

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE March 2020

The kids are alright



Generation Now

Rebecca Sargeant speaks with four recent high school graduates to find out where they're at and what the future holds. (Story page 4)



Lily Spiteri, Isabella Stephens, Ruby Murray and Kit Hearn. Image: Karla Conroy (photography) and Kane Sullivan (graphics)

From the editor

Apparently, summer's been and gone. It was dramatic, and unusual in its weather extremes. Having said that, the stories we focus on this month look forward rather than back. In particular, we ask our region's youth about their hopes and dreams for the future. I trust none of our readers have forgotten what it means to be young. Which is never one thing of course, but there are qualities to being young that diminish over time. Excess energy for one, and an optimism not tarnished by decades of experience.

I think it's important that *The Herald* not only gives voice to our region's young people, but that we understand what it is they most need to succeed.

Many of our local teenagers leave the region after finishing school. Our postcode is predominately populated by families with young children and people of a certain age returning to the area after making something of themselves in the city. That's a generalisation of course, and many talented teens and early-twenty-somethings stay and make a life for themselves where they grew up. And well they should. Our villages and town would be poorer if they didn't. But as our story on Bangalow's newest childcare centre opening makes plain, there are many people who think this is an ideal place to raise kids and have a family.

No one I spoke with over the last month wants things to change too much, but everyone has an idea about what most needs improving. Changes to the rail line are, and have always been, a contentious issue. I lived here when the trains ran through the countryside around 7am every morning and 7pm at night. I moved away for a time before returning and sending my kids to schools in the region too. Unlike me though, I don't think the trains are coming back, and we can better utilise the railway infrastructure in ways that make our region better. Don't get me wrong, I like trains, I wish they still ran through the hills, but the economics of rail transport don't make sense anymore. It's a technology of the industrial revolution that got replaced by cheap air travel. The proposed bike and walkway seem like progress to me.

Jim Hearn
Editor

bangalowherald.com.au
PO Box 632, Bangalow, NSW 2479

Editor: Jim Hearn
editor@bangalowherald.com.au
Advertising: Sue Franklin
advertising@bangalowherald.com.au
What's On: Jenny Bird
whatson@bangalowherald.com.au
Design: Niels Arup
Production: Stephanie King
Contributors: Carolyn Adams, Judy Baker, Jenny Bird, Karla Conroy, Carole Gamble, Lyn Hand, Murray Hand, Deborah Hayward, Tony Hart, Jim Hearn, Digby Hildreth, Nadine Hood, Christobel Munson, Mery Stevens.
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SPOTLIGHT

Bangalow Red Cross helps out locally

At this year's first meeting in January, Bangalow Red Cross branch members talked of the extraordinary weather onslaught we have all experienced over the last four months.

First the searing drought reduced vast tracts of country to a disaster landscape, followed by vengeful fires burning even rainforest stands and causing smoke-polluted skies. After that the heavens opened and more rain has bucketed down in 2479 than many have ever seen. Hardship as a result of these climatic conditions has not been evenly shared and there is clear sense of communal distress, grief and a passionate desire among members of our community to make a difference. For many, it has become personal.

Like every catch-up over coffee, school drop-off run or company boardroom conference, our conversations at January's meeting were centred around the question of what we could do to help people facing the challenges and heartbreak experienced.

Australians have been extraordinarily generous with money and time. And they are interested in where the money goes. Red Cross is well placed to assist with aid, both internationally and locally. The organisation is at the forefront of disaster relief and recovery on both a sweeping global scale and also assists with local issues. The Bangalow branch of Red Cross is primarily focused on local issues. For members, it makes practical sense to provide pinpointed relief to members of our small community affected by recent challenges.

Our organisation does not just march in to disaster sites, drop money in someone's lap and walk away. Assistance requires co-ordination, consultation, empathy, transparency and a full appreciation of individual circumstances. We raise funds to make a difference when people need it most.

Members of the Bangalow Red Cross wish to thank local residents for their generosity at our past street stall, Jeff Pritchard and the Sunday Markets team.

Rappville, which is 99kms sw of Bangalow, is facing many challenges at the moment. It is our primary focus at this time. Residents there have lost much and the rebuild will take time. It is a small township that was nearly wiped out by the recent bushfires. Over the next few weeks our members will present a cheque to the local school and offer physical and moral support.

The next meeting of Bangalow Red Cross is Friday 6 March 10am at the RSL Hall.

Stephanie King

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Thomas Street library.

Bangalow Street Libraries

A new street library has been set up outside the Bangalow RSL hall. Charlotte Clark, from Charlotte's Parlour, wanted to donate some of her books to the Anglican Op Shop, but was disappointed they no longer accepted books due to a lack of space. She thought that this was a real shame as she wanted to be able to share her books with others.

Along with Pippa from the bottle shop and a few other friends, they thought it would be a good idea to set up a book exchange. Charlotte saw an opportunity opposite her shop at the RSL hall. She approached Col Draper from the RSL who said: "Sure why not?". He found a couple of cupboards at the Lismore tip shop, and with a lick of paint, the Bangalow RSL street library was born in February.

Readers in Bangalow for some years have been blessed with a couple of other street



Charlotte and Pippa at the new RSL street library

Photos: Murray Hand

libraries, which started up at the same time in June 2017. One is in Leslie Street, and the other is in Thomas Street. Books are borrowed and returned, or swapped with different ones. David Morgan is responsible for the Leslie Street library which has two glass-fronted doll's houses - one for adults and the other for children. David says he started with only books for older readers. "I then set up one for kids because I could see young ones look in the library and be disappointed there was nothing in there for them."

My own library in Thomas Street is humbler; a metal garbage bin in the fork of a tree, and an old esky for kid's books. The adult bin is always in surplus (which would please our Federal Treasurer) but the kid's esky needs topping up occasionally.

The range of books across the three libraries

is vast, from the classics to the history of bush firefighting in Queensland.

Street libraries did not originate in Bangalow, or even Australia, but have a long history in places like Pakistan, Qatar and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The recent movement of suburban street libraries started nine years ago in Wisconsin USA and is known as the Little Library Movement.

Everyone is welcome to borrow books from these libraries. Organisers of the new RSL library would like to encourage anyone to donate and borrow without restriction on time limits or type of book. It is a great way to discover new authors you may not have considered reading.

Take a plunge into the world of pre-loved books at any one of Bangalow's three street libraries.

Murray Hand



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COVER STORY

Generation Now

I get the sense that the Class of 2019 wasn't waiting for school to finish so 'real life' could begin. Whether it's further study, travel or creative pursuits, these recent school leavers have been forging their own paths long before the final bell rang.

You've probably seen them working around town – Ruby and Isabella behind the counter at Butcher Baker, Lily in the Newsagency and Kit at The Cellar. All saving money to pursue their individual goals.

Ruby Murray has always had an independent streak. At 15, she was accepted into an international student exchange program to Italy and spent five months living with a host family in Milan. She commuted to school in the small town of Monza, the freedom afforded by public transport something she missed when she returned home.

