

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE April 2020

Minding their own business



Dave Fligelman Tyr Group, Ishwin Thind cmpartners, Karla Conroy Karla Conroy Photography, Neil Hendriks CMJ Legal. Photo: Karla Conroy

Entrepreneur central

According to a recent report, Bangalow has the second highest concentration of small business owner managers in Australia. **Jenny Bird** investigates the enterprising hum that drives the local economy.

It might seem unlikely, but two small villages, Bangalow and Flinders (on the coast of the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria), have been identified as the top two entrepreneurial hotspots in Australia.

The *Xero Boss Insights 2020 report*, authored by well-known social demographer Bernard Salt, analysed five data sets from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for 2006-2018. The report found that 1,099 people in Bangalow work in their own business, either as sole traders or with employees. At 37 per cent of the local workforce, that is more than twice

the national average (17 per cent). Flinders just pipped Bangalow at the post with 38 per cent, giving it top spot.

Salt attributes the success of Bangalow and Flinders to a convergence of fertile soil, a busy agricultural industry, tourism and lifestyle opportunities for "midlifepreneurs" moving in and setting up small businesses. "...it is in these idyllic settings that Australia's twin lifestyle obsessions, the beach and the bush (sea-change and tree-change), come together".

(continued page 4)

From the editor

It won't come as a surprise to many readers that Bangalow is an entrepreneurial hotspot. Highly skilled people move to the area to enjoy a quality of life that big cities can't offer. To make the move work, new arrivals have to apply their talents and skills in new ways, and in the process, help change the demographics and landscape of the region. As our cover story by Jenny Bird makes clear, clever people with sufficient resources and ambition are doing that throughout 2479, and we are all the richer for it.

At the time of writing, COVID-19 has had a range of impacts on the Northern Rivers. Southern Cross University closed its Lismore and Gold Coast campuses for a day after an academic tested positive for the virus, school camps have been postponed and sporting events cancelled. No doubt there will be many other effects as the weeks and months pass. The World Health Organisation labelling the virus a pandemic has had implications for stock market valuations and the movement of people the world over. At the time of writing, there is a genuine sense of uncertainty about how things will play out on both a local and global scale. Despite this, people in the region appear to be going about their business with a sense of cautious optimism, while taking sensible precautions.

One thing I've noticed myself doing more of since coronavirus crept into our lives, is reading. I encourage others to do the same. It's often the case that we don't feel we have time to read, but relaxing with a novel or non-fiction title is one of life's great pleasures. If you've lost touch with that pleasure, I encourage you to buy a book and rekindle it. There are certainly worse ways to spend some time avoiding the possibilities of contagion.

Cooking and gardening are other great pastimes we can do alone or at home with family. As are listening to music and playing boardgames or solving puzzles. Each of those things is reported on in *The Herald* this month, as they are every month, and I thought I'd close the April 2020 editorial by thanking the many volunteers who contribute their time, effort and energy to make *The Bangalow Herald* possible. We might not get it right all the time, but I trust you'll find something to relate to in this month's publication.

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SPOTLIGHT

New Amenities Block for Eureka

Eureka Recreation Reserve has a new change room and toilets, funded jointly by a NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund grant and the Eureka and Districts Sports Club.

As the last remaining sports ground in the Far North Coast zone without one, the opening of an amenities block at the Eureka Recreation Reserve was cause for celebration.

"This has been a long time coming and we are delighted with the result", says Club secretary Kate Pearce.

The project was made possible with the successful grant application and the long-term commitment and dedication of the broader community.

Club president Simon Pearce, who is also a carpenter, was instrumental in working with Council to prepare the grant application, finalise designs and oversee the project's completion.

"This is a great example of local people, my community, working

with Council to find a solution to a problem", said Byron Shire Mayor Simon Richardson. The Mayor was joined by the Hon. Ben Franklin, the Club's committee, and members of the community to declare the amenities block open on 29 February 2020.

The Club previously had an arrangement with the Eureka Public School to use their toilet facilities, but this presented challenges.

"The toilets were some distance from the fields which was difficult for young families," says Kate. She also notes the importance of proper change rooms to encourage female participation.

Club member Paul Robinson notes that players often changed in their cars and showered at home. "The new amenities block is better for players, spectators and the school", he says.

The new facility also features two murals by Eltham resident, Lara Pisarek. Lara completed her Higher School Certificate last year at Trinity Catholic College where she was the recipient of the Principal's Choice Art Award.

At the official opening ceremony, Mr Franklin said the new amenities block is a great example of the type of community facilities being delivered by the NSW Government's \$400 million Stronger Country Communities Fund.

This is a government funded sports project on the nose for the right reasons!

Rebecca Sargeant



The Hon. Ben Franklin (right) and President of Eureka and District Sports Club Simon Pearce.

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What's happening in Charlotte Street?

Take a stroll down Charlotte Street in Bangalow's Meadows Estate towards the children's playground, and you will see eight, nearly complete, double-storied duplexes that have been sitting forlornly awaiting completion since last November. **Murray Hand** explores the mystery.

Here are huge buildings with gaping open garages strewn with builder's detritus. Grass is growing tall. Skip bins are overflowing, awaiting collection. On another block, the skeletal framework of another double-storey home appears to be slowly weathering in the elements. All have the name of the same builder: Jimboomba Commercial Constructions Pty Ltd.

What is going on? Why are these buildings being built in a new housing estate largely occupied by families who have installed old Queenslanders or modern, imaginative dwellings? Why has work stopped on all of them and why have they been left open and abandoned?

The story starts back a couple of years ago on a warm Saturday afternoon under

a large marquee where the playground now stands. The blocks in the last stage of the Meadows Estate are to be auctioned. There is a good turn up of hopeful bidders wanting to buy a piece of Bangalow turf on which to build a family home. As the afternoon progresses, more and more of these aspirants' dreams are broken by a mystery bidder who forces the price of blocks beyond the budget of many. It is apparent that an investor is making a move on this piece of Bangalow. There are tears and perhaps even broken hearts but that's the way it unfolds.

Development approvals are granted by Byron Shire Council. Work starts on nine duplexes. The reaction of neighbours to these out of character buildings is one of disgust and disappointment, but what can you do? The original builder disappears and then another comes along with workers from Brisbane, so locals are not employed. Then last November all goes quiet. The duplexes appear to be at lock-up stage but most lack garage doors so remain open to anyone who wants to wander in.

The neighbours wonder what is going on but there is no work and no word. Jimboomba Commercial Constructions is placed in liquidation on February 20 and its Queensland builder's licence is cancelled soon after.

The purchasers are stranded, waiting for certification of the current state of the buildings so that new builders can be brought in to finish their homes as no builder will touch them until given the all clear.

It is a frustrating process and currently one that is not showing any signs of being resolved.

Meanwhile, the grass continues to grow, the rain comes in and locals use the skip bins to get rid of junk, which is probably the only positive to this saga, though not for the owners of the bins who can't remove them until they are paid.



