

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE June 2020

Frocking in the free world



Dress rehearsal

While the most popular attire at Bangalow's inaugural 'wear whatever the *bleep* you want day' may have been a raincoat, some locals didn't let the rain dampen their fancy-dress spirit. Lani sprinkled fairy dust on the main street much to Marlie's delight, Harrison took his Batman costume to the Farmer's Market, and Alice donned her glad rags for a second Saturday after a conspicuous false start last week. Butcher Baker was a hub of activity, with staff, including 'Penguin Tim', getting amongst the action, and Margot and Athena enjoyed a coffee and a chat. Even the dogs, Caspar and Mika, wore raincoats and joined in the fun. *Rebecca Sargeant*

Margot, Athena and Lani. Photo: Karla Conroy



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HERALD

The Bangalow

From the editor

Bangalow had a dress rehearsal on Saturday 16 May. Technically, it was called 'wear whatever the *bleep* you want day', which has a certain libertine ring to it, but on another level, it was an opportunity for locals to get out of the house and mingle for the first time in a couple of months. People practiced social distancing of course, but it was a social occasion nonetheless, and given how starved the community has been of collective activities, those that attended had some fun with the initiative.

This month we publish the first of a two-part series on the history of local newspapers in Bangalow. Given the times, where the news is filled with all things COVID-19 related, it seemed like a good opportunity to chart the 114-year history of newspaper reporting in Bangalow. That timeline hasn't been unbroken. Indeed, there have been decades of Bangalow's very own Dark Ages where the life and times of locals wasn't recorded in newsprint. I'm not sure what was missed by not having a local news publication during the years *The Herald* was shuttered, but that's the point (isn't it?), of why local communities seek to generate their own record of events, characters and happenings. By doing so, we have a snapshot of things during a particular point in time. *The Bangalow Herald* doesn't capture all the news - no media outlet does - but it aims to reflect what's important to our community in the month in which it's published.

While comparisons are a poor way to determine the value of anything, it's fair to say there's a degree of privilege in 2479 that many people throughout the world don't enjoy. As the editor of the moment, I sometimes struggle with that aspect of representing our region, in the sense that, if the traditional role of the media is to hold power to account and seek the truth of any reported matter - the simple truth is we have it pretty good in 2479, despite our singular and collective hardships.

For those who are struggling through no fault of their own as a result of coronavirus - or struggling for any reason - help is available from a wide range of community-minded organisations that have recently joined forces to help locals overcome tough times. Murray Hand reports on that collective effort and details the assistance available.

All you have to do is ask.

Have a great start to winter and I look forward to seeing more readers out and about.

Jim Hearn

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SPOTLIGHT



Richard Millyard and Greg Nash, with Binna Burra Construction team behind.
Photo: Judy Baker

New building at the Showground

A walk through the northern end of the Bangalow showground reveals a significant building project underway. The Bangalow Lions Club's new kiosk with BBQ and bar facility is due for completion in August. **Brian Sundstrom** reports.

An old, run down building had been used by The Lions for many years but it was no longer compliant with food and safety codes. The final sign that a new building was needed came at the Show a couple of years ago when a storm hit while a large crowd was trying to shelter beneath basic awnings around the building.

Bangalow Lions Club sprang into action. As well as continuing their regular fundraising activities, they industriously sought grants. After many false starts, they have received a significant grant from the NSW Dept of Planning Industry and Environment, supported by North Coast MLC Ben Franklin. Much preliminary planning and many approvals followed before the build started in early April.

Lions Club licensee, Greg Nash, is the project manager, with club treasurer, Richard Millyard also closely involved. Keeping it local, the building is being erected by Binna Burra Construction, run by Brendon O'Meara. The main components are a commercial kitchen, a bar and a cool room, all built to commercial standards.

The new building covers much the same footprint as the old one, but extensive, covered, cement paving will provide safe and comfortable socialising areas. The design includes features in keeping with the historic nature of the showground. For example, the roof will be in heritage red, and the walls cream to blend in with the nearby stables and Moller Pavilion. Big timber posts, of four eucalypt varieties, add to the country feel. A large camphor slab above the bar will have farm brands and logos of the Lions, Show Society and Byron Shire Council. Regarding the Council, Greg said it has been very helpful in getting all the approvals through.

While the majority of funding is in hand, a shortfall is probable, due to the inability of Lions to run their normal fundraisers such as the Billycart Derby this year. Richard is working on this but says they would certainly appreciate any help people or organisations can offer.

This community facility looks like being very popular at Show time as well during the many rural events held at the grounds.



Starting the community garden.

Photo: Murray Hand

Community alliance comes to life

The coronavirus pandemic provided the impetus to form an alliance of community organisations in Bangalow. Murray Hand reports.

Enforced social isolation and subsequent loneliness are of great concern in societies around the world at the moment as a result of coronavirus. Sadly, there is a well-founded expectation that the resulting social issues will generate increased mental illness and depression. Social modelling has determined that suicides in Australia could increase by up to 50 per cent as a result of the pandemic. Of particular concern is the effect of social isolation and loneliness on the elderly.

When the NSW Government announced the *Combating Social Isolation for Seniors During Covid-19 Program*, the Bangalow Lions and Bangalow Men's Shed were quick to act, putting together an application for funding on behalf of Bangalow residents. The program is a one-off initiative for organisations across NSW to develop projects that will reduce social isolation for seniors aged 65 and over, and Aboriginal people over 55.

