Council is bringing other cases to the Land and Environment Court in a bid to stop this practice and signal to residents that it's taking unapproved dwellings seriously. More information is available from Shannon Burt (6626 7161), Council's director of Sustainable Environment and Economy.

Your say on: public buildings

Council is seeking feedback on what the community thinks about its public buildings. Are they clean and safe, for example? Are they accessible to people with disabilities? The online survey, at yoursaybyronshire.com.au, is open until 12 April.

DA withdrawn

The applicant withdrew the development application for the multi-use tourist facility on Hinterland Way the day before the public exhibition period closed on 6 March. More than 80 submissions opposed the DA and only one was in favour of it.

Correction

Pioneers Crescent is a new name for the access road to Bangalow Cemetery. In the March issue of the *Herald*, it was incorrectly described as the proposed new access road to the development described above. The DA, in fact, proposed a new access road off Hinterland Way.

Jenny Bird

Vale Ian Oelrichs

26.2.1949–24.2.2019



Photo: Peter Derrett

The dress code was “colourful or floral” and the mourners filling and spilling out of Newrybar Hall complied, creating a vibrant display that Ian Oelrichs, whom they had come to farewell, would have appreciated.

While the long-time local was at ease in a freshly laundered white shirt, advising on projects at the United Nations and the World Bank, he relished the informal ambience of the Northern Rivers and could be found most days in one of its cafés, sporting Crocs and shorts, encouraging and mentoring designers, planners, environmentalists, tourism pundits and politicians – anyone interested in making the community a better place to live.

Ian died in a car accident following a likely stroke in the early hours of 24 February, two days before his 70th birthday. He leaves his wife, Claire, and two sons, Cooper and Dexter.

A qualified urban designer and landscape architect, Ian had a vast mental freedom that took him in diverse directions and was unrestrained by his professional training. His wide-ranging intellect and rebellious streak made him a strategic visionary, with a great gift for finding imaginative solutions to problems – but not a lot of interest in how they were to be effected.

In the past few years, he was involved with projects that included devising and planning container cities for Syrian refugees in Jordan,

crafting a sustainable aid program in Afghanistan and, together with his wife and sons, setting up and maintaining various conservation measures in Sumatra.

Locally, he co-founded or supported a host of community groups, including business startup think tank The Sourdough Group, the Sourdough Business Pathways ‘Mentoring’ program, the Design Advisory Panel, the Nature Tourism Taskforce, the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Zero Emissions Byron and the Northern Rivers Community Foundation. Most recently, he had been keenly involved with developing a sustainable business plan for the not-for-profit group Keeping Our Freedom Youth Indigenous Corporation, whose purpose is to help young Aboriginal men after they leave prison.

All this work was done on a volunteer basis. Ian’s boundless generosity and kindness, as well as his commitment to community, were frequent themes of the gathering’s speakers; his support was not merely theoretical.

Brookfarm founder Martin Brook said it was Ian who sowed the seeds of today’s successful regional food movement. “When Pam and I started Brookfarm 20 years ago... it was Ian who became one of our best customers. He would make up hampers of local products and send them to friends and colleagues throughout Australia and overseas.”

Ian sat on the board of Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers and was closely tied to Southern Cross University. He served, too, on the Technical Advisory Committee of the Far North Coast Regional Strategy and was deputy chair of the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy group.

He was also great fun and a lover of life’s finer things. On the Friday before he died, he hosted a pinot noir and cheese night for his friends. “Ian was on sparkling form – glowing,” said one. It’s how many will remember him.

Digby Hildreth
Ian’s family has set up a conservation fund in his memory. Donations can be made to the Ian Oelrichs Memorial Forest Project at siesfund.org/ian-oelrichs-forest.html



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Bowlo general manager Chris Watson (left) with One Green Acre head chef Sacha Meier.
Photo: Lyn Plummer

The next course

New paddock-to-plate eatery One Green Acre promises to bring a feast of fresh local and international flavours to the Bowlo.