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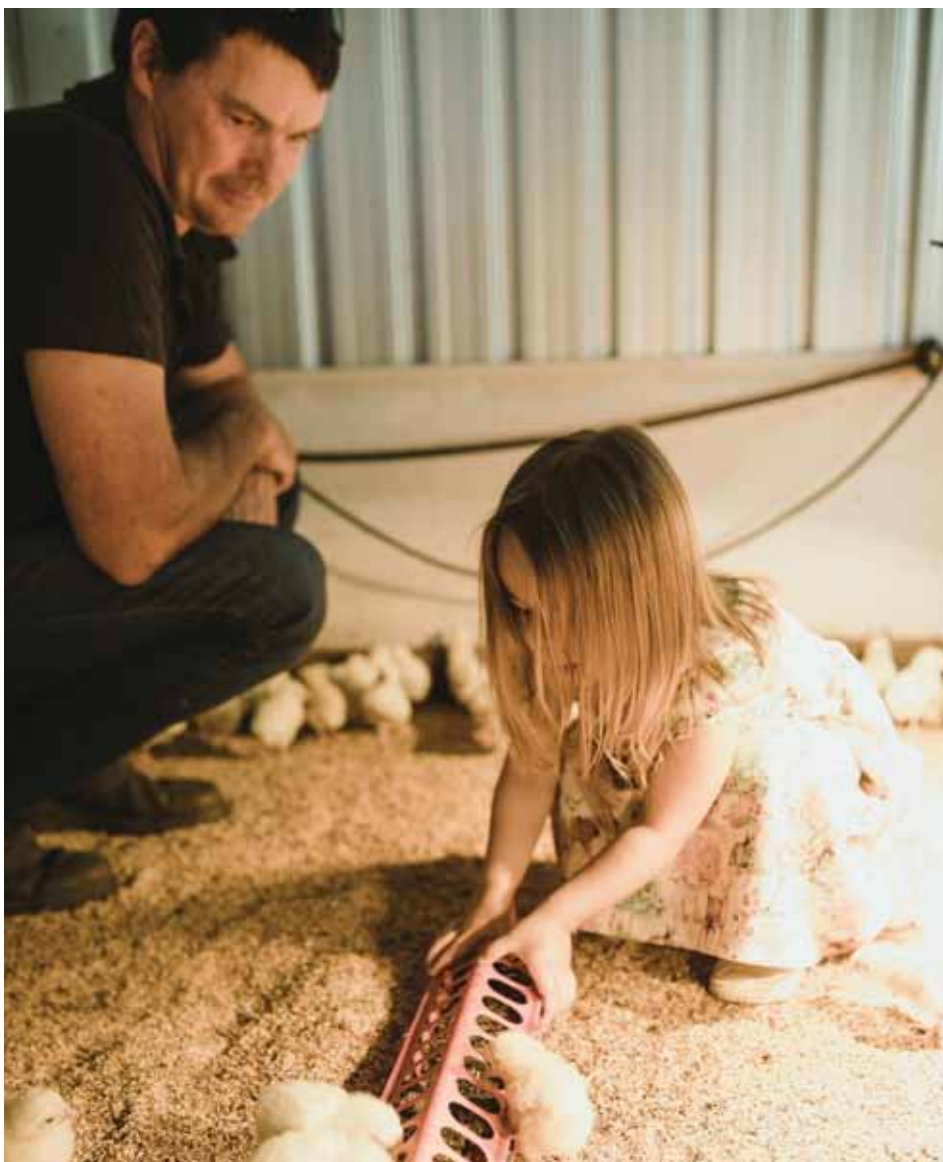
(from page 1)

Both villages have intact Federation main streets with shops and cafes that provide important and visible branding for their local economies. But in both cases the majority of local business activity lies in a diversity of other industries.

Top of the list in Bangalow is an agricultural industry busy reinventing itself from the traditional family farm, where “nimble new entrants are finding niche markets into which they deliver high-demand agribusiness products”.

The very nimble Georgina Goddard and Morgwn Wilkie created Brooklet Springs Farm in 2016 thinking they would be market gardeners. “We quickly realised that the local market was already flooded with vegetables,” says Georgina. “One day we bought 30 chickens as an experiment. We pasture-raised them using organic inputs, took them to a local farmers market and sold out.” Four years later their business is the largest pasture-raised organic chicken producer in Australia, raising 900 chickens every fortnight using regenerative farming methods.

Second on the list, tucked away in offices, home offices, garages and studios are 149 small business owners who offer



Morgwn Wilkie and his daughter at their chicken farm.

Photo: Tyler Mullins

Koala Sightings

Bangalow Koalas are mapping sightings of our koala population in Bangalow and beyond and would love your help. The information we would like to know is:

- **Where** – Seen or heard (if heard then general location is fine)
- **When** – Date and time
- **General observations** – Healthy or sick looking, was it tagged (left ear – male, right ear – female), male or female (if known), did it have a joey with them (if known)?

Please send your information and any photos to:

Linda Sparrow at twodogsmedia@optusnet.com.au or call her on 0411 491 991.

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Bangalow's top five industries for small businesses 2018

1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	184
2. Professional, scientific and technical services	149
3. Construction	138
4. Rental, hiring and real estate services	103
5. Health care and social assistance	87

professional, scientific and technical services – accountants, ecologists, town planners, engineers, IT people, media, and so on.

Environmental engineer Dave Fligelman has run his business Tyr Group out of Bangalow for 12 years and employs six people. Tyr Group designs and plan wastewater and recycled water treatment plants up and down the east coast of Australia. "We have designed and planned wastewater treatment plants for well over one million Australians," says Dave.

With high levels of residential development in Bangalow over the last 20 years, it comes as no surprise that the construction industry rates high on the list. And with Bangalow recently pushing Byron Bay off the top spot for popular real estate, it is clear that hinterland real estate services are strong. Bangalow is also seeing a growing concentration of generalist and specialist health services that have made it a health

destination in the Shire.

Georgina, Morgwn and Dave are all midlifepreneurs – people who "create businesses to fit in with their stage and time in the life cycle". They all took a risk and succeeded at what the report describes as "the art of the pivot". Georgina and Morgwn left stressful careers (one a builder, the other an architect) to start their farm. "We had a baby and bought a farm in the same month," laughs Georgina. "We chose to change our lifestyle to fit in with our children". Dave started his business in Brisbane, "but when we had kids we decided to move to Byron Shire and give it a go. We chose to set up office in Bangalow because there was a hustle and bustle about the town. It has a small centre with a country town feel and has everything we need – a post office, a newsagent, places for lunch," says Dave. "It's played out really well."

Typically in their 40s, midlifepreneurs are

in the engine room of the local economy.

Georgina, Morgwn and Dave have created businesses that are growing, resilient, and creating employment for others.

The "Bangalow brand" relies heavily on food and retail, yet locally and nationally, the retail sector is struggling to reply to external pressures beyond its control. The diversity of industries thriving in Bangalow augers well for longevity and sustainability. The current corona virus pandemic highlights the dangers of relying too heavily on any one industry, especially tourism.

Local accountant Ishwin Thind from cmpartners believes that Bangalow has all the ingredients to become "a business and allied health hub". "If we were to re-brand Bangalow by highlighting our existing strengths, we could reinvigorate the retail core of Bangalow with people visiting for professional and health services, then having coffee, lunch and a spot of shopping."

 tamarasmith.org.au

Image credit: David Yarrow

**"Koalas are under fire –
let's act now to save this
iconic species."**

TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA

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Authorised by Tamara Smith Member for Ballina. Produced using parliamentary entitlements.