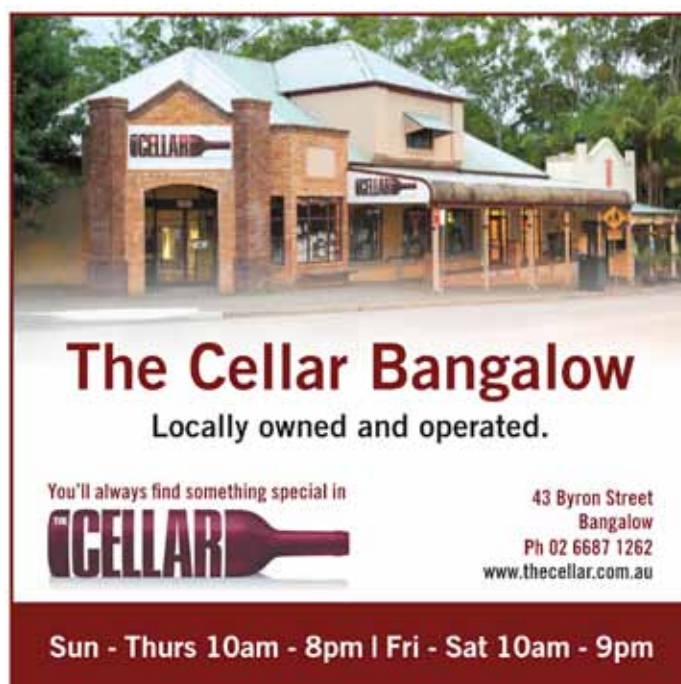
Coordinator of the local initiative, Brian Mackney, says that even before the funding, many organisations were doing much to help the community. "For instance, the Lions Club has various assistance programs in place, as does the Men's Shed, the RSL, the Red Cross, the Op-Shop, St Vincent De Paul, the CWA and other groups. However, this pandemic has presented unique circumstances which will likely impact on many more people, in far more challenging ways that will likely surpass anything we have ever seen before. To further complicate matters, organisations have seen their traditional sources of income taken away from them, making it harder to respond to the expected increase in demand for assistance. The NSW Government has potentially offered us an opportunity to recoup some of the lost income opportunities from traditional sources so that regular community-based welfare programs can continue and be upscaled to meet the anticipated demands".



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Splitting wood: Brian Mackney, John Boyd and Steve Hutchinson. Photo: Murray Hand

The Lion's Club and Men's Shed collectively decided to seek funding through the NSW Grants Program. Mr Mackney says that "in a perfect world, we would have had plenty of time to prepare the application by consulting everyone who could potentially help, but time was of the essence and after a quick ring around and follow-up email to 18 local organisations seeking support for the proposal, we put together an application on behalf of the Bangalow and district community".

Much of what is proposed is not new.

Organisations in Bangalow have been doing this kind of thing for decades. What's unique is that the proposal aims to bring many of the individual organisations in town together to form the Bangalow Addressing Social Isolation in COVID-19 for Seniors (BASICS) ensuring a coordinated joint effort. Most local groups have indicated their strong support for this initiative including Lion Heart, Anglican Op-Shop, the RSL, the Men's Bowls Club, the Garden Club, St Vincent DePaul, the Progress Association, Byron Shire Council, Bangalow Koalas and

other community based organisations.

A grant through the NSW Grants Program would enable BASICS to firstly establish a call centre to identify and monitor community welfare needs. Assistance will be given to those in need through the establishment of a community garden to provide vegetables (which has already started, see main photo) and firewood supplied throughout the winter. The Lion Hearts prepared food program will be augmented and the current food and groceries voucher system for the elderly run by the Lions Club will be expanded.

Brian Mackney says: "Some of these activities were already in place, particularly through the Lions Club, the Men's Shed, the RSL and Lion Heart. Covid-19 brought a sudden halt to some of those activities to the detriment of the community, but we are determined to see these continue, whether through a NSW grant to BASICS or by other means. The coming together of many community institutions has enabled help to be marshalled for those in need, especially the elderly and vulnerable".

Breaking News

Since this article was written, the NSW Government Minister for Family and Community Services has announced that the Bangalow Alliance has been successful in its grant application. Details of the grant are not available at the time of going to press but it is understood that a generous amount has been set aside for the Alliance to make a considerable contribution to the Bangalow community.



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Bangalow Land and Rivercare team help restore our local environment. Photo: Dawn Lotty

Patrons of the Environment

Bangalow Land and Rivercare is calling on the local community to join its Patrons of the Environment program. The program is the major source of funding for the group, allowing it to continue its work planting along the banks of our local creeks and keeping them clear of weeds. The year started normally with working bees in March however activity ground to a halt due to COVID-19. While the volunteer work has stopped, the weeds keep coming and Bangalow Land and Rivercare needs the support of the community to maintain the areas it has restored and keep them open for public use. A bush regenerator has been employed to visit the sites and tackle the most persistent weeds, and the team is hopeful it can get back to

planting the understorey as soon as possible. Patronage levels start at \$25 per year, with all funds spent locally. A great example of the group's work can be found if you walk along the creek behind the All Souls Anglican Church on Ashton Street. For more information visit www.bangalowlandcare.org.au

Bangalow Hotel behind the scenes

While it's still unclear when restrictions will ease enough for the Bangalow Hotel to reopen, there's been a lot of activity behind closed doors. The hotel has been using this extended break from customers to undertake a number of minor renovations. The wooden tops of the front bar have been sanded and polished, peeling paintwork repaired and the foyer given a spruce up. Out the



The Bangalow Hotel - a lonely sight.

back the deck railings have been painted and some of the floorboards replaced. Barman Angus Dickson says the plan is to make the hotel look fresh and inviting for when the patrons return. "I can't wait to see everyone back," he says. "Even though it's my job to be here, I definitely rely on the social connection as well, and I miss that as much as the locals do."