The Bangalow Bowling Club has long been a place to meet up with friends and family for a drink and a tasty meal or attend an event. Now there's another reason to drop in: the opening of One Green Acre (onegreenacre.com.au), following the departure of local favourite The Stockpot Kitchen last month.

"It's an exciting challenge" to head up "such an iconic and well-established club", says new general manager Chris Watson. "I look forward to teaming up with board and club members and One Green Acre to take the club to the next level."

Chris is originally from Sydney and comes to the Bowlo with a background in pubs and clubs. He moved to Kingscliff, in the Tweed, more than a decade ago and did a five-year stint at the Kingscliff Beach Hotel before moving to the Kingscliff Surf Club, where he has been the general manager for the past six years.

Head chef Sacha Meier grew up in Bega on NSW's South Coast and has a Swiss-French background. He says the eatery's name, One Green Acre, pays homage to his father, who tended an acre of vegetables and fruit on the family's property. Fresh from cooking at The Farm in Ewingsdale, Sacha has also worked in restaurants in New York, Zurich, Malaysia and the Caribbean. His travels in Mexico gave him a particular interest in that country's cuisine, which is the local food scene's flavour of the moment.

Sacha is thrilled about his position at the Bowlo. "I want to provide a diverse, tasty menu driven by the seasons. My philosophy is to have a connection with local suppliers and growers of produce. I'm particularly interested in sustainability and reducing waste." This goal is reflected in the words written on his menu: "Take only what you need and use every piece you take."

His menu includes vegetarian and vegan options, along with ever-popular Southern fried chicken, local free-range steak and fresh oysters from the Brunswick River. The chef makes all his own pickles, sauces and condiments rather than using commercial products. And Tuesdays will be themed Street Food Night, featuring dishes from a different country each week.

"I hope to encourage people to try different flavours," says Sacha. "We'll soon be opening on Sunday nights, with slow-cooked roasts that larger groups can share. In keeping with the paddock-to-plate concept, we've also planted a vegetable and herb garden."

Follow the Bowlo on social media to keep up to date with the exciting new changes, including a planned extension of trading hours. Or just head to the club to give them a warm welcome and taste-test the menu yourself.

Lyn Plummer





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Platypus spotting

Byron Creek is a known platypus habitat, with recent sightings coinciding with the launch of a citizen scientist project, the Australian Platypus Monitoring Network, designed to provide more reliable data on platypus populations nationally. **Rebecca Sargeant** reports.

Jess O'Halloran was amazed to find a small platypus wandering across the Bangalow Sports Fields recently. Daytime sightings of the nocturnal mammal are extremely rare, let alone in such an unexpected location. "Cyclone Oma's crazy winds had obviously uprooted this little guy from its home," says Jess, who kept watch as the animal safely made its way to the creek.

"We are lucky to have platypus living in Byron Creek in Bangalow when they're on the threatened list in many parts of Australia," says Noelene Plummer, president of Bangalow Land and Rivercare.

Much of this 'luck' can be attributed to the years of hard work undertaken by the local environmental group, with riparian plantings stabilising the banks and providing a safe haven for many native animals.

"The water levels in the creek dropped significantly in 2012, when the weir was damaged by tree roots. As a consequence, existing platypus burrows were left high and dry and for a long time we feared the worst.

There have now been sightings of platypus, and, more excitingly, puggles [baby platypus] in various locations," says Noelene.

According to Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy, "The platypus is... an excellent indicator of the environmental qualities of our waterways."

A mascot at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the platypus has long been a source of wonder and national pride. Apparently, the first scientists to examine a specimen thought they were the victims of a hoax! Among this quirky creature's unusual features is a sensory duck-like bill that can detect tiny movements of both electrical and mechanical waves.

However, fears for its survival have been growing in recent years. In 2014, the status of the platypus was raised from Least Concern to Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

These concerns have been exacerbated by the lack of monitoring data available, with estimates of platypus living in the wild ranging between 30,000 and 300,000.