Ruby was impressed by the commitment and self-motivation of her Italian classmates, and, while describing herself as "not the most dedicated student", she learnt to speak fluent Italian. She's in no rush to commit to formal study, but she's keen to pursue her interest in languages through travel.

Returning to Europe and visiting her host family in Italy is her first priority. Then, maybe the Americas. She's busy juggling jobs to save money. Having had a taste of living abroad, she's ready to explore the world and see where she ends up.

Lily Spiteri has deferred university for a year so she can save money for the move to Brisbane, where she has been accepted into Griffith University's Queensland College of Art to study for a Bachelor of Design. But far from putting her creative ambitions on hold, her work



Artwork by Lily Spiteri Photo: supplied

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Isabella Stephens, Anouska Blake Cadou (top), Kaia Shearer and Finn MacPherson performing their OnSTAGE HSC group performance *Story of a Hat*. Photo: Alisha Doherty-Hough

is already gaining attention.

A mural she recently completed at Mayne Line artist collective in Brisbane has led to further opportunities. She's assisting with another mural commission in Brisbane, and has been offered a stall at Mayne Line's International Women's Day market. Her Instagram account, @lily.spiteri.art2, has also led to paid design work.

Lily has loved art since she can remember, and credits her family's involvement in community projects as being formative. From Bangalow Primary School musical set designs to Bangalow Theatre Company

productions, Lily has been inspired through her hands-on experience of the creative process, often working alongside dad, Michael.

Isabella Stephens has also learnt a thing or two from her dad, Brett, who runs a digital media production company. But it was her involvement as an assistant stage manager for the Bangalow Theatre Company that ignited a passion for live theatre. With an impressive resume of work experience and achievement, and guidance from the Theatre Company's founder Anouska Gammon throughout the audition process, Isabella was offered a place at Melbourne University's Victorian College of the Arts in a Bachelor of Fine Arts - Design and Production. Isabella's dream is to be a theatre director.

Isabella is "super excited" to make the move to Melbourne, stopping in Sydney along the way to perform with her Byron Bay High School colleagues in OnSTAGE, a showcase featuring outstanding drama performances from the 2019 Higher School Certificate. The move to the big smoke, and away from family and friends, is a little intimidating at the same time.

For Kit Hearn, a placement in Digital Media and Communications at Southern Cross University's Gold Coast campus provides an opportunity to explore new horizons, while still in comfortable commuting distance from home.

Kit experienced a few different areas of the Northern Rivers before moving to 2479 in mid 2018, and for now, he's happy staying put in a place where life is good. Having worked at The Stockpot Kitchen and One Green Acre, and currently, The Cellar, Kit has observed, and been impressed by, the town's strong community spirit. Last year, he attended his first Billycart Derby, and worked during the Christmas Eve Carnival. He feels at home here.

Like so many of his generation, he also feels at home in the digital sphere. He's been tinkering with video editing for a while now, gaining significant online attention with his sporting compilations. He likes exploring the different platforms of creativity that multimedia comprises and is interested in pursuing sports journalism.

So, sure, finishing school is a big deal and an achievement in itself. But it's reassuring to talk to these young adults and see that they're so well equipped for life beyond the school gates. They're busy making stuff happen. And, while reminiscing about the endless possibilities of youth, it's hard not to be invested in their journey.

Perhaps we'll see a Bangalow Theatre Company production directed by Isabella, written by Kit, with stage design and art direction by Lily and based on the overseas adventures of Ruby. You never know your luck in a big city (or a small town).

Rebecca Sargeant



Kit Hearn



Lily Spiteri



Ruby Murray

Photos: Karla Conroy



Early learning ramps up

With a new childcare centre opening soon, and another in the pipeline, early learning in Bangalow is ramping up.

Rebecca Sargeant reports.

The Bangalow Community Children's Centre has been operating a preschool and long day-care in Bangalow for over 35 years. A new kid on the block, Mirabelle Early Learning and Education will soon open its doors to provide additional childcare services to the growing Bangalow community. A development application lodged by Harmony Early Learning Journey Bangalow for another centre in Ballina Road is pending.

The BCCC began operating as a preschool in 1981, and has been operating as a

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Painting of Bangalow's main street by children at the Bangalow Community Children's Centre

preschool and long day-care from its current site on Raftons Road since the early 90s. It is a community owned and operated not-for-profit centre, meaning that parents are directly involved in the management, and any profits are reinvested into the centre.

Mirabelle is currently under construction on Granuaille Road, with director Sheree Hunstone confident that they will be open by mid-2020. The centre is a collaboration between local investors and operators, together with Gold Coast based consultancy

Early Learning Management.

Harmony Early Learning Journey Bangalow lodged a development application for a 60-place childcare centre at 1B Ballina Road just before Christmas. Harmony Early Learning Journey operate centres throughout Queensland, with plans for expansion including Lennox Head and Bangalow.

Brad Tindale was motivated to open Mirabelle when he moved to Bangalow and struggled to access child care for

his daughter. Sheree has also witnessed capacity issues as a local early childhood educator, and Mirabelle is the realisation of a long-held dream to open a centre in Bangalow.

Sheree is excited to share this journey with her husband Leighroy, who will work as Mirabelle's in-house chef. "The plan is to serve wholesome nutritious food grown by the children in our gardens," says Sheree.

The long-term success of the BCCC has been built on strong relationships and partnerships between children, families, educators and the immediate and wider community and an underlying philosophy that recognises children as competent, capable and global citizens. This is a philosophy that Sheree shares, being a dedicated student and passionate advocate for the child-led Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood learning.

The BCCC has long held a special place in the town, now comprising a second generation of local families. For many newcomers to the area, the BCCC provides an introduction to the Bangalow community and the rich tradition of community involvement on which the town thrives. The culture of the centre is fostered by a passionate team of like-minded staff.

As the town evolves and demand for services increases, Sheree is excited to open Mirabelle's doors and continue ensuring that local kids have access to quality care.

Harmony Early Learning Journey's website promotes, in generic terms, "The Harmony Difference" as its holistic, research based approach to early learning.

2020

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Remember Briony Guest? Photo: Mike Frey



Screenworks wants unique ideas. Photo: Jakob Owens

Briony wins scholarship

Bangalow classical ballet student, 17-year-old Briony Guest, has been awarded a full scholarship to The McDonald College Performing Arts School in Sydney. The scholarship is funded by the Myer family's Yulgilbar Foundation and was offered to support the dream of an aspiring dancer in the Northern Rivers region. It will cover Briony's academic and dance tuition as she completes Years 11 and 12 as a boarder at the College.

While the move away from home is a big one, Briony is keen to be exposed to a wide variety of teachers and the different teaching methods they offer. "I'm excited to broaden my dance knowledge and become the best dancer I can be," she says. "I believe The McDonald

College is a great stepping-stone to achieve my dream of becoming a professional ballerina."