Social support during COVID-19

In these isolating times residents of the Northern Rivers are reminded of the opportunity to brighten someone's day by getting involved with the federal government's Community Visitors Scheme. The scheme normally coordinates volunteers to visit older people in their homes, providing regular companionship, however with COVID-19

4th Sunday of each month



Photo: Lisa Peacock



Julian Louis (NORPA), Tobhiyah Louis (future student) and Ben Franklin MLC.



Caitlin Reilly's 'Around the Bend', oil on reclaimed timber Photo: Caitlin Reilly

restrictions in place, the service is being delivered differently. Social connections are being made over the phone, using Skype, Facetime, Zoom, emails and even letters. The hope is that when restrictions are lifted the volunteer and recipient can meet in person. If you would like to volunteer or know an older person who would benefit from the scheme contact the Northern Rivers Community Gateway on 02 6621 7397 or email: volint@nrcg.org.au

NORPA grant for Youth Theatre Hub

The Northern Rivers Performing Arts Inc (NORPA) has received a NSW Government grant of \$106,282 for their Youth Theatre Hub. The funding will support weekly theatre classes, specific skills-building master classes, a youth

theatre ensemble and an annual theatre production and youth theatre forum. NORPA CEO and Artistic Director Julian Louis has welcomed the funding and says: "This is an important initiative for young people in our region to gain experiences that develop confidence, a sense of connection and practical skills that can be applied not only in theatre but also in broader life. The projects that we'll stage with our young people will become central to our annual season and creative program in the future." With NORPA having to suspend public operations at the moment, the funding will be important to help them get back on their feet when the theatre can reopen.

Itsy Bitsy Art

The galleries may be closed but the creatives are still hard at work. Local artists Caitlin Reilly and Kate Stead who normally share a studio at the Itsy Bitsy Art Space in Station Street have both relocated to home studios due to COVID-19. However, as a way of remaining connected to their community, recent works are still being hung at Itsy Bitsy and can be seen through the glass doors or online. Caitlin says her work is an expression of her love for the area in which she lives. "It is my intention that this feeling comes to life through my painting, sculpture and drawings," she says. Keep up to date on [Instagram.com/itsybitsyartspace](https://www.instagram.com/itsybitsyartspace)

Lisa Peacock

[tamarasmith.org.au](https://www.tamarasmith.org.au)

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Council matters

2020/2021 Budget and Operational Plan

Byron Shire Council's 2020/2021 Budget and Operational Plan is slightly delayed this year as Council assesses the impact of COVID-19 on its planned operations and revenue for the next financial year. Both documents will go on public exhibition between 25 June and 23 July 2020.

Bangalow representatives on the Place Planning Collective, in consultation with relevant community groups, submitted an ambit set of project proposals for Council's consideration. The projects focus primarily on improving safe and accessible movement in high pedestrian traffic areas identified in both the Bangalow Village Plan and Council's PAMP and Bike Plans in these locations:

- a) from Byron Creek to Station Lane and around the primary school (Byron Street, Station Lane, Market Street)
- b) from Station Street to Ashton Street (Deacon Street)
- c) from Rifle Range Road to the BCCC (Raftons Road).

In addition, proposals were submitted for the restoration of the footbridge at Bangalow Parklands, and a concept/design plan for civic and urban improvements in the village centre.

The Station Street Structure Plan and changes to Chapter E2 Bangalow in the Byron Development Control Plan (2014) have been rolled over from last year's Operational Plan. Council has a new Place Liaison Officer, Andrew FitzGibbon, who will guide and co-ordinate approved projects in 2020/21.

Sustainability Awards 2020

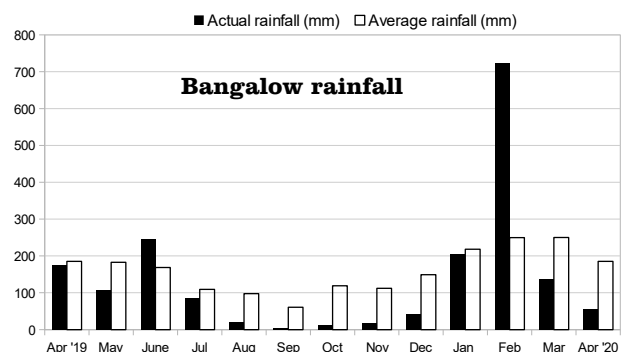
The nomination period for Sustainability Awards is extended, now closing on 5 June 2020. The Award is for individuals, groups or organisations over four categories: sustainability, biodiversity, waste and water. Nominate at byron.nsw.gov.au/sustainability.

Business survey

Council is gathering information on how COVID-19 is affecting local businesses. It is asking local businesses to commit to completing a two-weekly online Business Impacts, Resilience and Continuity Survey to track business' experience through and beyond the pandemic. Council is hoping to identify business' needs and priorities to better provide support and assistance where they can, and to identify recovery and resilience strategies. The results of the survey will be passed on to State and Federal Governments to increase awareness of the particular needs of Byron Shire's business community. At the end of the survey period one random participant will win an iPad 'Air'. Complete the survey at yoursaybyronshire.com.au/business-impacts-resilience-and-continuity

Also, sign-up to receive Council's new electronic newsletter, Business in Byron Shire, by emailing economicdevelopment@byron.nsw.gov.au

Jenny Bird





Palm Tree Parents – a Bangalow group registered with Resilient Byron – was formed when two Palm Tree Crescent resident parents, Paul Glennie and Chelsea Thomas, got chatting about the need for a virtual group where parents on the street could talk to each other about the challenges of keeping kids safe and healthy during COVID-19.