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**THE
GREENS**



Enjoy a scone when you visit the library.

Photo: Lisa Peacock



Op Shop is happy to take books. Photo: Lisa Peacock

Scones and books on a Saturday

Saturday morning trips to the library have taken on a new dimension now that the Richmond Tweed Regional Library's mobile van has moved to Deacon Street. Relocating a couple of months ago from its former location outside the primary school, the Mobile Library is now parked outside Bangalow Heritage House Museum & Café from 9.30–11.30am every Saturday morning. It presents a great opportunity for residents of all ages to browse the library's resources, choose a new book and enjoy the culinary delights of the café. Homemade scones straight from the oven, cakes, smoothies and milkshakes are all on offer. The coffee machine is ready to take orders and you can relax in the beautiful garden

at the tables provided while the young ones play. Heritage House Museum & Café changed its opening hours to accommodate the library's move and is enjoying meeting new visitors, especially the school children who can't usually visit during its weekday opening hours. In addition to its weekday opening hours Heritage House Museum & Café is open on Saturday from 9am–12 noon.

Op Shop accepting books

The Bangalow Anglican Op Shop in Ashton Street is once again accepting books as donations. This follows a short hiatus when the shop had to halt donations as it did not have the space to display or store the quantity of books it was receiving. Open Monday to Friday 10am–3pm and Sat 9am–12.30pm.

RSL receives grant to help with research

Bangalow RSL Sub-Branch has been awarded \$5,300 in federal government funding under the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program. Successful recipients were announced by local MP Justine Elliot in late February, with the grants program designed to help preserve Australia's wartime heritage and involve people in projects and activities that highlight the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel. The Bangalow RSL will put its funding toward research for a new World War II honour board as well as the restoration of its World War I marble memorial plaque. The research task is not a simple one and is already well underway. It involves the preparation of a District Honour

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Vietnam veterans with Justine Elliot MP at the existing WWI honour roll.

Roll, with the aim of unearthing as many photos, memories and names of local men and women who died or were POWs in World War II. All known resources at historical groups and school halls will need checking, and there are many conversations to be had with the older members of our community. The RSL is calling on locals to come forward if they can assist with information to help identify candidates who should be included. Contact Col Draper on 0408 440 243 or belongilswamp@gmail.com or talk to any member of the Bangalow RSL or the Bangalow Historical Society.

Bangalow black belt heads to Worlds

Local karate champion Tahlia Potter is about to take on the world. She has

been selected in the Australian team to compete at the 4th ISKF (International Shotokan Karate Federation) World Shoto Cup in London, 20-23 August this year. Twenty-year-old Tahlia has been participating in the sport since she was eight years old and is no stranger to success. She won the Junior World Cup Championship in South Africa in 2016 and, with black belt level status, competes regularly in local, state and national events. Her Australian team selection is based on performance, motivation and competition. Tahlia is excited about her selection in the team and says, "I'm most looking forward to representing Australia, visiting new places and making new friends." Tahlia trains in Traditional Shotokan Karate Federation (TSKF) two nights a week at



Karate black belt champion, Tahlia Potter.

Photo: Deb Russo

the Bangalow School Hall and has trained in Japan, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia with high level senseis (karate teachers). When not training Tahlia works at the Bangalow Hotel, so if you see her across the bar don't hesitate to wish her good luck.

Lisa Peacock

BREAKING NEWS:

While correct at the time of writing, the Richmond Tweed Regional Library mobile van, and Bangalow Heritage House, are currently closed due to restrictions brought about by the coronavirus.

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John Berger

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, a number of upcoming performances in the 2020 NORPA Season have been cancelled or postponed.

In these uncertain times, being able to look to the arts feels more important than ever. If you're a subscriber or you have a ticket to an upcoming performance and you're able — please consider a gift voucher or donation rather than a refund.

We may need to be physically distant for now, but we'll be continuing to create and make work that connects us as a community.

Take care of each other, and stay safe. We look forward to wrapping you in the warm embrace of theatre on the other side.

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Council matters

Byron Shire Sustainability Awards 2020

Nominations are open until 5 May for projects and initiatives from individuals, groups or organisations that protect or enhance the environment. There are four categories: Sustainability, Biodiversity, Waste and Water and residents of Byron Shire can either self-nominate or nominate someone else.

Entries will be judged by a panel in May. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in a Make Change Happen masterclass to encourage collaboration with change-makers in the community. Finalists and winners will be announced at a Sustainability Awards 2020 Ceremony on Thursday, 4 June in the lead up to World Environment Day.

For information and to submit a nomination go to byron.nsw.gov.au/sustainability or contact Council's Sustainability and Emissions Reduction Officer Julia Curry on 02 6626 7295 or sustainability@byron.nsw.gov

Talofa upgrade

An upgrade of Old Bangalow Road at Talofa is included in the \$25 million package from the NSW Government to help Byron Shire Council manage the impacts of tourism on the Shire's infrastructure. Local roads will also benefit from Shire-wide asphalt overlay, reseal and patching programs. The projects will be rolled out over the next three years.

Medium density

Residents and the Bangalow Progress Association are expressing disquiet about high and medium density residential developments in Bangalow. Murray Hand reports in this issue on an unfinished medium density development in the Meadows Estate involving a bankrupt builder from Brisbane. Residents of the new Clover Hill Estate are concerned about reduced lot sizes and buffer zones, private certifiers and design covenants. Meanwhile, The Collective's controversial 'affordable housing' development application for 15 dwellings at 23 Lismore Road is in a conciliation process with Council. Embedded in these stories are a complex set of issues that can render both residents and local councils powerless. Residents are encouraged to monitor development applications in their area via Council's DA Tracker at byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Building-development/Development-applications/DA-Tracker

Jenny Bird

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Orange Sky's Community Impact Manager, Lisa Sprlyan.
Photo: Murray Hand

Orange Sky in Northern Rivers

Readers will probably be aware of the charity Orange Sky, which provides a mobile laundry service and showers for homeless people. Established in Brisbane in 2014 by Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett, the charity is rolling out its service throughout Australia, the latest beneficiary being our area. It is estimated that there are about 1,500 homeless people in the area.

The Northern Rivers operation is financed by two local philanthropists, the Seaton Foundation and James Frizelle Charitable Foundation. Their generosity has enabled the purchase and setting up of a specialised van known as 'Don'. It contains two washing machines, two driers and a hot shower.

The local operation was set up in mid-February by Community Impact Manager, Lisa Sprlyan, who came from Perth for a few weeks to get things started. Part of her role is to look at regions in Australia that would benefit from their services. Working with local service providers, Lisa and her team assess the need for an Orange Sky van, and if viable, try to get funding. There are now 33 vans around Australia.

Local service providers are an important part of assessing requirements. Not only homeless people use the Orange Sky service, but also people living in a home who are unable to wash clothes. Other people simply wish to connect. Sitting down for a chat is a big part of the service.

Orange Sky has trained a number of volunteers in the region to run the service. The volunteers undergo "orangetation" to assess suitability, and if deemed appropriate, are invited to contract and undergo training. At the moment there are about 50 volunteers with Orange Sky in the Northern Rivers. Those interested in volunteering can register on their web site, organgesky.org.au, and go on a waiting list. The organisation will soon be looking for people to fill leadership roles.