The Australian Platypus Monitoring Network (platypusnetwork.org.au), an initiative of the Australian Platypus Conservancy, is a survey tool that allows people to record sightings via a website and app. It was conceived as a citizen science project designed to better understand platypus populations across Australia and effectively target conservation activities. It will be rolled out over coming months and, with community engagement, should provide an opportunity to better understand our local platypus population.

Macadamia Castle in Knockrow provided another safe haven during Cyclone Oma's wild weather. "Our resident platypus expert, Reanna Mike, was thrilled to discover a wild platypus had moved into our pond during the storm," said owner Tony Gilding.

The castle's Lorissa Barrett reports that 'Oma' the platypus continues to enjoy his new-found habitat. "We're hoping he will stay around for a while – as long as there are crayfish and invertebrates to feast on. He can be seen around the pond and is very active."



Refugee 'Oma' enjoying the pond at Macadamia Castle.
Photo: Nicolle Phillips

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Photo: Christobel Munson

War on waste

Libraries of Things are sprouting up all over the world. **Christobel Munson** explores a new venture in Mullumbimby where you can borrow 'stuff'.

With the help of a small volunteer team, waste warrior Sasha Mainsbridge (above) has established the region's first Library of Stuff. Like toy libraries where parents recycle toys their children have outgrown or no longer love, Libraries of Things (or Stuff) help minimise the expense and waste of buying infrequently used items.



The project was initiated by Mullum Cares, a group that promotes and supports the growing consumer demand for conservation. "The idea is to increase the community's access to quality items, as well as for waste reduction," explains Sasha, the founder of Mullum Cares. It's aimed at families, individuals, event organisers and not-for-profit (NFP) organisations, including schools.

Opening on 6 April, with the official launch party set for May, the Byron Shire's Library of Stuff will initially be located within the Repair Café on the Mullumbimby campus of Byron Community

College (corner of Gordon and Burringbar streets).

It will eventually move to a permanent location at the Mullumbimby Community Gardens, pending additional funding to relocate a 21 x 7-metre shed – donated by Chincogan Real Estate – that will house the library.

To kick off the collection, there are two main categories of 'stuff': DIY (power, hand and gardening tools) and Waste-free Catering items. A category called 'screen-free family fun' is in the planning stages; aimed at encouraging families to ditch the computers and devices for outdoor family entertainment, it includes sporting equipment, canoes and camping gear.

Inspiration to create the Library of Stuff came from environmental activist Annie Leonard's 20-minute movie, the *Story of Stuff* (storyofstuff.org), which details the detrimental effects of our increasing consumption of low-quality products. With cheap, less durable options available, more expensive, longer-lasting goods are being bought far less often. The impact is evident in the increasing volume of waste produced globally.

As Sasha points out, long-arm garden loppers can cost \$260, but they may only be used every now and then. So why not borrow a pair through

this special library for a weekend gardening blitz? Her team is already loaning waste-free catering assets, often to NFPs. These include reusable crockery and cutlery for parties and one-off events, as well as bins, wash-up tubs, trestle tables and marquees.

Although tents can be purchased cheaply, the quality is often inferior and many single-use tents and inflatable mattresses are sent to landfill after local events and music festivals. Sasha hopes to set up a subsidiary rental service to rent out better-quality tents to festival-goers to avoid

this unnecessary junking of inferior products in landfill.

Over four months of surveying the Byron Shire community at farmers' markets, Sasha and her team discovered that the "No. 1 desired items" for the library were tools and camping goods. A \$15,000 grant from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal helped get the project started, with half of the funding spent on buying tools.

Sasha says the community has been generous with donations, although tools in good working order are still welcome. They can be taken to the Repair Café from 9am to noon on Saturdays (or email the libraryofstuffmullumbimby@gmail.com to organise a drop-off).

Initially, while the library operates out of the Repair Café, membership will cost \$40 a year. The fee will allow members to borrow items for one week, usually with the easy option to renew for a second week. Members will be expected to pay for unavoidable repairs to the equipment they borrow and to volunteer at the library for two four-hour shifts per year.