You may remember Briony featured on the front cover of *The Bangalow Herald's* June 2018 edition after taking part in the Commonwealth Games closing ceremony. We can't wait to see where she appears next.

Wanted: Regional film ideas

If you have an original feature film idea that celebrates Australia's stunning regional areas this one is for you. Entries are now open for AACTA Pitch: Regional Landscapes in partnership with Screenworks, a national competition to be held in March at Screenworks' 2020 Business of Producing seminar in Ballina.

The competition is looking for original and unique story concepts in which the regional setting lends itself as a central character to the narrative.

Screenplays need to be inspired by Australia's diverse and unique landscape, making it a great opportunity for regional screenwriters and creatives to showcase their talent. Up to five finalists will pitch their ideas at the seminar to an audience that will include innovative and successful Australian screen professionals. Entries close at 5pm on Monday 9 March. For eligibility and entry details visit aacta.org/whats-on/aacta-pitch/aacta-pitch-regional-landscapes/

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Todd Clare with Canyon Del Anaconda.

Photo: Francisco Tavoni



Lily Harrison, young trailblazer

Todd Clare 'Mindscapes'

Northern NSW based photographer Todd Clare is currently exhibiting a collection of his abstract landscape photographs as part of their Pop-Up Artist series. Todd chooses beautiful landscapes all over the world to photograph, driven by a need to explore and a desire to capture moments of connection with nature. Some of Todd's most memorable travels can be found in this series, including images from the Torres Del Paine National park in Patagonia, Chile. For Todd, photographing landscapes is a meditation and he hopes that his large scale prints allow the viewer to share his stillness of mind. "I usually shoot tight compositions that capture the transitional areas between environments, abstracting the marks and gestures that Mother

Nature creates," describes Todd. Mindscapes is on exhibition until April 6 at the Newrybar Merchants, Newrybar.

Young Regional Changemaker

Lily Harrison from Corndale has been chosen as one of 18 young regional changemakers in the 2020 Trailblazers Competition, run by the ABC's Heywire. Lily was chosen as the 2019 Bangalow Show Young Woman last year. Trailblazers are recognised for projects that strengthen remote, rural and regional Australia. Lily's project, Period Pack, provides menstrual management products, maternity and toiletry items to homeless and vulnerable women and girls in regional NSW. Lily will be given media, networking and mentorship

support to help her share her story nationally on the ABC. As part of the package Lily recently went to Canberra to attend the Heywire Summit where she presented her ideas for expanding her project to MPs, senators and community leaders at Parliament House. "The 2020 Heywire Summit was one of the most rewarding and humbling experiences I have taken part in. I felt so privileged to hear the stories of my fellow trailblazers and felt strongly supported to share my own," says Lily. "I'm looking forward to using my newfound skills and confidence to guide Period Pack into the future."

Lisa Peacock, Jenny Bird

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Born to ride

Since Nadine Hood wrote about walking in the last *Bangalow Herald*, Byron Shire Council announced two plans that together lay down a blueprint for walking, rolling and cycling across the Shire. **Jenny Bird** explores what the *Byron Shire Bike Plan* and the *Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan* (PAMP) mean for Bangalow village.

It's an ambitious, expensive dream, but one worth chasing. Interconnected walking and cycling networks in and between every town and village in the Byron Shire. We all know the benefits – better health, safer mobility, improved accessibility, connected communities, less traffic movements and lower carbon emissions.

The two ten-year plans identify, prioritise and cost over 400 projects across the Shire that either upgrade existing cycling and pedestrian infrastructure or develop new ones. The two plans overlap, as projects like shared paths accommodate both walking and cycling. Each plan contains about \$13 million worth of projects for Bangalow village, with 70 to 80% of the projects common to both.

The community consultation for both plans was extensive and captured more than 700 survey responses, 62 submissions and feedback from over 150 people at five workshops across the Shire.

The principle of a connected Bangalow, so strongly articulated in the Bangalow Village Plan, has flowed through to these two plans with only slight variations.

Council acknowledges that while funds will be allocated from within Council budgets, most projects will require co-funding from external grant schemes. The two plans will help apply for State and Federal grants for



Time to take the next step with the bike and pedestrian plan.

Photo: Toa Heftiba

many of the projects.

All the projects have been prioritised into A, B and C. Priority A projects have been selected on the basis of safety, improving access and mobility, demand and volume and connecting residential areas. While Council aims to deliver Priority A projects in the shortest possible time, they offer no assurance that everything will get done in 10 years. Lower priority projects may 'jump the queue' if they can be successfully matched with the objectives of particular grants.

The rail corridor

Numerous community surveys and the Bangalow Village Plan identify the rail corridor as the community's 'top ticket item' in relation to walking and cycling around Bangalow. Nadine Hood described the corridor as the 'central spine' for a linked walking and cycling network throughout Bangalow.

The status of the rail corridor remains in the hands of the NSW State Government. Legislative changes are afoot, but it is unclear

Priority A

In no particular order, these are the Priority A projects identified in both plans for Bangalow Village. The estimated total cost is \$1,338,460.

Byron Street	*Upgrade existing footpath to shared path on northern side of Byron Street between Byron Creek and Station Street. *New crossing at northern leg of Byron Street/Market Street intersection.
Station Street	*Upgrade existing footpath to shared path on northern side of Byron Street between Byron Creek and Station Street. *New crossing at northern leg of Byron Street/Market Street intersection.
Granuaille Road	*Upgrade existing footpaths on both eastern and western sides of Granuaille Road *New crossing at Granuaille Road/Leslie Street intersection and new crossing across Granuaille Road.
Raftons Road	*New shared path on southern side of Raftons Road from Rifle Range Road to intersection.
Deacon Street	*New shared path on southern side of Deacon Street between Station Street and Ashton Street.
Market Street	*Upgrade existing footpath on eastern side of Market Street.
Bangalow Hotel area	*New crossing across car park entry behind Bangalow Hotel. *Upgrade existing crossing on eastern leg of Lismore Road/Granuaille Road intersection.
Station Lane	*Mixed traffic (shared zone) on Station Lane for 100m.

whether or not they will favour Council's multi use corridor proposal, rail trail proposals, or the restoration of state rail services.

Council has given the rail corridor Priority A status, proposing to construct 53.2kms of new shared path along the corridor from one end of the Shire to the other, at an estimated cost of \$15, 974,400.

The Bangalow-specific plans show a number of small projects that link nearby roads to the corridor. These projects are all identified as Priority B and C projects, pending the future of the rail corridor.

Priority A projects for Bangalow village

The projects identified as Priority A in Bangalow are all located close to the centre of the village and/or close to services for children. They focus on improving safety in high movement areas along and/or across

busy roads. Projects in peripheral areas with less people movement and/or off-road recreational projects have been allocated a lower priority.

Ian Holmes, President of the Bangalow Progress Association (BPA) sees these plans as "a great opportunity for community engagement throughout Bangalow." He says "the PAMP and Bike plans are strongly aligned with our key priorities of linking the village and becoming a pedestrian friendly place. These plans will help us build momentum in these key areas."