Currently, the Orange Sky service is provided on a weekly and sometimes bi-weekly basis to Lismore, Ballina, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay, Brunswick Heads and Casino. Nimbin will soon form part of the circuit.

Murray Hand

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Converting a classic

A passion for sun, surfing and sustainability led engineer Alex Bosin to move to the Byron Shire. German-born Alex first holidayed in Byron in 1998, and, like so many of us “fell in love with the place” and swore to return. **Christobel Munson** reports on his headline grabbing conversion.

After completing university in Berlin with further studies in solar energy, then working with Lufthansa as an aircraft engineer, Alex and his wife Brita finally settled in Byron in 2008 where he began to capitalise on his skill with German cars and a love of modern technology and nature.

Having virtually lived in the back of a VW Kombi van as a student, Alex has a soft spot for the classic German home-on-wheels. Byron Bay Kombis is a business he created to provide beautifully restored Kombi vans for wedding transportation. The impeccable paint work for his Kombis is done at Bangalow Smash, while the re-upholstery happens in Friday Hut Road. Next, with Bangalow business partner, Craig Rowland, he started Retro Campervans, which rents out classic Kombi vans so today’s adventurers can have their own Kombi experience.

Observing the widescale transition to electric vehicles on a trip to Germany fired up a new business challenge. “I love modern technology and sustainability, so the idea of converting a Kombi to an electric vehicle was a natural,” he said from his workshop in the Byron Arts & Industry Estate.

So Alex set about creating one of Australia’s first all-electric VW Kombi vans, with a range of up to 120km on a single charge. The original combustion engine has been replaced with an electric motor and batteries. Alex uses it to pack in the family and the boards to go surfing, to go to the local markets, or just drive to work.

The EV Classic is Alex’s first ‘proof of concept’, based on a “good, reliable German



The OO-FUEL VW Kombi that readers can check out at the Northern Rivers EV Forum. Alex Bosin leans on the VW Kombi he converted to electric.
Photo: Christobel Munson

the experience of driving round in a classic car, but with a much quieter drive and low maintenance costs.”

Alex is also converting other classic cars to electric, and a blue Merc wagon sits in the workshop undergoing the process. “If you have a classic car that you want to preserve, with little or no maintenance costs, and like the idea of helping the environment, then an EV conversion might be a great solution for you,” he added. From initial consultation to delivery is likely to take three months.

If you’re weighing up the cost of buying a new electric car, or converting your existing one, a complete EV conversion starts at around \$32,000, while engineering varies between car models.

The converted Kombi will be on show at the Northern Rivers EV Forum 2020 being held at the Cavanbah Centre later in the year, along with a selection of new and privately owned electric vehicles. Alex is planning to offer test drives in the EV Combi on the day.

motor” plus his expertise in sustainable energy and engineering. The restoration and conversion took about 10 months, and it will soon be available for hire. “We want to offer



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Toody and her devoted carer.

Toody endures

Toody shifts her weight painfully, trying to find a patch of cool dirt under the strange man's house.

The man found her here, just as the bars of light were starting to slant golden and the stifling cage of hotness was coming undone.

The man's noise was soft. He left a bowl to lap at. But the man was not her man, not the one who smells of burnt metal and salt. Her growl was small as she tried to drag her legs to get away from him.

Why doesn't the metal-man come?

Toody spent nine days waiting for her owner Brenden Brown to find her. Nine days during which the temperatures soared above 30 and the rain fell in floods.

Toody's feat of endurance began when she was hit by a car out the front of her house in Rosewood Avenue, Bangalow.

Brenden was able to pick Toody up and feel the blood sticky on her shattered hind leg before she took off into the paddock at the back of his house.

During a night of frantic searching, a neighbour found a trail of Toody's blood, but no dog.

Her owners Brenden and Amber felt that if any dog could survive, it would be Toody.

When she was a pup, Toody and her litter were dumped, tied up without food or water in a street in Casino.

In the ensuing eight years, she had recovered from impaling herself on a gate bolt, and had turned up at Belongil after a long-distance adventure that started in the upper reaches of Left Bank Road at Mullumbimby.

So Brenden walked the streets and paddocks, searched in every drain and hidden gully. He and Amber put posters up around town and followed leads as far afield as Lennox Head.

But by day five, Brenden said he was expecting to find his dog by following the scent of death.

Then came the knock at his door.

"Are you the owner of Toody?" the young man asked.

He spotted Brenden's daughter Ivy, who was on the rug doing a jigsaw puzzle. Brenden could see he was worried about delivering his news.

"She's alive, but she's in a bad way."

Andre Stamatakakos, who was visiting his mum for a few weeks from his home in Vancouver, had found Toody under the studio at her house in Palm-Lily Crescent.

Andre said seeing the state of the dog was 'harrowing'.

"I just saw two eyes staring at me from the darkness under the house. I called her and she limped over. She was excited to see someone but then she got scared and turned around, and I could see her legs were just a mess."

Andre managed to get a photo of Toody's tag and found Brenden via Bangalow Vets.

Vet Ailsa Rutherford said Toody's recovery was nothing short of miraculous. "When she arrived she was covered in mud, she was frightened and emaciated. Her injuries were really infected. She would have been in terrible pain. It's absolutely amazing for her to survive and not get complete septicemia. I honestly can't believe she has come as far as she has."

Andre said he felt 'proud as punch' to have helped save the dog's life. "It's like a resurrection story."

As for Toody, she is now minus one leg, but her injuries are healing and she's happily getting on with her life as a beach and ball dog.

As Brenden said, dogs don't think about what they have lost or worry about how they will cope in the future.

"She just hops along now and goes, 'Oh well, I can do it.'"

Hannah Ross

If you'd like to talk to Hannah about a story for Dogtown Chronicles, email details to editor@bangalowherald.com



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Connecting communities, ideas and business

Local Bangalow group Connecting Community and business BANG! Academy of Performing Arts, are engaging with global movements Local Futures and 2040 to encourage positive change. Rebecca Sargeant reports.



Singalong at the Connecting Generations picnic.
Photo: Andy Winton-Brown



Local group Connecting Community will host Helena Norberg-Hodge and Damon Gameau at a lunch at a date to be set once groups can gather again after the coronavirus has been brought under control. These inspiring speakers are at the cutting edge of ideas and inspiration to improve the health and well-being of our planet.

Connecting Community emerged as a local movement from the monthly meetings of a group of community-minded elders. Concerned about making a positive impact, they honed their focus on combatting social isolation.

They promote engagement and connection

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2040's Damon Gameau and BANG! Academy of Performing Arts' Anouska Gammon.
Photo: Rebecca Sargeant

through monthly sessions, featuring an informal lunch, music and speakers, and have recently expanded their focus to include Connecting Generations, which holds a monthly picnic at the Bangalow Parklands.

Ruth Winton-Brown is passionate about the project of fostering meaningful connections between community members and across the generational divide. She cites research and examples of the significant health and well-being benefits which flow from reducing loneliness and connecting generations.

Helena Norberg-Hodge is a long-term advocate for the benefits of strong local

community, and a founder of Local Futures, an organisation that promotes economic localisation as the antidote to globalisation.