Opening hours at the Repair Café location will be Fridays, 10am to 2pm, and Saturdays, 9am to noon. Visit libraryofstuff.org.au for more details.

**"If we can slow
down the wheels
of consumption,
we can also
help to address
climate change."
Sasha Mainsbridge**



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Every Scoutmaster needs one. Photo: Frauke Huhn

1st Bangalow Scout Group

This iconic youth development organisation is scouting for new recruits – adventure awaits!

When we think Scouts, we tend to think about lighting fires, trudging through rain and tying a decent knot. But, according to Frauke Huhn, the mother of a Bangalow Scout, it's really about human connection.

"Sure, we teach the kids the basics of survival but more and more in this modern day, connection with other people in a group is equally important. And this doesn't just extend to the children participating, but to their parents as well," she says.

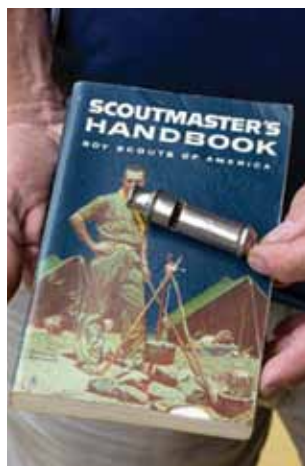
The 1st Bangalow Scout Group boasts more than 100 years of history and it's looking to take the local Scout Movement into the future by recruiting new members. "Scouts provides boys and girls... with fun and challenging opportunities to grow through adventure. What makes us unique is our diverse range of activities that develop skills in young people such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving and communication," states the Scouts Australia website.

As well as traditional Scouting skills such as camping and bushcraft, members can participate in outdoor activities such as abseiling, overnight hiking, canoeing, rock climbing and even flying.

As Scout Jack Huhn says, "it is just so much fun. We go hiking and see amazing things, learn about GPS and compass navigation and general survival tactics. I love the connection with nature and others in the group, as well as learning practical skills. I have made so many friends for life through the Scouts."

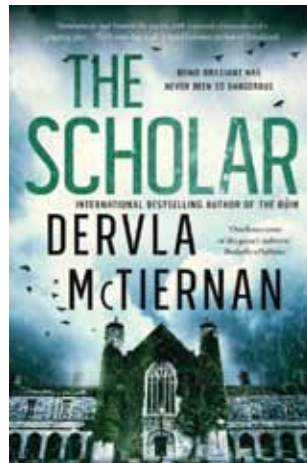
Juliet Pratley

Contact James Czulowski on 6629 1736 for meeting times and more information on joining the 1st Bangalow Scout Group.



The Scholar by Dervla McTiernan

DS Cormac Reilly appeared in Dervla McTiernan's first book, *The Ruin*, which was a bestseller. In *The Scholar*, Reilly has moved to Galway in Ireland with his partner, Dr Emma Sweeney, but is frustrated with work because he's being relegated to cold cases and overlooked when it comes to current workloads. That all changes when he receives a phone call from a distraught Emma, who has just found a deceased hit-and-run victim outside her workplace at the university laboratory.



The victim is carrying the ID of Carline Darcy and the injuries clearly suggest murder. We quickly learn that she's the heir to the largest pharmaceutical company in Ireland and is, in fact, alive and well. Carline claims her ID went missing months ago, but the family's influence stymies the authorities from putting pressure on her. The head of police instructs the team to steer clear of the Darcys and the dean of the university is being uncooperative because the wealthy family sponsors the laboratory and makes generous donations to the institution.

McTiernan does a great job of developing the characters in this book, including the interaction between the different personalities of the investigative team. The book has multiple layers of intrigue, including the Henderson family case to which DS Reilly is suddenly assigned, and the slow reveal of the dead girl's true identity.

The author now resides in Australia, having left Ireland after the global financial crisis, and *The Scholar* is her second novel. If you like a bit of crime and mystery in your life, these two books are highly recommended.

Carolyn Adams



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Gluten-free pecan pie

Deliciously nutty, this more-ish sweet treat is (almost) guilt-free.