Since its formation on 22 March, the resulting WhatsApp group has helped the parents of young children on the street to get to know each other and share creative solutions to common problems, such as how to keep their kids 1.5m apart “one daddy’s length” while out and about. **Photo: Karla Conroy**

Resilience in the Shire

Jean Renouf has a background working in disaster and war zones as an international aid worker, managing projects in some of the world’s most challenging environments. He’s also a firefighter with the Mullumbimby branch of Fire and Rescue NSW, and an academic at SCU with impeccable qualifications.

Living in Byron Shire for the past six years with his wife and two small sons, his focus is now on establishing a not-for-profit organisation, Resilient Byron. Its long-term plan is to transform the Byron Shire into a resilient and regenerative region.

What, exactly, does that mean?

‘Resilient and regenerative communities are designed to leave more than they take from the environment, but also from others, and from themselves. This creates abundance rather than depletion, allowing us to live within our natural and social limits, as well as resilience, allowing us to bounce off and adapt in times of disasters and crisis,’ its website reads.

Essentially, it’s an interconnected web of supportive community groups that aims to transform the region.

As a researching academic, Jean interviewed and surveyed close to 1,000 climate change experts and scientists from 84 countries asking them how the knowledge they have affected the way they work and live their lives. “The data collected was very dark,” Jean recalls. “It showed

that 54 per cent of respondents believed that by 2050, the average global temperature would be two degrees higher than now, and we’d be living in a radically different planet.”

This provoked Jean into considering exactly what he could do, right now, to change that.

Having worked on the frontline in war zones, disasters and crises, he was well aware of how they affect society and individuals. The thought of his kids facing such scenes, prompted him to take action. “If we want to prepare for what’s to come, we have to change the way we live.”

Both the summer bushfires and the arrival of COVID-19 accelerated the start of the Resilient Byron networks. “These are not radical new ideas,” Jean explained. “Already, there are many neighbourhood groups. What was lacking was inter-connectedness and a shared transformative vision of how to live differently and help each other to live differently.”

Within the past month, 12 ‘geographic’ groups have registered on the website (including one in Bangalow). There are also three ‘thematic’ groups bringing together people with a shared passion to create new resilience and regeneration projects. For instance, during a heat wave, a network of first aid responders – individuals, staff and volunteers from a variety of emergency services – could work together to provide aid and respite support to the elderly, before the

arrival of an ambulance. (There are only 16 ambulance stations between Grafton and the Tweed, meaning delays in arrival can be long.)

“At a minimum, what we want to achieve is increased social cohesion. My wife and I dropped letters to the neighbours in our street, inviting them to join us and encouraging each other to connect. Their response has opened my heart. Suddenly I feel more interest and warmth towards my neighbours, and barriers have somehow broken down.”

Bangalow residents will be familiar with this process, with the proliferation of so many Facebook pages, some directly related to COVID-19, others with a common interest such as *The Bangalow Herald*, or via organisations providing emergency support in times of need.

Resilient Byron operates with a steering group of nine individuals with “diverse, complementary skills”, with a long-term perspective. There are about 20 volunteers in the core group from around the shire who help develop specific projects, and many others involved in different ways.

“Ideally, we’d like to see the region criss-crossed with resilient and regenerating neighbourhoods, developing self-sufficiency in energy, food, water and health, creating projects that bring people together. We encourage anyone interested to join the effort.”

Christobel Munson



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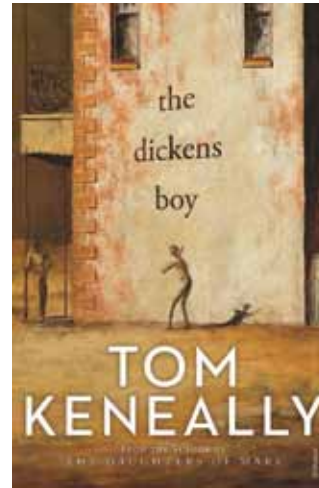
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The Dickens Boy by Tom Keneally

Edward Bulwer Lytton Dickens, the youngest son of Charles and Catherine Dickens, was a mere 15-years-old when he left England to emigrate to Australia, a developing nation, which his father saw as a land of great opportunity. Keneally has written an engaging story of what that event might have been like for the congenial young Dickens boy.



Simultaneously, Keneally has opened a window into early Australia in the mid 19th Century; the ponderous speed of travel, the immensity of the landscape, and the vast amount of physical work required to farm it.

Nicknamed 'Plorn' by his family, Dickens travels first to Melbourne where he meets his mentor and receives instructions on his assigned employment at the outback station of Momba at Wilcannia, NSW. His father's reputation precedes him wherever he goes, and it sits uncomfortably with him that he has never read any of his father's books. While not successful academically, Plorn is portrayed as a sensitive and sensible young man who wishes to prove to his father that he is capable of success. When Plorn meets up with his brother Alfred who had settled in Australia three years earlier, he is embarrassed by his brother's drunkenness and distressed by Alfred's version of the Dickens family secrets and the resentments felt towards their father. Plorn harbours no such memories and prefers to focus instead on the memories of his idyllic childhood.

This gentle and enjoyable story abounds with characters and events that demonstrate how difficult life must have been for Australia's early settlers, how rife the country was with corruption, and how the wealthy lorded it over the poor.

This was my first Keneally book and I really enjoyed his storytelling. As the book only covers the first few years of Plorn's life in Australia, it was a delight to discover more details online.

Carolyn Adams

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Robert and Robyn Buckley's farm on Bangalow Road is a great spot to pick up local stone fruit, figs and berries.
Photo: Judy Baker

Glenbrook

Agriculture around the Northern Rivers is in constant flux as some crops go out of favour and others become new favourites. **Helen Johnston** reports on a farmer who has stayed true to his family's love of stone fruit.



Bangalow lies in the centre of what was once one of the most productive areas of the dairying industry. By 1890, the sub-tropical rainforest called 'The Big Scrub' had been cleared and dairy farmers moved into the area and made a good living for the next 80 years.