Local Futures says that for individuals, localisation means "emphasising what makes life meaningful: connection with others and with the natural world". It is this connection with others that Ruth Winton-Brown is keen to promote.

Ruth spoke about strengthening community through inter-generational connections at the Festival. She says that Connecting Generations encourages "sharing in the joys of each generation", noting that in a modern context, "many people simply don't have supportive family structures any more".

Damon Gameau's film *2040*, reached audiences worldwide, and he is now busy continuing to promote the film and working to make the *2040* vision of humanity reversing global warming a reality. Through an outreach campaign that acts as a participatory action hub for regenerative climate solutions, the campaign encourages grass-roots activism by posing the question: 'What's your 2040?'

For local business owner Anouska Gammon, her *2040* envisages a form of corporate social responsibility that aligns her business values with broader social concerns.

Anouska works in the creative arts, and the Federal Government's recent decision "to abolish its Department of Communication and the Arts reinforced the need for action at an

individual and community level."

Anouska approached Damon with an idea to directly donate a third of the tuition fees from her business, BANG! Academy of Performing Arts, to 2040's marine regeneration project.

Anouska says, "Donating a portion of the fees provides peace of mind for parents concerned about a sustainable future for their kids and is a meaningful gesture to divert government funds provided through the Active Kids voucher towards climate action".

Damon knows what happens when you "plant that seed of an idea" and notes that JB Hi-Fi has also come on board with a donation plan. He welcomes any businesses interested in supporting 2040 to join the regeneration.

"It just became clear to me that the community needs to make stuff happen," says Anouska. Ruth and her team of conscious elders agree. They are busy "planting seeds of connection and making stuff happen".

Ruth says that the March intergenerational picnic saw around 50 people gathered for "stories and craft with the beautiful sounds of John Hoffman's trumpet wafting through the park and accompanying the singing".

The next Connecting Generations picnic will be held at Bangalow Parklands after coronavirus restrictions have been lifted and groups are able to gather again.

A very warm welcome is extended to everyone in the community.

Guests are encouraged to bring a plate to share over lunch, or a picnic basket to enjoy.

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Basil and black olive bread

Welcome autumn! What a relief from the relentless humidity we've been experiencing these last few months. Bake a few loaves of this olive bread to savour and enjoy later. It is absolutely wonderful when warm and is surprisingly easy to make. Use it to soak up the juices of fresh tomatoes or just simply with a wedge of cheese.

Ingredients

1½ cups self-raising flour
1½ cups wholemeal plain flour
1 tsp baking soda
2 tsp dried basil leaves
½ tsp salt
Freshly ground black pepper
30gm butter, melted
1½ cups buttermilk
½ cup black olives, pitted and roughly chopped (I use marinated kalamatas)

Method

Sift the two flours and the baking soda together into a large bowl. Add basil, salt and pepper.

Make a well in the centre and pour in the butter and buttermilk, slowly working in the flour until the mix turns to dough.

Knead on a lightly floured surface for about five minutes until the dough is smooth and elastic. Knead in the olive pieces to distribute evenly. Pat into a round shape.

Oil and flour a 20cm round cake pan and place the round of dough in the pan, scattering some flour across the top.

Bake in a 220°C oven for about 40 minutes until the top is browned. A skewer inserted should come out clean.

Serves 4-6.

Recipe from the *Semi-vegetarian Cookbook* by Carolyn Dunne. Lyn Hand

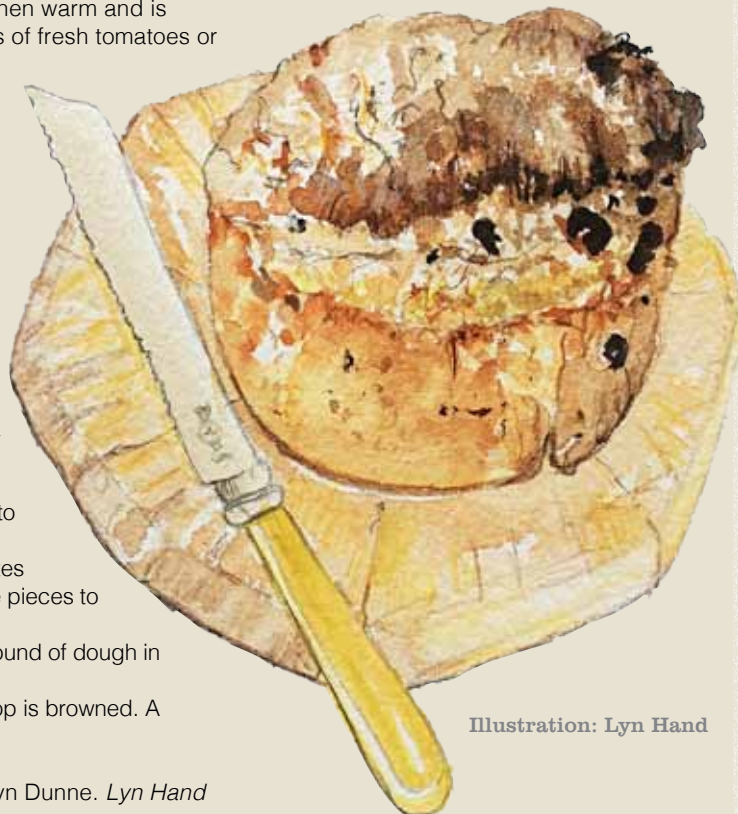


Illustration: Lyn Hand

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The Amazing White Bat Flower *Tacca integrifolia*



The Amazing White Bat Flower, or *Tacca integrifolia*.
Photo: Carole Gamble

Most gardeners' enthusiasms change over time, especially if they're like me and move from place to place and have to adjust to climate and soil conditions.

My gardening passions were born in Melbourne, nurtured by an elderly neighbour who encouraged cottage planting to complement our Victorian villa. The next moves were northward before facing the Northern Rivers challenge.

I really didn't like tropical and sub-tropical plants, but I believe in growing for the environmental conditions, so I had to stop trying to grow the impossible and work with the great beauty around me.

This month's featured plant was definitely not love at first sight, but now I have my gift plants in flower, I find I am entranced.

A member of the Yam family, *Taccas* are native to many parts of SE Asia. I last saw them growing wild in a wet gully near Ubud.

They need rich well drained soil and usually plenty of moisture and humidity, but mine survived the recent dry so they are adaptable.

The complex flowers are pollinated by insects and in nature the fleshy stem bends so the berries that follow the flowers touch the ground and germinate in leaf litter. They are difficult to propagate by collected seed but easily divided with a sharp knife after flowering, making the Bat flower plant another wonderful exotic to share with special friends.

They can be grown as understory plants or in large pots and moved around to shady spots under other plants until they flower, which is usually in spring and early summer. They will rot if overwatered or not well drained, but otherwise are quite hardy.

There are around 30 species of *Tacca*, but *T. integrifolia*, with the distinctive white bracts, is the most popular.

The all black *T. chantrieri* is another interesting variety.

The plants don't flower until they are two to three years old and the flowers can last up to a month. They are sometimes available in good nurseries or on eBay where many growers also advertise seeds for the ambitious propagators.