Sweet pecans are now in season, along with other tree-nut crops such as macadamias and almonds. The bulk of Australian nuts are grown in NSW – many right here in the Northern Rivers – and are highly valued due to their quality and relatively low rates of pests and diseases.

Pecans are related to hickory trees and native to Mexico and North America. They have the highest fat content of any nut – the healthy monounsaturated kind. They're also a rich dietary source of vitamin E, protein and other vitamins and minerals that are essential for growth and a good metabolism.

This gluten-free pecan pie, a specialty of America's Deep South, utilises healthy ingredients and is just as delectable as more decadent versions.

Lyn Hand

Ingredients

Crust

2 cups almond flour
¼ cup coconut oil, melted
2 tbsp honey

Filling

3 eggs
½ cup pecan halves
½ cup coconut sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract
½ cup maple syrup
3 tbsp butter
Pinch of salt



Illustration: Lyn Hand

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
 2. Mix crust ingredients in a medium-sized bowl until combined. Press mixture evenly into a 22cm pie dish, covering bottom and sides.
 3. Bake for 10 minutes or until crust starts to brown. Remove from oven and allow to cool.
 4. Using an electric mixer, whisk eggs with coconut sugar until you get a pale-brown foam, then add vanilla extract.
 5. Transfer mixture to a saucepan. Add maple syrup and butter, gently stirring to combine. Remove from heat and allow to cool for 5-10 minutes.
 6. Fill crust with the warm, thick filling and arrange pecan halves over the top. Bake for 20-25 minutes at 180°C.
 7. Remove pie from the oven and let it cool to room temperature. Refrigerate for at least 4-6 hours before serving.
- Recipe created by Miryam Quinn Doblas for nuts.com

SUDOKION⁶

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Al-Anon (2pm Fri)		1300 252 666
Bangalow Koalas	Linda	0411 491 991
Bridge	Dennis	6687 1574
Chamber of Commerce		admin@bangalow.biz
Community Children's Centre	Kerry	6687 1552
Co-dependents Anonymous	Gye	0421 583 321
CWA (Wed)	Di	6685 4694
Garden Club (1st Wed)	Annie	0417 636 011
George the snake man	George	0407 965 092
Historical Society/Museum/Cafe		6687 2183
Koala rescue line (24 hr)		6622 1233
Land & Rivercare (8.30am Sat)	Liz	6687 1309
Lions Club (7pm 2nd/4th Tues)	Chris	0416 005 700
Market (4th Sun)	Jeff	6687 1911
Men's Shed	Brian	0413 679 201
Op Shop (9.30am-2.30pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm)		6687 2228
Parklands	Lynn	0429 644 659
Park Trust Committee	Jan	6684 7214
Police	Peta	6687 1404
Pool Trust	Jo	6687 1297
Progress Association	Ian	0414 959 936
Poultry Club	Hector	6687 1322
Quilters (2nd/4th Thur)	Helen	6684 1161
Red Cross (1st Fri)	Liz	6687 1195
Scouts (6.15pm Tues)	Jim	0408 546 522
Show Society	Melissa	6687 1033

Sport

Bowls men (1pm Wed & Sat)	Gerry	6687 1142
Bowls women (9.30am Wed)	Dot	6687 1246
Cricket	Anthony	0429 306 529
Netball (3.30pm Wed)	Ellie	0429 855 399
Rugby Union (Rebels)	Dave	0412 080 614
Soccer (Bluedogs)		0434 559 700
Tennis court hire	Denise	0409 579 231

Venues

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All Souls' Anglican Hall	Matthew	0488 561 539
Bowling Club	Shane	6687 2741
Coorabell Hall	Ouida	6687 1307
Heritage House		6687 2183
Moller Pavilion	Karina	6687 1035
Newrybar Hall	Katrina	0410 975 572
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Scout Hall	Karen	0400 591 719
St Kevin's Catholic Hall	Russell	0423 089 684