Many old pioneering families remain, and Robert Buckley is a third-generation descendant to live and work on the original family farm called Glenbrook. He still has 60 head of beef cattle but most of his income is derived from fruit.

Robert was one of 11 children and was educated at St Finbarr's Primary School and Richmond River High School. He completed a Fitter and Turner apprenticeship and later drove trucks interstate for many years.

Robert Buckley loves trucks almost as much as fruit, and one of his ambitions is to restore several he has parked on his property. When his ageing parents needed help with their then-thriving stone fruit business, he and his

wife Robyn helped out and eventually moved back to the family property on Bangalow Road in 2003. They relocated a beautiful old Queenslander home from Ballina and live in that now with their dogs Bella, Jack and Scooter.

Robert says there were once 26 stone fruit farms in the Bangalow area but as the new requirements for fruit needing to be perfect in appearance, as well as have a long shelf life and hardness for long distance travel, made supplying the wholesale market unprofitable and unsatisfactory. The Buckley farm diversified into half a dozen fruit crops including blueberries, raspberries, figs and persimmons, as well as their best tasting and juicy nectarines and peaches.

Robert and Robyn are busy all year around with pruning the trees, thinning out the potential crop, picking the fruit and maintaining the nets and equipment. The farm is low lying and the chill factor in winter is ideal for the crops

they grow. All their produce is sold from the farm gate which cuts out the middle man. October to December is when the stone fruit, figs and berries are at their peak. In winter, wax free apples and pears are obtained from Stanthorpe and a range of frozen berries and mango slices is available.

Having been in the area for so long, Buckley's Farm has hundreds of regular customers. The locals particularly look forward to the annual crop of their star peaches, Tropic Snow, which is a white peach, and Tropic Sweet which is yellow. They are not available in supermarkets because they are too soft and juicy.

Robert is known as an easy going, kind and generous man. He loves Bangalow and has observed and lived through some challenging times including the M1 being built too close to their property. He willingly accepts the changing parade of newcomers who have ensured the town's survival. His philosophy is "a stranger is a friend you haven't met yet."

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Leslie Lane (now Street), home of the first Bangalow Herald 1906-1908, viewed from the main street.

The Bangalow Herald 1906-1931

Small independent print newspapers like The Bangalow Herald are but tiny minnows swimming in the turbulent waters of the modern newspaper industry. The coronavirus is just the latest threat to rural and regional newspapers like ours. In this two-part series **Jenny Bird** traces the history of independent community newspapers in Bangalow – a tale of tragedy, heartbreak and determination.

Bangalow was a new and bustling town in 1906 when the first *Bangalow Herald* was published from a print shop in Leslie Lane (now Street). At that time, Leslie Lane, Byron Street and Station Street were all commercial streets. They surrounded the railway station and sidings which lay at the centre of the town's economy. Timber and dairy products from surrounding farms were loaded onto trains that trundled down to the ships moored at the end of the old jetty at Byron Bay, destined for Sydney.

The paper was a weekly double-sided broadsheet and joined the *Northern Star* in Lismore, the *Byron Bay Record*, the *Mullumbimby Star* and the *Ballina Herald* as the first newspapers in the Northern Rivers.

In 1908 the business moved across the railway line to new premises in Byron Street, near where Abracadabra is now situated. From this print shop issued the *Bangalow Herald* and *Newrybar Advertiser*, the *Byron Bay Gazette* and stationery products.

Like all the buildings in the village at that time, the shop was built of timber, and in April 1920 a fire reduced the shop to ashes, destroying the machinery, all the paper stock and the next issue – freshly printed

and ready for delivery. The proprietor, a Mr Munro, announced with regret that publication would cease, at least temporarily, as he could not find new premises nor afford to replace the lost plant. "Thus the town of Bangalow will, for a time at least, be without its weekly budget of news, after an unbroken period of 13 years," said Mr Munro.

The paper was re-established in 1921 by a new proprietor from Queensland in an office located in the same part of Byron Street. However, the copy for the paper was produced from various locations around town, and the printing was done in Lismore. A sample issue dated Friday, January 20, 1928, shows the paper as a four-page broadsheet with a front page full of advertisements that hint at the life of the village at the time – milking machines, asbestos fibro cement sheets ('cheaper than weatherboards and no upkeep') an Essex Super-Six car for 255 pounds, and T.A. Squelch's 'The House for Everything' – oil stoves, fishing tackle, baths, beekeeping equipment and more.

At this time, Bangalow was one of the most densely populated country areas in NSW with a village population of 1,000 and a district



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Byron Street in 1906.

Photos: Bangalow Historical Society and Hamilton Du Lieu.



The Herald as a broadsheet, 1928.



New premises in Byron Street 1908-1920.

population of 3,500. Within a 10 mile radius of the town there were over 35,000 milking cows, creating a ratio of cows to people of 10:1!

On an inside page, the North Coast Steam Ship Co. advertises "The best and cheapest route from Byron Bay to Sydney". You could catch a steamer twice weekly from Byron Bay to Sydney for three pounds return, and then catch the train from the Bay to Bangalow. There was, as yet, no Pacific Highway and Byron Bay was one of the busiest ports (both passenger and cargo) in New South Wales.

As I combed the paper, this intriguing anonymous entry grabbed my imagination: "Will person seen picking up overcoat near Binna Burra [butter] factory please leave at factory and save further trouble." I can't help but wonder what happened.