Carole Gamble

Fruit fly invasion

Fruit fly are certainly a challenge for both home gardeners and commercial orchards. They are very active at present, perhaps aided by the bumper mango crops this year.

In our sub-tropical environment, there are unfortunately several species of fruit fly and other fruit damaging flies. Adult fruit flies are some 7mm long. The Queensland and Mediterranean species have distinct brown and yellow markings.

Detailed images and descriptions are available on the DPI website dpi.nsw.gov.au

Pregnant female flies 'sting' ripening fruit and lay eggs which hatch grubs causing all the damage.

While the flies are hard to fully control, some new and environmentally friendly methods are becoming available. One of these uses new traps to catch egg laying females. Fruition Nova traps were developed by Griffith University and are thought to be the only ones attracting



Jascha Saeck and trap at Blueberry Fields, Brooklet.

Photo: Brian Sundstrom

and trapping the female fruit flies. Many other trapping methods and sterilisation programs have been tried for male fruit flies, but it is the female control which offers most benefits. The traps are designed to

hang in trees and orchards. They have yellow adhesive coated discs of a size and shape to attract female flies. The discs are coated with a lure which mimics ripe fruit. They can be effective in an area from 30-50m, so are suitable for small domestic situations or in bigger orchards.

One local orchard currently using the traps is Blueberry Fields run by the Saeck family at Brooklet. They have some 25ha of blueberries, which are sold around Australia and at local markets such as Bangalow Farmers Market. The farm is run with a very 'low spray' IPM (Integrated Pest Management) system. Fruit flies can potentially damage a lot of fruit, hence the trialing of these new traps.

The Ace Ohlsson rural supply business in Bangalow Industrial Estate has been involved in trialling the traps. They have agronomists trained in this area, who are happy to discuss options with small, and large-scale growers.

Brian Sundstrom



The Good Turn by Dervla McTiernan

You might remember that I reviewed *The Scholar* last year, also by Dervla McTiernan. She's written another crime mystery continuing with her protagonist DS Cormac Reilly. Cormac is a Garda and highly regarded by many of his contemporaries because of his intuition and results, but loathed by others because of his honesty and tendency to keep things close to his chest.

In this novel, the third in the series (but don't be afraid to start here if you haven't read the others), McTiernan expands the characters of Reilly's colleagues at the Galway station in Ireland.

Reilly continues to be in conflict with his superior who is allocating resources to a covert surveillance operation that leaves local policing pitifully understaffed and increases crime on the streets. When a call comes in from a distraught mother reporting that her son has just witnessed and video-recorded the abduction of a young girl,

there is insufficient manpower to give the case the urgency it warrants. Garda Peter Fisher is put on the case and is forced to make a decision above his paygrade, which results in a man dying and him being exiled to the small seaside village of Roundstone.

The station at Roundstone is managed by Peter's overbearing father who he has avoided for much of his adult life. He sets Peter to work on completing the paperwork for a "routine" and already solved murder case (or is it?).

There are several plot lines in this page turner and complex relationships aplenty, which includes details about Cormac's professional and personal life.

Irish born Dervla McTiernan has lived in Australia since the GFC recession hit Ireland. She worked as a lawyer for many years but is now dedicated to writing thanks to three bestsellers.

If you're a fan of crime mysteries, this book will not disappoint. *Carolyn Adams*



'Phoenix rising from the Ashes' the new mural on the front of the school.

Photo: Stephanie King

Red Cross visits Rappville

In early March, while the world was glued to TVs and radios for updates on the coronavirus pandemic, three members of Bangalow Red Cross headed to Rappville Primary School to donate funds to their bushfire recovery. The searing droughts and rampaging fires seemed long ago in terms of Australia's run of bad news. The pandemic had taken over the headlines, but the ramifications of the bushfires was still very much in evidence.

Driving to the small town, along the Summerland Highway, was like stepping back in time. As we passed Casino and neared our destination, the aftermath of the disaster became evident. The blackened limbs of stands of trees etched against the sky – strangely beautiful but ominous – and a general air of dereliction with charred fence lines and abandoned cars brought the reality

of the event into focus.

Small towns like this, which are often hidden from general view, suffered badly and much was lost in terms of property and livestock, but if Rappville's response to the destruction mirrors what other towns are doing, then a revival is close at hand.

Our team stopped first at the PO where the postmistress filled us in on the recovery process. She praised the Richmond Valley Council and was optimistic about the reparations. The town, which has a part-time hotel but no general store, is now getting many facilities it has longed for, including sewerage and a community bus, plus a new three-bay shed provided by the RFS to house fire trucks, and hopefully the bus.

Next stop, the school, which was shining with optimism. Principal Kathleen Collis

showed us around while shepherding the students to lunch. There are 12 at the school, all of primary school age. Kathleen was born and bred in Rappville, attended the school, and her parents still live there. She and her husband, who also attended Rappville Primary, now live on a property just out of town, and like most residents was personally touched by the fire tragedy. They lost part of their cattle herd in horrific circumstances and are only now getting back on top of things.

A team from Byron Bay had come to paint murals on the school hall, including a huge phoenix rising from the ashes on the front wall. At the back, a veggie garden sprouts and the fence line is in the process of being planted out with native trees that each child 'owns' and cares for.

Rappville, population 140, was and still is a timber town. Before the fire there were a number of mills operating, the largest of which was burned to the ground. Now there are two left, with barely enough timber to keep going. While it is clear that the town is not exactly thriving, there is a obvious determination that it will rise again.

Leaving this small, brave, little place, and winding our way down the road to the highway – passing small teams of volunteer BlazeAid workers renewing fences and cleaning up the detritus of the fires – there is no doubt that things are slowly but surely getting better.

Stephanie King



Michael Nau. Photo: Todd Gowans

Mowing by Michael Nau

A lake would not be a lake without supply from its tributaries, each limb collecting its own travelled waters before converging at a common basin. The same could be said for the creation of Michael Nau's debut LP *Mowing*, a framed collage of musical sketches penned steadily between bands and throughout life's undulations before forming a full page in the scrapbook of perfect accidents. As the front man of Page France and more recently Cotton Jones, Nau finds a likely lease on the lot of folk and mild psychedelia.

While *You Stand* opens as a humble nylon guitar seeps into the foreground, filling out to a singer songwriter piece sampling the vulnerability of devotion. Without escaping the chance to intrigue the listener with the calm beginnings of an autumn dawn, *The Glass* erupts out of filtered percussion and the trill of scintillating keys to unveil a gripping guitar tone and opening line with

the wearability of a smile: "Be gentle on the glass there's beauty in those cracks". Here is where Nau casts his starry net of aural pleasures, maintaining vibrato heavy and reverb laden effects across keys, vocals and guitars. One cannot help but think of Lennon's *Hold On*. Despite the 'demo' status of the LP, there is a discernable glaze over the production which adds cohesion to the album.

Subtly traversing the furrows on the genre, Nau's dreamscape finds its way through the impressionistic bossa nova of *Smooth Aisles* and *Maralou*, both of which possess the inherently soothing backing vocals of long-standing band member and wife, Whitney McGraw. There's a theme of endurance and love that McGraw helps deliver, her presence like stained glass in the discourse of light, which gives voice to Nau's thematic intentions.