To read the plans go to byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Footpaths-and-cycleways/PAMP and byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Footpaths-and-cycleways/Bike-Plan



Mullum Cares Sustainable Events team at the Mullum Music Fest in 2019 headed here by Emily Allen (front left). The festival is on track for a Zero Waste landfill result in 2020.

Building a circular economy

Once China banned the importation of Australia's waste in 2017, we had to find domestic solutions for the hundreds of thousands of tonnes of recyclable materials we formerly exported there each year. **Christobel Munson** reports.

Australia's waste industry saw China's decision as a trigger to take responsibility for our own waste, and to start to transition to a cleaner economy. Increasingly, waste is seen as part of a 'circular economy', which aims to eliminate waste by better understanding how it can be used as a resource.

A circular economy also relies on sharing, repair, refurbishment and recycling to minimise the creation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions. The concept has filtered down to councils and neighbourhoods throughout Australia, which has manifested in various ways. The Byron Shire Council has a number of initiatives in place.



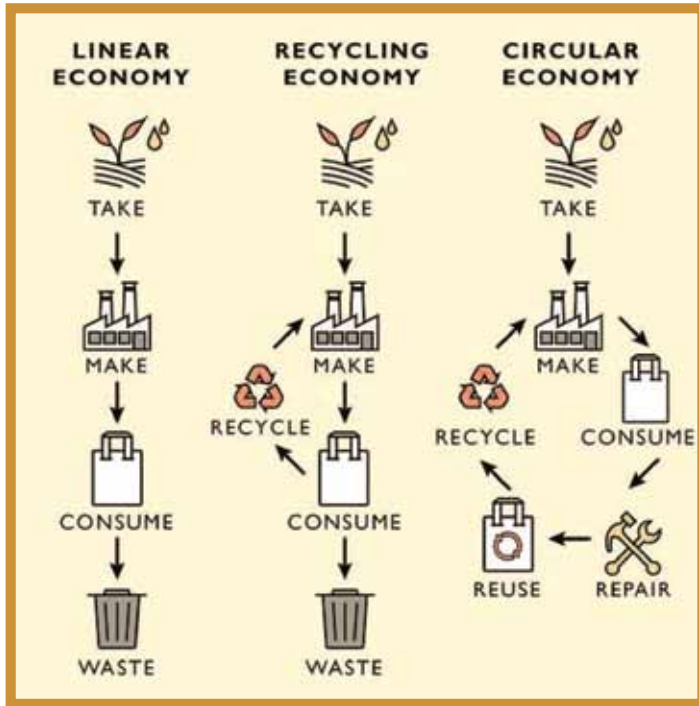


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Reducing the use of plastic

In the Byron Shire, plasticfreebyron.com initiated a program called Make the Switch, which aims to “reduce Byron’s plastic footprint using a source reduction approach”. The group engages directly with food outlets, events and markets, to help them switch from single-use plastics to better alternatives. This initiative focusses on six, single-use plastic items, which represent the most problematic and prolific sources of the litter stream: water bottles, cutlery, cups, plates, straws, coffee cups and lids, takeaway containers and plastic bags. plasticfreebyron.com

Repair

How about fixing up what’s broken rather than buying yet more products with inbuilt obsolescence? To do that, visit your nearest Repair Café. “Instead of throwing away a wobbly bike, wonky furniture or torn clothes, bring them to the Repair Cafe. We help you fix common household items in a community atmosphere, which conserves resources and helps the planet. It’s on every Saturday morning from 9am until 12pm. With Australia being in the unenviable position of having a very high per capita volume of waste, here is a chance to be involved with a free community initiative to repair and conserve while meeting others over a cuppa.” There’s a network of about 1500 Repair Cafés around the world, including one in Mullum. repaircafe.org/en/about/

Reduce food waste

Luckily, we live in a region which breeds creativity in many forms. A recent local invention to help with composting food waste is the Subpod, which is an “in-garden compost system that works with nature, using worms and microbes to compost organic waste without

the odours, vermin, mess and hard work of traditional composting.” It both disposes of organic waste and promotes the movement of worms and microbes to build soil fertility and plant health. See it in action at Habitat, or Spell and the Gypsy. Subpod.com

Car sharing

From 10 locations around the Shire, it’s now possible to hire a car for a matter of hours or days, as needed. Currently, there’s a 12-month pilot program underway to test the local market, with the nearest site at The Farm in Ewingsdale. Advantages? If you only need a car (or a second car) for a short time, or from time to time, this saves money and reduces your environmental footprint. It also helps reduce local emissions, as does the fact that the cars are Corolla Hybrids. Car sharing reduces traffic which reduces congestion. “All the convenience of owning a car, without the costs,” says the operator chosen for the pilot program. popcar.com.au

Borrowing not buying

Such an obvious and simple option for people wanting to buy less stuff is the Shire’s unique Library of Stuff, which gives members access to a wide range of items to borrow.

“Think hand tools, power tools, gardening gear, toys and games, waste free catering items and much more.” More items are frequently added, as you’ll see on their Facebook page. Open Fridays from 1-4pm and Saturdays from 9-12pm. Located in the Mullumbimby Scout Hall. libraryofstuff.org.au



Waste-free catering is possible if you rent utensils and cutlery.

Council plans

Byron Shire Council is currently digesting community feedback to their proposed new waste management and resource recovery strategy, which maps how locals can deal with waste for the next 10+ years. The strategy is comprehensive and deals with waste reduction, eliminating landfill, marketing recyclables, dealing with tourism-related waste, improving recovery of kerbside and bulky waste in innovative ways, and with reducing Council-generated waste. Optimising infrastructure and land use plans are also on the agenda, as is lobbying State and Federal Governments to “facilitate change in waste outcomes.”

If you’re interested in the detail, it’s worth reading the entire *To Zero Together* strategy. byron.nsw.gov.au



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New gallery offers a mix of the exotic and the homegrown

A tasteful hint of classical Japan emerged recently in the Bangalow hinterland in the colours, design and spirit of a new art gallery.

Blak Cube Gallery is the brainchild of Jo Immig, who envisaged it primarily as a space to exhibit the distinctive hand-made ceramic creations of her partner, Richard Jones.

Stained in Japan black, with a shoes-off Zen-like calm inside, the stylish building, a made-over old shed, opened quietly in the new year on the couple's property in Possum Creek. It sits amid 10,000 rainforest trees Jo and Richard have planted over the past two decades.

"I love the way the Japanese use black," Jo says. "They're not afraid of it and they mix it with nature and greenery and it looks fantastic."

The gallery will show Jo's photographic works alongside Richard's Rainforest Ceramics items, as well as art by a handful of locals, including Zimmi Forest, who uses fibres such as flax, Bangalow Inflorescence palm and feathers to construct unusual wall hangings, and painters Lysh Ashcroft, Rose McKinley, Martina Putz and Amelia Reid.