Tragedy was to strike again in the early hours of the morning of January 9, 1931. Fire swept through the row of six terraced shops that housed the *Herald* and the nearby motor garage, destroying the buildings and all their contents. The alarm was raised by George Sue, a Chinese herbalist who lived in, and dispensed from, one of the shops. The Mullumbimby Fire Brigade attended the fire as there was no Bangalow fire brigade. This was the fourth major fire in 15 months in Bangalow and prompted action by the community to get a fire brigade for the village.

The *Bangalow Herald* had once again been reduced to ashes, and Bangalow would never again see a dedicated commercial newspaper office in the village. The Great Depression set in, and then World War II, and Bangalow would not see a local paper again until 1998.

The July 2020 issue will cover the second eventful chapter in the history of our local newspapers, 1998-2020.

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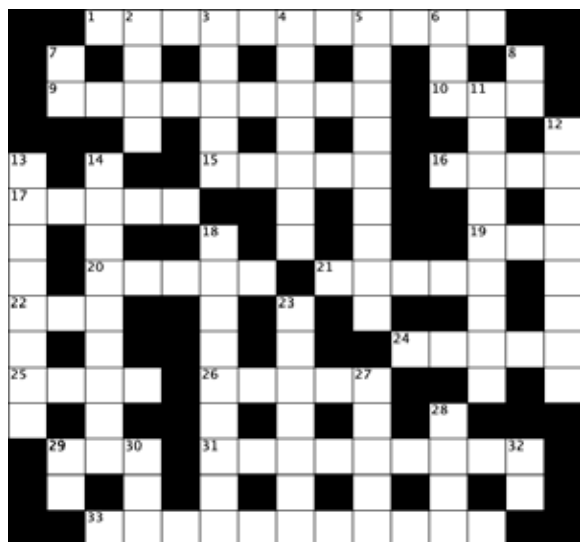
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Every row, column and cluster, including the fragmented pink cluster, must contain the numbers 1 to 7.

CRYPTIC

Compiler: John Stewart 002



JS

ACROSS

- 1 Billing duel worn here. (11)
- 9 AKEA//D/MM/YY. Crazy muttering from a soiled copper (4,2,3)
- 10 Jesus Christ! My sports car is missing (1,1,1)
- 15 Cuter form of settlement. (5)
- 16 Sums up the tool, say. (4)
- 17 The french post a picture to confuse this fruit. (5)
- 19 Led Zeppelin riff almost turns into a tree. (3)
- 20 See 21 across
- 21,20 across Dylan? Man no! Perilous to confuse him with this local renaissance woman. (5,5)
- 22 Spin dial but left out the help. (3)
- 24 Noisy if you cook an ape. (5)
- 25 Even combs over this hooter. (4)
- 26 Model bum. Borish Twit. (5)
- 29 Parent not guiding this northerner (1,1,1)
- 31 Press bits of hedge off-cuts. (9)
- 33 Mummy ill, bub unwell here. (11)

DOWN

- 2 In your pinky or on your pinky - it's not a good look (4)
- 3 50.1.1000.1 Bar ceiling. (5)
- 4 Sure to dub on mix. (2,5)
- 5 This guy is on the wagon and careful on the boat. (3,6)
- 6 Even then, grown ups have esteem. (3)
- 7,29 down It produces 9 across. (2,2)
- 8,32 down Tickle sage like state. (2,2)
- 11 Find my GIO forms are changing. (9)
- 12 New Barry upsetting here (8)
- 13 A lab gown worn here (8)
- 14 How the fly goes? (2,3,4)
- 18 Cool a jerk? Almost all are over zealous (9)
- 23 Trade Mark is our failing industry (7)
- 27 Internet service provider before record returns a drink. (5)
- 28 Turn the rolls and turn your back. (4)
- 29 See 7 down.
- 30 Wildebeest starts going nuts up...and in the middle as well! (3)
32. See 8 down.

PUZZLES & COLOURING-IN

Artwork: Leonie Lane



Writing Home

Rebecca Sargeant takes a place-based approach to universal themes in a new column, 'Writing Home'. This month she reflects on the non-human activation of the public realm during the COVID-19 shutdown.

On a sunny day in April, the air still and the foot traffic along the adjacent path quelled by the shock-waves of a pandemic, a large, medieval-looking bird appeared to be busily preparing a nest – collecting twigs from the dried branches of the Lilly Pilly trees lining our fence, and then making the short trip across the path to assemble his loot in the shrubbery lining the neighbour's fence.

I was embracing 'iso' and completely absorbed in Ben Lerner's *The Topeka School* - a book about language, and inner-lives, and other modes of human centredness - but for the periodic crackle of twigs and whoosh of the bird's majestic wings.

A quick Google search (big bird white head grey body) revealed it was a white-headed pigeon, whose nest is made with interlaced



Painting of a scaly-breasted lorikeet by Sophia Honey

twigs in understorey growth close to the ground.

Several years ago, I was a member of the tender evaluation panel for the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan. As part of the process, I read through dozens of tender submissions from, amongst various professional collaborators, 'placemakers'. While a new concept to me at the time, I quickly became well-versed in the vernacular of placemaking.

Placemaking refers to the design of the public realm, taking a people-focused approach to urban design to encourage a place's activation. Targeted interventions are a popular tool of placemakers to test ideas and reimagine public space. For example, the transformation of a car parking space into a park with mod grass, beach umbrellas and deck chairs.

Walking the dog through the Showgrounds in the week following my glorious Saturday of reading, I was surprised by the sight of a flock of small green birds busily foraging on the ground below a camphor laurel.

Another Google search revealed the birds to be scaly-breasted lorikeets (I was pretty sure they were lorikeets!). They like to feed on the camphor laurel berries that are abundant in autumn and winter.

With the public school all but closed and events cancelled, the patch of ground blanketed by the birds was relieved of its usual vehicular traffic.