Mowing is the fulcrum to the albums' seesaw, languidly pushing an 8-bit style synth and wafting guitar riffs into a hypnotic hula instrumental as it fades hazily into the *B Side*'s descent. Arriving at *Good Moon*, arguably the most internally searching of Nau's panoply, there's a genuine sense of solemnness. Strings swell in the throat as the lead guitar laments and distorted keys gulp themselves in a shower of pure tezeta.

In the final installment, *In There* enters to loops of birdsong and improvised violin which surges to collide with sampled dialogue. At a swift cut, the undergrowth blooms into a fingerpicking floriade, perfumed by Nau's commentary of reassurance and affection. As the reigning king of uplift sporting a bedazzled crown, each lyric a jewel in its silvery band, Nau utters in a final sermon, "all good ships are made of skin and there's a passenger inside you". *Sabastian Fardell*

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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
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Business News



Osteopaths Open New Business

Kate Egan and Neil Moran have moved from Bangalow Healthcare in Granuaille Rd to set up their own business, Hinterland Osteopathy, in Station Street opposite the A&I Hall. It is worth popping in just to see the giant photo of the main street in 1925, which stretches from floor to the ceiling, and which was made by the receptionist, Mish, who is also from Bangalow Sign Co.

Closing and Changing

At the lower end of Byron St, opposite the pedestrian crossing, women's and children's clothing retailer, Zacalu Zoo, has closed its doors. Meanwhile, around the corner, the Corner Kitchen is no longer open during the day and is limiting its trading to evenings only, Thursday to Sunday from 5-9pm.

Free Delivery of Coffee Pods

Dave Copeland of Letterbox Roasters has launched organic, plant-based coffee pods made from sugarcane and sugar beet. The pods are good news for the environment, being compostable. There are a variety of blended and single origin coffees that Dave delivers free to customers within a 15km radius of Bangalow. The pods are for Nespresso machines. Orders can be made through the web site.



New Shops

Two new shops have recently opened in the Station St. complex. One, Fable features women's clothing and homewares. Owner, Natasha, says that "the shop also features handmade textiles from Bali and India."

Tahn is owned by Kari Lee who designs her own clothing which is handmade in Bali. Kari has moved her feminine clothing from the markets into her own shop.

Correction: In this column in the February edition the name of one of the new owners of Bangalow and Ballina Remedial Massage was incorrectly spelt. It should have been Yani Morkham-Gray.

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Local osteopath Kate Egan.
Photo: Mery Stevens

The lowdown on Osteopathy

The human back is a complex arrangement of bones, muscles, tendons, discs and ligaments, and as with all complex structures, things can sometimes go wrong. If you've ever had a sore back, knee or neck, there's a good chance you've been to a physiotherapist, chiropractor, osteopath, massage therapist or acupuncturist. Some of us have tried them all, while others have remained under the care of a GP.

Osteopathy, developed by an American physician in the mid-1800s, is recognised by the World Health Organisation as a traditional

system of medicine. It can also come under the banner of complementary or allied health medicine and is covered by private health extras. You can receive a Medicare rebate if you are a patient in the Chronic Disease Management (CDM) program and have a Care Plan from your GP.

People often ask what distinguishes an osteopathic treatment from a chiropractic treatment. While there is a degree of crossover, chiropractors mainly focus on the alignment of the spine, whereas osteopaths use a variety of techniques to manipulate the

body's healing systems and may do more muscle and soft tissue work. According to Osteopathy Australia, practitioners "focus on how the skeleton, joints, muscles, nerves, circulation, connective tissue and internal organs function as a holistic unit".

Local osteopath Kate Egan graduated from the Southern Cross University's four-year Master of Osteopathic Medicine program in 2012. She now combines teaching at the university with a busy private practice. When asked about her association with Bangalow, Kate says, "I have been practising in Bangalow for the past three years. Having grown up in Fernleigh and practised in Byron Bay and the Gold Coast, I have found Bangalow the perfect place to set up my practice. There is a lovely sense of community and I am close to family and loved ones."

A workforce survey of Australian osteopathy in 2018 reported that most osteopaths have a referral relationship with a range of practitioners, including GPs. Kate comments that "increased education and understanding about osteopathy has encouraged more collaboration between health care practitioners. In the Byron Shire we have a great network of health professionals who support and work with us."

The treatment of back pain is a contested area. Improvement is difficult to quantify and ultimately depends on verbal reporting by the patient. While it is well accepted that osteopathy is as good as any other treatment, patient feedback is over 96 per cent positive and outcome research indicates that, on average, osteopathic patients use less pain medication. Fortunately, Bangalow has a number of excellent osteopaths to choose from.

Mery Stevens

DON'T IGNORE YOUR SNORE

It could be harming you.

Snoring is linked to breathing problems in sleep. This often results in low oxygen at night and a risk of heart disease, stroke, fatigue, depression, acid reflux, chronic cough, stress and weight gain.

Dr Truswell at the Bangalow Medical Centre is a trained Sleep GP.

We can assess and diagnose all problems in sleep. We can stop you snoring, help you sleep better and help prevent the health risks.

For an appointment to have your sleep assessed phone 6687 1079.

Bangalow Medical Centre

sleep_{GP}

Lot 1, Ballina Road, Bangalow

There's an awful lot that's **not** happening in 2479. Please check with event organisers before attending any of these events. They may be cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus.

Bangalow Garden Club

When Wed 1 April, 1.30pm
Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow
Contact Annie 0417 636 011 or abbinkanne48@gmail.com

A representative from Bamboo World will talk about types of bamboo suitable for modern landscaping. Jennifer Regan will open her garden in Bangalow for members on Saturday, 4 April. Details will be provided at the meeting. Bring a mug for afternoon tea.

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Riparian rainforest plantings

When Sat 4 April and Sat 25 April, 9.30am
Where 231 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow
RSVP zan.hammerton@zoho.com

Bangalow Land & Rivercare welcomes volunteers to help plant 2,000 trees along a section of Bandon Grove Creek. Holes are pre-dug so just turn up, plant and mulch. Mullumbimby Rotary Club will provide a sausage sizzle (meat and veg). Wear a hat, long sleeves and enclosed footwear. Bring a trowel, gloves, drinking water and sunscreen.



Hilary Herrmann: Sermon to the Birds

When Thurs 9-23 April
Where Ninbella Gallery, Bangalow
Information ninbella.com or 6687 1936

Local artist Hilary Herrmann reimagines Francis of Assisi's Sermon to the Birds (c1220), offering a translation for current times that combines peace and apocalypse. Hilary will co exhibit with Aboriginal artist Kurun Warun, whose exhibition is called Morridge.

Connecting generations

When **Postponed**
Where Bangalow Parklands
Contact ruth@reclaimingjoy.com

Enjoy music, craft and stories with community minded elders interested in bringing people together for a play group that offers mutual intergenerational support. John Hoffman's trumpet will drift across the park and Jacky Wilkosz will provide rich stories.

Designers' Market

When Sun 12 April, 8.30am-3pm
Where Bangalow Public School
Contact Facebook@BangalowDesignersMarket

Buy direct from local designers and artisans, enjoy great live music, delicious gourmet food and coffee. Parking available in the Bangalow Showground, entry via Market Street. Gold coin donations to Bangalow Koalas.