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Yogalates Gentle 4.30-5.30pm
Wed Barre Fusion 9.15 - 10.15am & Yin Yoga 6 - 7.15pm
Thurs Yogalates 9.30 - 11am & Gentle Vinyasa 5.30 - 6.45pm
Fri Barre Fusion 6.30 - 7.30 am
Sat Yogalates 8 - 9.30am & Pilates Mat 10 - 11am

Updated class times & ByronTown/Suffolk timetable see yogalates.com.au



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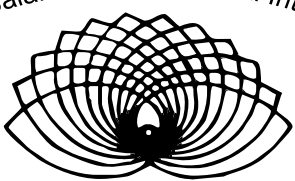
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PROTEST FOR PLANET

This generation won't wait

The shire's students sent a strong message last month, going on strike to demand action for a climate in crisis.

According to the Facebook page of Swedish teenage activist Greta Thunberg, on 15 March, 2083 strikes were held in 125 countries around the world to bring attention to the lack of political will and tangible actions to deal with climate change.

A crowd of more than 1000 people joined the global march and walked peacefully down the main street of Byron Bay. The majority were children from schools around the shire, with parents, babies and 'golden oldies' in support, cheering and tooting horns as the crowd moved through town.

The School Strike 4 Climate Action website states: "We are school students from cities and towns across Australia. Most of us have never met before but are united by our concern about our planet. We are striking from school to tell our politicians to take our futures seriously and treat climate change for what it is – a crisis. Politicians can show us that they care by taking urgent action to move Australia beyond fossil fuel projects (e.g. #StopAdani's mega coalmine) and get the job done of moving us to 100 per cent renewable energy for all."

The top three climate actions they are demanding are: stop the Adani coalmine; no new coal or gas extraction; and 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030. *Christobel Munson*



Photos: David Michie



Janet Laurence with her work, *Solids by Weight, Liquids by Measure* (1993), from the *Periodic Table* series. Photo: Alanna Irwin of Dominik Mersch Gallery, Sydney

Force of nature

For artist and activist Janet Laurence, the power to disrupt lies in the details.

It is quite something to have renowned Sydney-based artist Janet Laurence in Bangalow to talk about her work. "We respect and admire Janet as a leading contemporary Australian artist and we jumped at the opportunity to host this event here," says Paula Bannan, co-owner of Pack Gallery, where the event will take place.

For more than 30 years, Janet has explored her passion for the natural world and her concerns about its vulnerability in the face of climate change and other pressures of the Anthropocene period. Her practice is multidisciplinary and includes painting, sculpture, installation, photography and video. Her recent work has moved outside the gallery and the museum into public sites – creating immersive installations and environments.

Laurence has lived and worked in Europe, Italy and New York, where she was drawn to the late earthworks artist Robert Smithson. A major survey of her work, *Janet Laurence: After_Nature*, is on exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia in Sydney. A newly commissioned work, *Theatre of Trees*, is central to the exhibition and themed around the medicinal properties of plants and trees.

"I feel a greater imperative than ever to speak," said Janet in a recent interview for *The Sydney Morning Herald*. "In a way, I am an activist. But the traditional idea of an activist is someone aggressively shouting something. I do the opposite. I try to entice you in to see the details."

Lee Mathers from Northern Rivers Community Gallery will host the talk, while Katrina and Karl Kanetani from Town Restaurant and Cafe will curate a botanic-themed tasting menu with matching wines. "It's really exciting collaborating with Kate and Karl. They totally get the narrative behind the botanic theme and sensory elements of the Elixir Bar," says event organiser Lisa Cowan.

"Janet uses the influence of nature in her art and we will use the influence of nature in our canapés," adds Katrina. "We'll try to replicate nature in a food form so that it looks and tastes like nature." The chef has already decided on a mushroom tea and is experimenting with earthy ingredients like foraged food, the flavours of which may be infused into the food created especially for the event.

Jenny Bird

Join artist Janet Laurence, *Byron Arts Magazine*, Pack Gallery and Town Restaurant and Cafe in a stellar collaboration on 27 April at 5.30pm. Guests also enjoy a Brookie's gin cocktail on arrival. All-inclusive tickets (\$120) are available at bam-dinner-janet-laurence.eventbrite.com.au – bookings are essential.