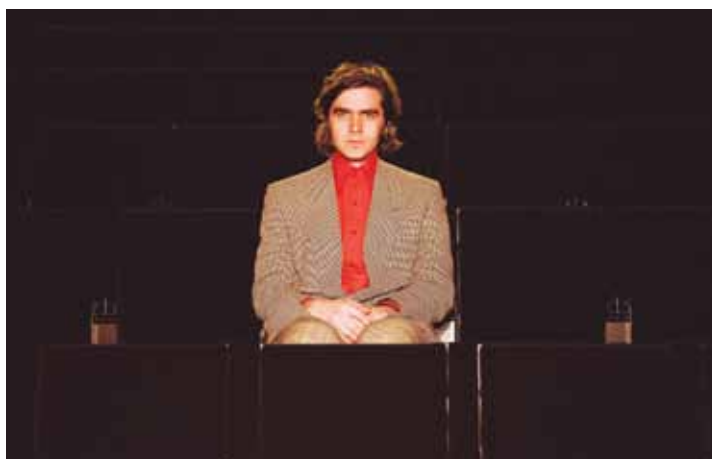
And it occurred to me that if we were to widen the gaze of placemaking to include animals in the activation of the public realm, then the COVID-19 shutdown has been a masterstroke intervention.

While unfortunately, for many, not the 'lighter, quicker, cheaper' style activation favoured by the latest trends in tactical urbanism, it has nonetheless provided an opportunity to re-imagine our use (or over-use) of the public realm.

Hollow Ground by Cut Worms

From doo-wops and hollers to red pressed collars, like a love-soured jukebox riddled with dollars, Cut Worms is the nom de plume of Max Clarke, a budding illustrator and creative connoisseur reigning from the streets of Chicago, Illinois. From the ever-fluid plight of an artistic mind, Clarke's sophomore LP *Hollow Ground*, materialises out of a life lived between a pen and a page. *Hollow Ground* echoes the infectious pleasantries of The Beatles while revering the underhanded drollery of anything David Lynch. Like Lynch's work, the album has an earnest, golden-cheeked kind of smirk, freckled with the soda pop nostalgia of pre-Dylan rock.

The album opens with *How Can It Be*, which emerges from a trotting guitar melody that cuts a line of paper dolls from an Everly Brothers tour poster. Clarke's nasally, double tracked AM voice sings harmonies that pull out like Parker nesting tables. True to the era, the lyricism of the album ranges from irksome cliché to profound simplicity as he candidly croons: "Lately I don't know whether I'm in a lake of fire or a drift of snow".



**Cut Worms
Photo: Joyce Lee**

The moreish, candy flavours of the album come from a concoction of fastidious compositional layers honeyed by instrumentation and bottled by an 8 Track recorder to sweeten the blend. Stepping out of the barn and into the expanse of night, *Till Tomorrow Goes Away* sees a love-scorned drunkard hollering into the abyss with what if's in spite of what was not. County fare guitar lines and lingering

vibrato interweave to decorate the void.

Recorded in Los Angeles by Foxygen's Jonathan Rado, and at New York's heavily analogue Gary's Electric with producer Jason Finkel, Clarke hones the perfect mould to pour his pool of penned projections. With the form set and the figurine gleaming, Clarke signs off from sketchbook annotations to full studio album, integrity intact. *Sabastian Fardell*

Chocolate self-saucing puddings

Jigsaws and desserts, just two of the home isolation necessities. Desserts are one of the most requested food items for take away these COVID days. With the winter months here, what better than warm chocolate and an open fire.

These little puddings are an indulgent treat you can make in no time at all.

Use good quality chocolate for great flavour. Don't forget to poke a hole in the centre of the pudding and fill with cream to melt ever so slightly into the luscious chocolate sauce.

Serves 4.

Self-saucing chocolate puddings

40g dark chocolate finely chopped
120g unsalted butter at room temperature
120g castor sugar
1½ tsp vanilla extract
2 eggs, lightly beaten
90g self-raising flour
2 tbsp cocoa powder
1 tbsp chopped hazelnuts
Extra 60g dark chocolate finely chopped
1 tbsp milk

Chocolate sauce

80g soft brown sugar
¼ cup cocoa powder
200ml hot water

To serve

Icing sugar
Double thick cream

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Lightly butter four, one cup capacity, ovenproof ceramic ramekins. Divide the 40g of chocolate evenly between the ramekins. Sit on a baking tray. Beat the butter and sugar together for 2-3 minutes until soft and well mixed. Stir the vanilla into the beaten eggs. Drizzle the egg mixture into the creamed butter and sugar, beating well. Sift the flour and cocoa over the top of the batter. Sprinkle on the nuts and chopped chocolate and then pour in the milk. Stir to a soft batter. Divide evenly among the ramekins, smoothing the batter with the back of a spoon.

For the chocolate sauce, mix the

brown sugar and cocoa together. Pour in the hot water and whisk.

Pour a quarter of the sauce over each pudding.

Put the puddings in the oven and bake for 30-35 minutes, or until they spring back when you press them gently.

Let the puddings settle for 15 minutes before serving.

Dust with the icing sugar and serve with lashings of cream.

Recipe from Belinda Jeffery's *Tried and True Recipes*

Watercolour and words by Lyn Hand.







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Cape Chestnut *Calodendron capense*

Originally from Africa where its natural habitat includes South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya, this lovely medium-sized tree should be grown more widely. There is a wonderful specimen in Mullumbimby next to Petrea Thomas pool that flowers profusely and can be seen from Dalley Street.

The name refers to the resemblance that the flowers bear to Horse Chestnuts, but they are not chestnuts, being more closely

related to the citrus family. The oil glands in the leaves smell lemony when crushed and are used in Africa to produce unguents that protect the skin against UV damage.