Bangalow Business Networking Breakfast

When Thurs 16 April, 7.45-9am
Where Town Restaurant and Café, Bangalow
Contact byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au

Trudy Johnston from Mullumbimby-based marketing agency Vim + Zest will speak about how to create an impactful personal brand to build long-term success for your business.

Coca Mojo Pop up

When Thurs 16-21 April, from 9am
Where Newrybar Community Hall
Information Instagram @cocomojo

Coca Mojo from Kyogle runs a soft furnishing manufacturing business and is back for her regular Easter sale.

ANZAC Day Bangalow

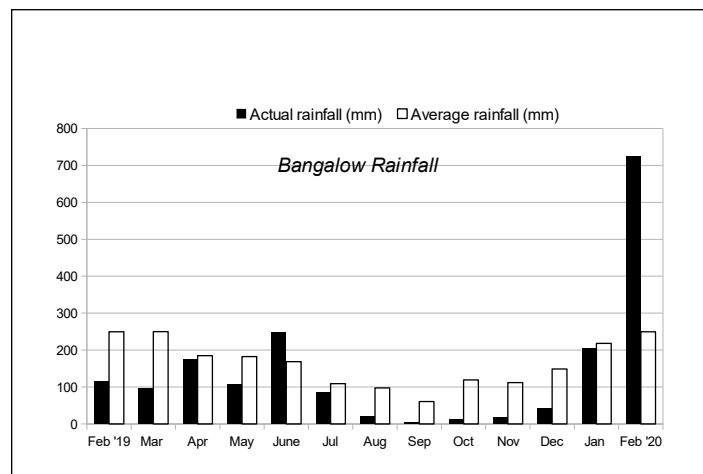
We are unable to go ahead with the usual ANZAC Day March and dawn service. Nonetheless, it is a special time of reflection and our flag will be set at half-mast. Floral and other tributes are welcome at the memorial in Station Street. There will be no formal service nor a public gathering. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first service cancellation in the past 70 years. The Clunes service has also been suspended. While this is sad, it is necessary to help slow the spread of coronavirus.

Col Draper sec.

Cancelled due to COVID-19.

Newrybar Hall Classes

When all week
Where Newrybar Community Hall





Fragments by David Morgan. 2019

Unfolding Ideas exhibition

When Postponed until May

Where Byron School of Art Project Space, Mullumbimby

Information byronschoolofart.com/bsa-project-space-calendar/unfoldingideas

Local artist David Morgan exhibits a collection of his artist books that explore his personal response to reconciliation in Australia.

Postponed due to COVID-19.

Information

Instagram@NewrybarHall

Facebook@NewrybarHall

A variety of regular classes are held each week in the Newrybar Community Hall. The fees help support the Hall. Classes include Pilates, dance, yoga, tai chi, cardiotone and more. Prices range from \$10 to \$15, payable to the instructor on the day. Find the class schedule on the Hall's Instagram or Facebook pages.

Easter services - Anglican

5 April Palm Sunday

9am at All Souls Bangalow

11am at St. Aidan's Eureka

6-7-8 April

10am services at All Souls

9 April Maundy Thursday

6pm All Souls-Seder Meal,

washing of feet, Last Supper,

Stripping of Sanctuary and

commencement of Watch.

10 April Good Friday

9 am All Souls

2pm All Souls Stations of the

April diary

1 Bangalow Garden Club - **CANCELLED**

4 Garden Club Saturday visit - **CANCELLED**

4-25 Riparian rainforest plantings

5 Connecting generations - **POSTPONED**

5-12 Anglican Easter services

9-23 Hilary Herrmann's Sermon to the Birds

12 Designers Market

16 Bangalow Business Networking Breakfast

16-21 Coca mojo Pop-Up

May David Morgan Artist - **POSTPONED**

25 ANZAC Day March - **CANCELLED**

26 Bangalow Market

Deadlines for May 2020 issue:

What's On 10 April

Advertising 13 April

Copy Monday 13 April

Cross.

11 April

6pm St. Aidan's Eureka

12 April Easter Sunday

6am All Souls Easter Vigil

9am All Souls Easter Celebration

including children's story time.

For information on all services ring 66871046 or 0488 561 539.

Confirm details with Parish

Your Local Agent

Peter Yopp

0411 837 330

pyopp.byronbay@ljh.com.au



LJ Hooker

Eat Local Love Local

The COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to bite hard into our local food industries, all the way along the supply chain from paddock to plate. **Jim Hearn and Jenny Bird** report on the rapidly changing environment.

Northern Rivers Food (NRF), the peak body that broadly represents the region's food and beverage producers, recently cancelled its annual Harvest Festival, including the popular Harvest Food Trail. "We are incredibly disappointed," says NRF Chair Pam Brook, "but Northern Rivers Food places the highest priority on the wellbeing and safety of all our members and the broader Northern Rivers community."

Instead, and in direct response to the threat that the pandemic poses to the region's food industry, NRF have launched an Eat Local Love Local campaign that will run through local media and social media.

"What we want to do is inform the community of all the things that our local businesses are doing to respond to the pandemic," says Allison Henry, NRF's Executive Officer.

"Local businesses are already on the front foot complying with health requirements," she adds.

Growers and producers who sell at local markets are considering how they might change the packaging and presentation of their products, for example pre-packaging.

"Both growers and hospitality, are adjusting their business models and their usual modes of distribution" she explains. "People are starting online shopping from their websites, now offering home delivery and takeaway options."

"We need the local community to get behind our industry," she adds. As this month's cover story makes plain, agriculture, forestry and fishing are our postcode's number one



Pam Brook from Brookfarm, Chair Northern Rivers Food.

industries, with 187 registered small owner-managed businesses in that category. Many are small, boutique agribusinesses that supply high-demand products into niche markets. The figures don't include all the food manufacturers and food outlets in the district. Added up, that's a lot of local people, their families and their employees living and working in the community. That's the well-being of a lot of children, and a lot of employees including local teenagers working part-time jobs."

She explains that it is in everyone's interests that our primary producers thrive, and that local brands become known nationally and internationally. "Food tourism is increasingly popular form of travel. Visitors want to understand how and where their favourite foods are grown and produced. And they want to meet the people behind the brands."

The recent rains have turned our region

deep green again. It's a sight to behold after last summer's drought. There's a bounty in the hills and towns waiting to be discovered.

The COVID-19 pandemic brings into sharp relief just how important these industries are to our local economy, our community, and our wellbeing.

"We urge you to please keep supporting your local farmers, producers, cafes and restaurants - we're all in this together!" says Allison.

BREAKING NEWS

As we go to print, all cafes, restaurants and bars have been ordered to close to help stop the spread of coronavirus. In next month's column, we will investigate the effects the closures are having on local business owners, chefs, floor staff and others, who many readers will know personally.

Stay tuned.



Great Results & a Great Experience
...is our Specialty!

JUST LISTED

A Genuinely Unique Bangalow Offering!

Set over 2 titles, with rear lane access & a DA to subdivide across the lot should you prefer. "Bangalla" Is one of Bangalow's original homes with stunning north easterly views across the town to the hills! The choices range from a lovely family home perfect for an extension &/or build a second home or an ideal home business.

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

Bangalow Real Estate
& Byron Hinterland Properties