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Bangalow Garden Club

When Wed 3 April, 1.30pm
Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow
Contact Annie 0417 636 011 or anne.abbink@yahoo.com.au

Life member Shirley Boyle will talk about rural life in Bangalow over the past 70 years. June Hosie will open her Eureka garden to members on Saturday, 6 April; details provided at the meeting (bring a mug for afternoon tea).

Pop-up Comedy

When Thurs 4 April, 8pm
Where Bangalow Bowling Club
Tickets mandynolan.com.au or at the door

Mandy Nolan presents a laugh-out-loud night with Jenny Wynter and Jonathan Atherton. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are \$25.

Shire Choir

When Thurs 4 April, 7.30-9.30pm
Where Bangalow Hotel
Information Facebook @TheShireChoir

Doors open at 6.45pm; singing starts at 7.30pm. Tickets (\$10) via Eventbrite or at the door.

Koala-tree planting

When Sat 6 April, 9am
Where 71 Dudgeons Lane, Bangalow
When Sat 27 April, 9am
Where 191/199 Myocum Road, Ewingsdale
RSVP Linda twodogsmedia@optusnet.com.au

Free sausage sizzle, courtesy of the Lions Club, and vegetarian sandwiches kindly provided by Julie Frankham.



Vox Caldera at Grafton Cathedral.

Photo: Deidre Pailas

Vox Caldera

When Sat 6 April, 4pm
Where A&I Hall, Bangalow
Tickets The Bookshop Mullumbimby and at the door (\$25/\$20, children free)

The Vox Caldera chamber choir opens the door to a world of beauty from the 15th and 16th centuries with the music of Guillaume Dufay, Johannes Ockeghem and Josquin des Prez. In *Out of Silence* – a program directed by Nicholas Routley – Bach, Bruckner, Verdi and the exquisite contemporary work of Clare Maclean complement the Early Renaissance. A second performance will be held at St Carthage's Cathedral in Lismore on Thursday, 7 April at 2pm.

The INClub

When Sun 7 April, 12.30-4pm
Where Bangalow Guesthouse
Information theinclub.com.au

This month's INClub event for women is an Autumn Feast by the creek. Limited tickets.

ADFAS lecture

When Mon 8 April, 6pm
Where A&I Hall, Bangalow
Information adf.org.au or Facebook @ADFASByronBay

Adrian Dickens explores the history and craftsmanship of the Queen of England's private diamond collection.

Bangalow Quilters

When Thurs 11 and Thurs 25 April, 9.30am-12.30pm
Where All Souls' Anglican Church Hall, Bangalow
Contact Elizabeth 0409 599 835

Help with patchwork/quilting and craft available. Morning tea is provided. Visitors are welcome.

Sourdough Business Lunch

When Fri 12 April, 12-2.30pm
Where The Deck, Byron Bay Golf Club
Information sbp.org.au

Enjoy lunch and network while you listen to the stories of two visionary entrepreneurs living in the region: Cape Byron Distillery's Eddie Brook and Maria Collyer, a business adviser for the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Bluesfest 2019

When Thurs 18-Mon 22 April
Where Tyagarah Tea Tree Farm
Information bluesfest.com.au

Jack Johnson, Iggy Pop, Ben Harper, Paul Kelly, David Gray, Hozier and Norah Jones will join some 200 other artists to help celebrate the festival's 30th birthday. Regular buses shuttle between Bangalow and the site – check timetables on the Bluesfest website.

Harvest Festival

When Wed 24 April-Sun 5 May
Where Various locations, Northern Rivers
Information northernriversfood.org

Twelve days of food, glorious food events hosted by Northern Rivers Food. Don't miss the farm-gate Harvest Trail on 4 and 5 May.