Jo learned her camera skills from her father, a professional photographer, who taught her how to use a camera in a fully manual mode, she says, "to understand the technicalities, how to use the light and manipulate the settings to get exactly what I want."

And what she increasingly wants is to move away from the representational, to "think in a more abstract, creative way, and to do this with



Jo Immig and friend at the Blak Cube Gallery.

Photo: Digby Hildreth

the camera", eschewing any computer trickery.

Her father also took her to Europe as a teen, opening her eyes to "all the masters in the art galleries" there. But it was travelling to Japan while a student in her 20s that she discovered her own aesthetic. It was "a life-changing experience", she says.

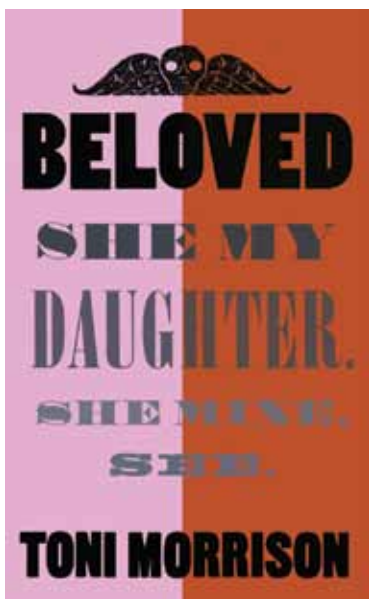
A return trip to Kyoto with Richard a couple of years ago inspired the Blak Cube idea.

"We went to this restaurant down a little

alleyway, with three stools, a funky atmosphere, jazz music and the most beautiful food, and I thought 'you can do so much in a small space, and concentrate an experience'."

An "experience" is what she is wanting Blak Cube to provide visitors, not just a place to buy things, but a rainforest adventure, a community experience, "where who knows what's going to evolve in terms of exhibitions and inspiration".

Digby Hildreth



Cover of Toni Morrison's recently re-released novel *Beloved*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize for Literature.

Beloved by Toni Morrison

The media response to the passing of Toni Morrison, who received a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993, gave me a desire to read *Beloved*, but I couldn't find a copy in Australia. Thankfully, it has recently been re-released.

There have only ever been two books, which, on reaching the end, I have wanted to return to the start and begin reading again. *Beloved* is one of those books. The experience of longing to return to the beginning of a novel is different from not wanting it to end; it's driven by a desire to experience the story and the writing a second time to discover the nuances I missed on a first pass.

Beloved is a very sad story with many characters whose various tales are told throughout and who have all overlapped at some point with the main protagonist, Sethe, who lives at the house known as 124.

The novel starts with the house, which is a

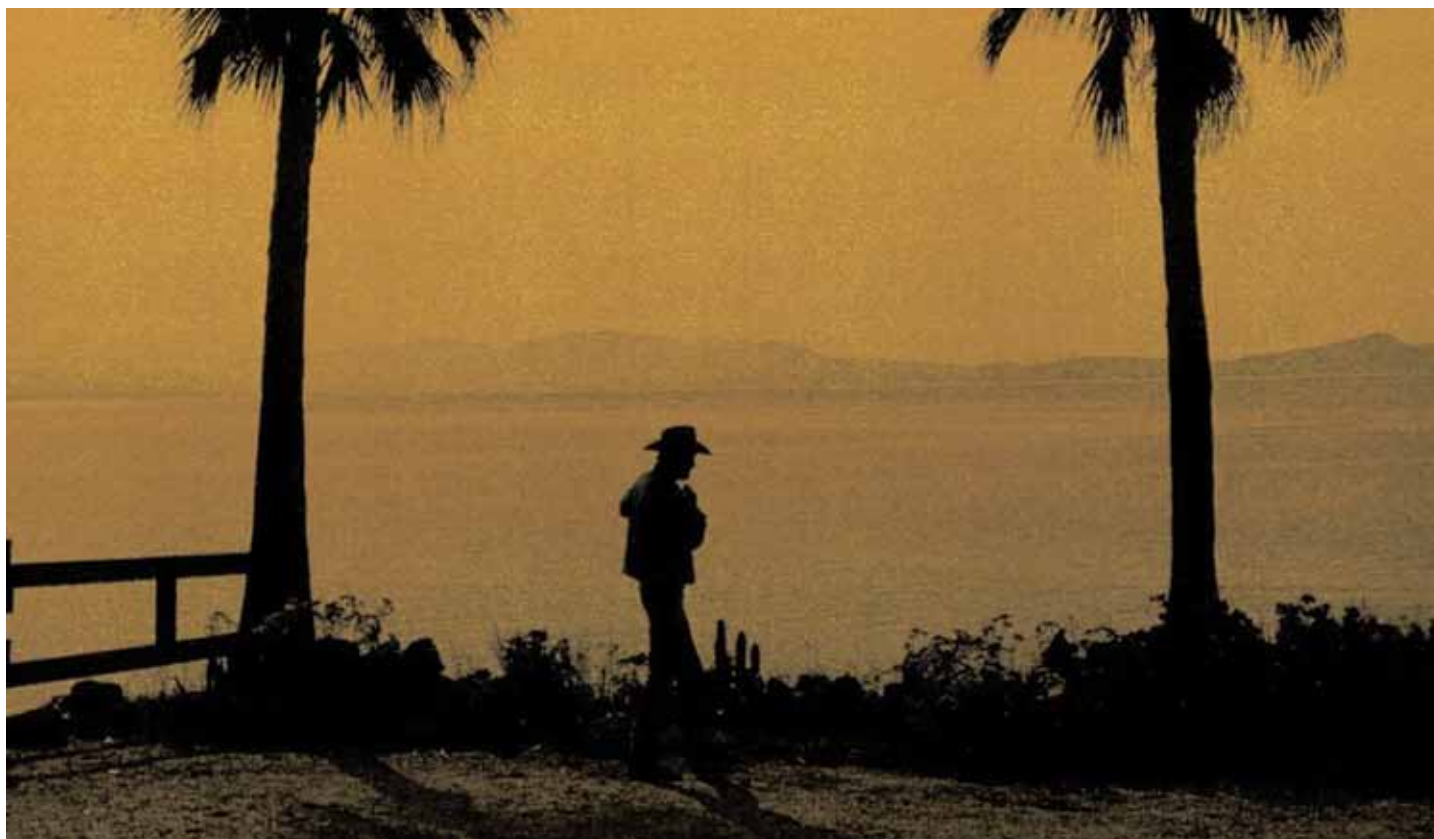
central character of the narrative: "124 was spiteful. Full of baby's venom. The women in the house knew it and so did the children."

The story begins in 1873 where the inhabitants of 124 are Sethe, her daughter Denver, and the ghosts of the past, including the ghost of Sethe's baby daughter who was murdered by her mother. When Paul D arrives on the doorstep, the women are no longer indentured slaves and his arrival heralds a time of peace and change. From that point on, the book moves between the past and the present because Paul D is linked to Sethe from a time before the ghosts.