The Buttery car wash

When Sun 28 April, 9am-3.30pm
Where 346 Lismore Road, Binna Burra
Cost \$15 small car/\$20 large car

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SUDOKU solution



Photo: Bangalow RSL

Anzac Day commemorations

When Thurs 25 April, 10.30am

Where Memorial Park, Bangalow

Contact Col Draper 0408 440 243

Come rain, hail or shine, this year's Anzac Day march down the main street will be followed by a short outdoor service at the RSL Hall in Station Street. Bangalow's Lions Club, Red Cross and Scouts will provide a barbecue and cuppa. In Clunes, a 9am service will be held in the park opposite the Clunes Store & Cellars, with the local fire brigade supplying morning tea. Contact Gary Lovell on 0428 291 297.

April diary

3 Bangalow Garden Club

4 Pop-up Comedy Night; Shire Choir

6 Vox Caldera; koala-tree planting; Garden Club Saturday Visit

7 The INClub Autumn Feast

8 ADFAS Byron Bay lecture

11 & 25 Bangalow Quilters

12 Sourdough Business Lunch

14 Council tourism-survey closing date

18 April-16 June Archibald Prize tour

18-22 Bluesfest

19 InGrained Foundation grants closing date

24 April-5 May Harvest Festival

25 Anzac Day commemorations

27 Koala-tree planting; Janet Laurence art talk

28 The Buttery car wash; Bangalow Market

Deadlines for May 2019 issue:

Advertising 10 April

Copy 14 April

GNF bangalow

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GNF bangalow



Coach Tim Cohen (centre) says his main goal is to have a “deeply connected” club. Photo: Kate Holmes

Playing the long game

Gearing up for the rugby season to kick off, the Rebels’ new head coach talks teams, training and tactics – on and off the field – with **Ben Alcock**.

Tim Cohen is describing the moment he first understood what country rugby was all about. Perhaps, not surprisingly, it was over a beer. “I was at the Bowlo after my first training session at Bangalow as a player when my phone rang. It was my wife, Annabelle. One of our young kids had just smashed a window at our rental property with a skateboard.

“As I hung up, one of my newly minted teammates asked what was up, as I seemed upset. I explained what had happened and he said, ‘Mate, I’m a glazier. I’ll be there first thing tomorrow to sort it out.’”

The glazier turned up as promised, fixed the window and – Tim points out – wouldn’t accept payment. “There’s a camaraderie and unity in rugby that extends well beyond the footy field. I understood then how country clubs bind communities together and knew that Bangalow was the one for me: good people, good environment, good community.”

Tim and his young family moved from Sydney a couple of years ago. “It was

Annabelle who suggested I pull the boots on,” recalls Tim. Clearly, the club owes her a debt of gratitude.

It might only be pre-season, but Tim’s influence is already being felt around the club. The Q&A event with ex-Wallaby captain and über high-achiever Phil Waugh at the Bowlo in February was his doing.

While this is Tim’s first coaching gig, he’s an accomplished player, representing NSW as a schoolboy and playing alongside George Smith – another future Wallaby in that team – before playing First Grade at Sydney University with Phil Waugh. So, he knows a thing or two about the game.

“Rugby teams are unique by nature,” he says. “You need people with different builds and skill sets, all doing their jobs, to make a rugby side click,” he adds.

That, for Tim, is the sport’s great lesson for young players. “Learning to respect other people’s strengths, to acknowledge your own shortcomings and face whatever

challenge awaits as a team are all things kids can carry through life.”

And what of the season ahead? “I honestly don’t have any specific on-field objectives. My primary goal is, by season’s end, to have the community and club deeply connected. And if the players know they’ve improved individually and collectively and commit to play again next year, I’ll be a happy coach,” he says. That sounds like winning to us.

Bangalow Rugby Club welcomes new and not-so-new players, young and old, to get involved in the junior and senior clubs this season. “Even if you’re not sure you want to play, just come down for a run at training. It’s great fun and a good way to keep fit and meet new folk,” says Tim. *Bangalow’s First Grade team trains at Shultz Oval on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm. Junior boys and girls train on Tuesday afternoons and play on Friday nights. The club’s first home game is on 6 April at 3pm against Lennox Head.*



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