No sooner has Paul D settled in when a dishevelled girl who calls herself Beloved arrives at 124. Whilst Sethe and daughter Denver are immediately enamoured with Beloved, Paul D believes she is evil but is unable to convince Sethe that she needs to go.

In a nutshell, this is a story about good and evil. I loved it!

Carolyn Adams



Tim Hill Photo: Matt Correia

Payador by Tim Hill

Awake. Steady rain. Yesterday's coffee idling in the percolator. A half packet of cigarettes on the table. Droplets gather and run down the pane like a Californian coastline in search of the Sierra.

Perhaps this is how Tim Hill came to pen his debut LP, *Payador*.

Having been a touring keyboardist with Curtis Harding and Allah Las, Hill is no stranger to music with an air of resurgence that forges bygone notes onto modern parchments. This becomes bleedin'ly apparent as the chord progression of *Loving Spoons* circulates in almost direct parallels to the famous Dylan and Cash duet, while a warbling harmonica suffuses the walking beat.

Hill's lyrical compass navigates the border of tactful, moreish hooks and evocative anecdotal wordplay which is most typified in *Bitter Drip*, where between a playful rhythm and tales of a lost lover he repeatedly

petitions: "Need a little help, need a little help from you."

As well as playing all the instruments, the album is written, produced and recorded by Hill on a Tascam 246 cassette four-track recorder. There is a certain louche, analogue quality to the record that complements its raw and personal nature. As the A Side approaches the end, the instrumental title track begins with weeping slide guitar, harping the narrative of a rustling breeze as it blows searchingly along the shore. In the rapture of its final note, Hill, accompanied by his touring compadres Mapache, covers a single chorus of George Harrison's 'Far East Man'.

L.A.'s on the Run is a commentary on the gentrification and cultural distortion of the modern world, similar in theme to Joan Didion's essays on California in the 70s. The guitar breakdown echoes Chris Isaak's *South of the Border*, while a Van Zandt-esque melody

narrates Hill's mournful acceptance of the fact that his home is a place that no longer piques his pride: "It's time to leave, you've gone and had your fun."

The second half of the album runs with a hazy, headlong motion, mapping the reaches of a blistering backroad as it disappears beneath the bumper of a dust-bitten Ford Ranchero. Paris, Texas (inspired by the 1984 film of the same name) sells a story of ache, a harmonica and steady rhythm painting the American west ribboned in neon and tar. The film, scored by the great Ry Cooder, lends itself neatly to the stroke of Hill's brush as he embodies the protagonist and paints a noir landscape with a laconic, familiar melancholy.

Trickling finally through choral echoes of mariachis and long shadows of Americana, *Payador* tips its Stetson to the revival of alternative country, in all its putative sentimentality.

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GARDENING



Achmea blanchetiana or Blanchet's bromeliad

Photo: Carole Gamble

The Big Orange

Originally from Brazil, bromeliads are part of a huge and ancient group of plants distantly related to grasses. Some are epiphytes, and many, like *Achmea blanchetiana* - aka The Big Orange -, have a unique specialisation whereby photosynthesis occurs in the dark. They absorb nutrients from water that collects within the "tank" formed between the large leathery leaves. Small invertebrates and insects in this water add to the nutrients available, especially nitrogen. Leaves falling into the receptacles from trees also provide nutrients, so they shouldn't be cleaned out.

Water in these receptacles is important too, and during our recent dry period many bromeliads retained adequate moisture and thrived in the hot conditions. They prefer dry soil and waterlogged ground will cause the plant body to rot. The salt tolerant Big Orange is unable to absorb nutrients from the soil so doesn't require fertilising.

The orange and red hues become brighter in full sunlight. In the shade, they are greener and more subdued.

Each mature plant produces a long stem

with yellow and red bracts, or modified leaves, which contain small florets, which, if pollinated, produce small purplish seeds. These can be propagated but are slow and require specialist handling. Most people and many nurseries remove the offsets, or pups, that are produced after flowering. This is done with a sharp knife when the offsets are about a third the size of the 'mother', which dies after flowering.

I have a large number of these spectacular plants that are the offspring of a mother plant given to me by a good friend many years ago.

They are wonderful feature plants and easy to grow in either a well-drained garden or a very large pot. Good air circulation helps them look their best and also stops sunburn. Some protection from strong winds prevents the tips of the leaves burning. They need room, as they grow to a metre wide and a metre high and have vicious spines on the edges of the leaves.

The Big Orange bromeliad is available from specialist nurseries and friend's gardens.

Carole Gamble

Mango and Banana Ice Cream

Illustration: Lyn Hand

The recent spell of hot, dry weather in spring had at least one benefit: lots of local mangoes. Growers experienced an early spring which has encouraged heavy flowering in September.

With no storms, flowers and young fruit have mostly remained undamaged. As the fruit matures, the dry weather also worked to keep insects and fungus at bay.

Mangoes freeze well. They can be added to smoothies or made into

chutneys and jam. Add to chicken or prawn salads in the form of salsa or make mango ice cream using the recipe below.

We still have many hot days ahead, and this is ice-cold treat is easy to make.

Ingredients

- 3 large mangoes
- 1 banana
- 1 cup almond milk (or any milk of your own choice or you can use yoghurt)
- Pinch of salt

Method

Cut mangoes and banana in chunks

and freeze in a single layer overnight. Place fruit in food processor and blend. Add milk and pinch of salt. Process until a soft-serve consistency. Eat immediately or freeze until firmer.

I have made this with coconut milk and can vouch that mango and coconut complement each other wonderfully.

If you must, sweeten to your own taste, but I don't think it's necessary here. It's all about the mangoes! Sprinkle with toasted almonds or coconut flakes and some blueberries.

What a treat!

Thanks to Brian Sundstrom (Farm Auditor for Northern Rivers Farmer's Markets) for the mango growing information.

Lyn Hand

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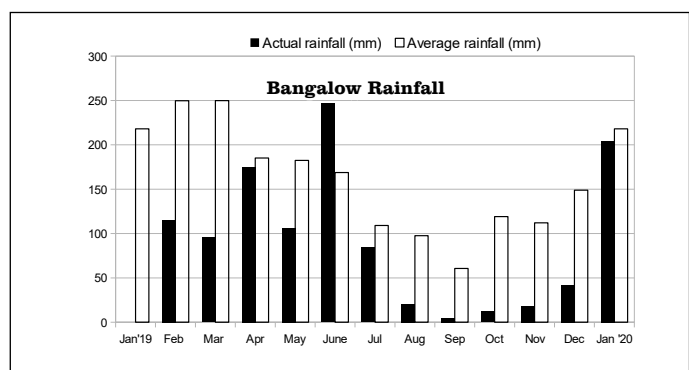
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ADFAS	John	0438 778 055
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Bridge	Dennis	6687 1574
Chamber of Commerce		admin@bangalow.biz
Community Children's Centre	Kerry	6687 1552
Co-dependents Anonymous	Gye	0421 583 321
CWA (Wed)	Janene	6685 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	Dave	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	Anne	6687 1033
Sport		
Bowls men (1pm Wed & Sat)	Gerry	6687 1142
Bowls women (9.30am Wed)	Frances	6687 1339
Cricket	Anthony	0429 306 529
Netball (3.30pm Wed)	Ellie	0429 855 399
Rugby Union (Rebels)	Dave	0412 080 614
Soccer (Blue dogs)		0434 559 700
Tennis court hire	Bernie	0433 970 800
Venues		
A&I Hall	Brian	0427 157 565
All Souls' Anglican Hall		0488 561 539
Bowling Club	Chris	6687 2741
Coorabell Hall	Ouida	6687 1307
Heritage House		6687 2183
Moller Pavilion		6687 1035
Newrybar Hall	Katrina	0410 975 572
RSL Hall	Charlotte	6687 2828
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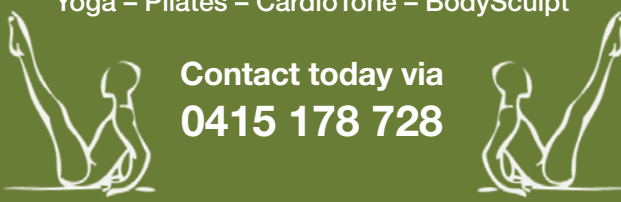
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Photo by Harishan Kobalasingam

Eco-anxiety a growing concern

In September last year, more than a million people joined in a worldwide, youth-led climate strike in over 1,000 locations. Extreme weather events are happening more frequently, and the resulting media attention is raising awareness.

Along with this added awareness of the issues involved comes an increase in anxiety. Eco-anxiety is described as a

chronic fear of environmental doom, a relatively new phenomenon with no formal diagnosis and no supporting statistics at this stage. A recent study from Finland points out that it is not a disease, but an appropriate reaction to the magnitude of environmental problems. It is only when our concerns become overwhelming to the point where we feel

hopeless and depressed that we may need to seek help to develop coping strategies.

Neil McKenzie, an ethics teacher at Bangalow Public School, with many years' teaching experience, says: "I can see the beginnings of it in my ethics classes. These kids know what's happening and some are beginning to become anxious and depressed. I think we should discuss this openly with them, beginning in primary school, but not rob them of any hope for the future otherwise we will have an epidemic of despair."

Local psychologist, Cate Hearn, points out that children and young people may be at risk because they have little direct control over their environment. When asked if there was an age group that is most vulnerable, Cate explains: "It is not so much a particular age or gender who are more likely to be affected, but rather those who live in locations that are most susceptible. Children or young people with existing anxiety or mood disturbances, or with genetic vulnerabilities to these conditions, are also more at risk."

Cate encourages parents to help their kids "become more resilient to the effects of climate anxiety by modelling appropriate thinking and coping strategies." She suggests

meaning-focussed coping - engaging in environmentally focussed activities with kids such as recycling, composting, gardening, walking and helping them learn to love the natural world. She recommends that if "... children or young people talk a lot about their concerns with the environment, or in other ways show that they are distressed by it, and this seems to be affecting their mood, sleep or ability to cope, they should seek professional help."

Gus Bohn, from Year 6 at Bangalow Public School, describes some current projects at school that aim to make the world a better place. "There is a well-established vegetable garden, a composting system and chickens. We see a sustainability teacher once a week and are engaged in a group project about the fires." Class teacher Jarrad Maxwell explains that this is part of a geography topic, Natural Disasters. They have read several books from Jackie French's series *The Natural Disaster Picture Books*, and personal accounts of the recent fires. The children also watch *Behind the News* (BTN) to get a media perspective. Gus has plenty to say on the matter and wonders why, if they can't recycle plastic, do they still make things from it?

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I See You

When Sun 1 March, 8.30am-5.30pm

Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground

Contact Facebook@tinyurl.com/se5b5pm

A women's event with goals of empowerment and healing. Program includes tasters from local businesses, Chi Gung Yoga, Kundalini Yoga, panel discussions on 'The Rise of She' and dancing to end the day. Tickets \$25 pre-sale or \$30 cash at the door. Complimentary pamper and healing session. Bring something for the clothing swap.

ADFAS New Horizons

When Mon 2 March, 6pm

Where A&I Hall, Bangalow

Information adfas.org.au or Facebook@ADFASByronBay

Paul Atterbury, a presenter on BBC's Antiques Roadshow, examines artworks that document the social and economic experience of mass immigration from the United Kingdom during the reign of Queen Victoria. Doors open at 6pm for a welcome drink, with a light supper afterwards. Non-members welcome, tickets are \$25.

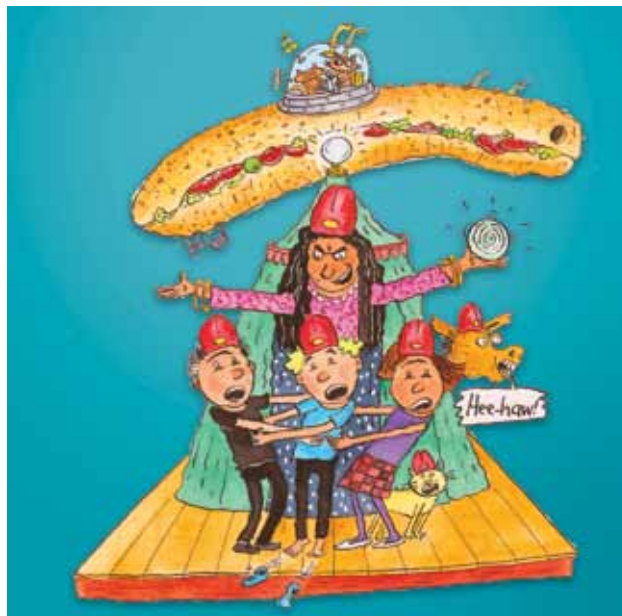
Bangalow Garden Club

When Wed 4 March, 1.30pm

Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showgrounds

Contact Annie 0417636011 or abbinkanne48@gmail.com

This month's talk, 'Join the no dig revolution' focuses on how better soil can produce less weeding. Members, please arrive at 1.00pm for registration and bring a mug for afternoon tea. John Astil will open his garden at The Pocket on Saturday 7 March. Details will be available at the meeting.



Fun for the kids.

NORPA The 91 Storey Treehouse

When Thurs 5 March, 5pm and 7pm

Where Lismore City Hall

Tickets \$20-\$38 at norpa.org.au/buy/the-91-storey-treehouse/

The team behind the 13-, 26-, 52- and 78-Storey Treehouses Live on Stage return to explore Andy and Terry's 91 Storey Treehouse. With a deserted island, a whirlpool and a giant spider, it's a dangerous place to be! For children 6-12 years and their adults.

Junior Rugby Muster and BBQ

When Fri 6 March, 5-7pm

Where Schultz Oval, Bangalow

Information bangalowrugby.com or Facebook@BangalowRugby

Come and meet the coaches and crew for the start of the 2020 season of The Bangalow Rebels' Junior Rugby. Registrations are open and can be completed online via the RugbyXplorer App (just follow the prompts to the club and age group). Active Kids Vouchers of \$100 are available from Services NSW and can be applied for during the payment process.

Shire Choir Bangalow

When Thurs 5 March, 7pm

Where Bangalow Hotel

Tickets shirechoir.eventbrite.com \$12 + booking fee

Learn a pop/rock song in parts,

and then sing your heart out, as one. It's dark, you can have a drink, and no experience is required. Bring your smile and your singing shoes.

Newrybar Hall Pizza Night

When Fri 6 March, from 5pm

Where Newrybar Hall

Contact info@newrybarhall.com

Pizza, natural wine and live music in a beautiful country hall setting. Entry is free.

Bangalow Progress Association General Meeting

When Wed 18 March, 7pm

Where Heritage House, Deacon St Bangalow

Contact Ian 0414 959 936

The BPA's first quarterly general meeting for 2020 will include an update on development

and infrastructure activities in Bangalow. As we move to the implementation phase of the Bangalow Village Plan there is a real opportunity for broad community engagement to facilitate project delivery. All BPA members and Bangalow residents welcome.

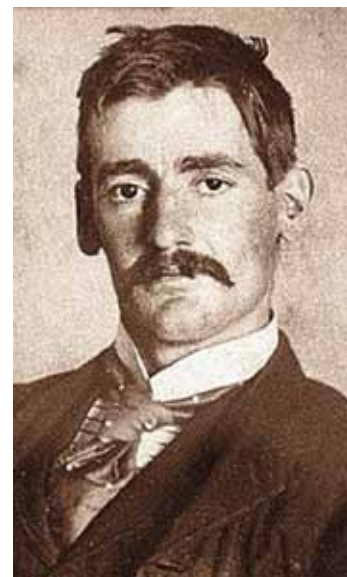
An Ode to the Celts - supper and show

When Sat 28 March, 7pm

Where Newrybar Hall

Tickets shirechoir.eventbrite.com

Following on from the sold-out success of the Georgian Supra event, come and enjoy stories, songs, and dance that showcase the charm and customs of the Celts. A unique and magical night featuring a communal supper. Veg and GF options. Children \$20 Concession \$30 Adults \$45 + booking fee.



ADFAS Henry Lawson - Australia's most famous writer

When Mon 30 March, 6pm

Where A&I Hall, Bangalow

Information adfas.org.au or Facebook@ADFASByronBay

Few writers have captured our imagination as has Henry Lawson. His tragic personal life contrasts with his literary achievements. Presenter Paul Brunton was senior curator of the Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW until 2012. Doors open at 6pm for a welcome drink, with a light supper afterwards.

Non-members welcome, tickets are \$25.



Concert pianist Piers Lane.

Photo: QSO

Byron Music Society launch & concert

When Sun 29 March, 2pm launch, 3pm concert

Where Byron Community Theatre, 69 Jonson St, Byron Bay

Tickets Free launch. Piers Lane concert \$40 general admission, \$35 BMS members. byroncentre.com.au

Information admin@byronmusicsociety.com

The Byron Music Society launches its 2020 season before the performance by concert pianist Piers Lane. Snacks and a glass of bubbly provided. Piers Lane is an Australian classical pianist whose performance career has taken him to more than 40 countries. His concert repertoire exceeds 75 works. Sure to delight.

March diary

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5 The 91 Storey Treehouse; Shire Choir

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Deadlines for April 2020 issue:

What's On 11 March

Advertising 13 March

Copy Monday 13 March

Your Local Agent

Peter Yopp

0411 837 330

pyopp.byronbay@ljh.com.au



LJ Hooker



Tim Jung, head chef and owner of Bang BurgerBar

Thai fires and Bang burgers

In 2008, Tim Jung, owner and head chef of Bang BurgerBar was out of a job after The Urban burnt down. (As he reminds me, I was the last chef in the joint that night and the Bangalow fires had some questions for me the next day. I avoided jail time after their investigation revealed faulty wiring in the roof led to the blaze. But more on the fire later.)

Tim started as an apprentice chef at Figtree with Jules and Charlie Devlin after finishing high school at Richmond River. He spent his teenage years growing up on his parents' macadamia farm in Dorrroughby, which he describes as idyllic.

After a couple of years at Figtree, he did a four-year stint at The Rails, spent time at Mango Jam, which morphed into The Balcony, and broadened his skills at a bunch of other local cafés and restaurants before moving to Bangalow.

The vast majority of chefs has a resume like Tim's. It involves cooking at places that aim to please the majority of people most of the time. Fine dining isn't for everyone, and nor should it be, which is not to say that Figtree didn't teach

him some skills that show up in the details at Bang BurgerBar. Tim and his sous chef Ethan Sidoti prepare all the sauces that accompany the burgers in-house, which are served on sourdough buns from Sol Breads.

Bang BurgerBar was started by Sandy Harding. She employed head chef Shane Olive and along with Tim, the three of them dreamed up a place that locals would love to visit regularly. It has been consistently busy since it opened, feeding young families, local tradies and tourists.

When Tim became a father, he knew he wanted to own his own business rather than continue working as a fulltime chef, so he negotiated buying the business from Sandy.

That was 12 months ago, and Tim has put a lot of effort into training his young team of kitchenhands and cooks to understand how he wants things down. A bunch of local kids has started their working life at Bang BurgerBar over the last nine years, and training them to do things properly – and what it means to work – is something Tim takes pride in. "I start them on the dishwasher, and when they know how that

Apology

In last month's Epicure column about Karl and Katrina Kanetani from Town Café and Restaurant, I reprinted some comments from TripAdvisor that caused unnecessary hurt and embarrassment to Katrina. I apologise for that. I would also like readers to know I have spoken with Katrina about this matter and offered her my apology in person.

works and the importance of hygiene, I teach them how to prep different ingredients, make coffee, and eventually do customer service. The shy kids are the hardest, but if they want the job they have to push themselves. They all get sick of washing dishes though, so most of them learn how to smile at customers and hold a conversation."

On the night of the fire in 2008, which shut down the main street of Bangalow most of the next day, I was working alone. I was studying at the time and doing a few shifts a week, preparing food for service the next day. I had no idea the restaurant had been razed until I tried driving through town the next day and had to take a detour. It wasn't long before the phone started ringing. The Urban, which became Bang Thai at night, was a busy place. A lot of people lost their job that day, and Georgina Sangster lost two businesses.

After the summer of bushfires we've had in Australia, many small businesses are struggling. They are the engine room of our economy and lend our villages and towns vital resources and character. It's up to each of us to shop locally and keep our regional areas strong.

Score: all the classics with a twist.

Jim Hearn



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A charming Bangalow family home ticking all the boxes!

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ENQUIRIES - Trent Stana 0447 301 660 or Mary O'Connor 0418 462 849

Bangalow Real Estate
& Byron Hinterland Properties