The large knobbly green seed capsules turn yellow before they fall, and the seeds are not invasive. Propagation from the seeds is relatively easy but establishment is tediously slow.

Trees are usually available online from

Yamina and Daleys Nurseries, and occasionally from specialist growers including those at Mount Tamborine. Trees will generally be grafted which makes them more expensive, but more likely to thrive in our climate. They are sometimes chosen as street trees for which they are very suitable, having non-invasive roots and showy blooms for long periods.

Cape Chestnuts can be single or multi-trunked and have a profusion of pale pink flowers covering the dome from spring to autumn. Flowers have five petals and five stamens that are streaked with pale maroon. They grow in clusters that resemble orchids and are sweetly perfumed.

There is a rarer variety known as Chandler's Silver that is white and better suited to cooler climates. Most plants are slow to establish and can take several years to flower but are worth the wait as the flowering period is generous and some years there are intermittent flowerings - ours is still flowering beautifully.

Open, sunny positions that are well drained are best as the only issue can be collar rot, so when mulching, make sure the trunk is clear.

In this region, expect them to grow up to six metres, although they can be pruned during their semi-deciduous phase if you wish but the natural shape is a dome and should be retained.

Cape Chestnuts are drought hardy, frost hardy once established, and adapt to coastal locations. They have no pest or disease issues and appreciate organic matter, seaweed, fish emulsion and Dynamic Lifter around the drip line, but not close to the trunk which must be kept clear.

Carole Gamble

My Lovely Garden winners

Thanks to all who submitted photos of their Lovely Garden. There was a favourite lime tree, some beautiful roses, a pink and pretty closeup of a dahlia with bees, and others which showed the diverse and imaginative gardens to be found throughout 2479. The two winners show differing aspects of gardening. A newcomer to town found that the garden she established helped introduce her to her neighbours, and a huge liquidambar crashing onto a front garden provided the perfect opportunity for the other winner to create a new design.



"My garden is special because it has acquainted me with the local community. I have recently bought in Bangalow and have spent lots of time in my garden. People stop to talk, kids notice the lion hiding in the tree, and dogs drink from the bowl."
Lauren Julian, Leopard Wood Crescent.



"This photo shows part of the front garden that was almost totally destroyed 18 months ago when a huge branch of the liquidambar suddenly split off and fell on the garden. I love my garden, it is a place for contemplation, grounding, healing, creativity and beauty." Lynn Smith, Lawlers Lane.

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AA (5.30pm Tues)	Richard	0423 567 669
ADFAS	John	0438 778 055
Al-Anon (2pm Fri)		1300 252 666
Bangalow Koalas	Linda	0411 491 991
Bridge	Dennis	6687 1574
Chamber of Commerce		admin@bangalow.biz
Community Children's Centre	Kerry	6687 1552
Co-dependents Anonymous	Gye	0421 583 321
CWA (Wed)	Janene	0423 655 151
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
Scout Hall	Karen	0400 591 719
St Kevin's Catholic Hall	Russell	0423 089 684

Business News

The shops in Bangalow are slowly reopening after most were shut in March. Health providers that were forced to shut are also back in action. **Bangalow Remedial Massage** and **Bangalow Physiotherapy** have restarted, the latter offering one-on-one pilates and physiotherapy (see their advertisements for details).



Given the hard times, it is encouraging to see a successful business relocating to Bangalow. **Hammer & Hand** jewellery and metal collective (pictured above) has left the Byron Arts & Industry Estate and will be opening in June in the arts precinct in Station Street. Owner and coordinator Bruce Pringle says there will be a gradual opening with a workshop in the first stage showing examples of their work. The collective is made up of jewellery artists and sculptors who work off-site but are available to meet at the Station Street shop. Hammer & Hand was established in 1994 and also has an outlet in Hobart.

Rather than try and bring readers up to date with the status of all businesses, the following is a snapshot of changes to local food outlets post-isolation.



Katrina and Karl at **Town** have remained open throughout the last couple of months offering a breakfast and lunch takeaway menu. While 10 people are allowed in restaurants in Stage 1, it is not viable to open for full service until more people are allowed to be seated. Until then, they will continue with their takeaway service from

8.30am to 2.00pm and from 7.30am on Saturdays.

Butcher Baker is in the same boat. Amanda and Paul say that until they are permitted at least 20 people to dine-in, then they will continue with takeaways only between 6.30am and 2.30pm. They will also do a Friday night themed banquet takeaway with a different national cuisine each week. Details are on their Facebook page.

In mid-June the old Choux Choux will reopen as the **Bangalow Bread Co.** Tyson and Jess have been busy remodeling the shop while closed through April and May. The old favourites will still be available along with a new range of products.

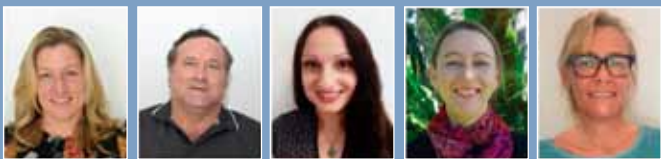
Pantry 29 remains unchanged. It too has remained open, as has the **Corner Kitchen** doing takeaway pizzas on Thursday through Sunday evenings. **Sparrow** is still pumping out coffees with many customers using their app to order.

Red Ginger has reopened with its yum cha and **Bamboo Bar** is going strong from 5 to 8pm. **Paul Tsang's Chinese** is doing evening takeaways and next door **Bangburgers** has remained operating for burgers, fish and chips and coffee.

The Italian Diner will not reopen in Stage 1. Unfortunately, we were not able to contact Woods, The Bangalow Dining Room or One Green Acre, which were still closed at the time of publication.

Murray Hand

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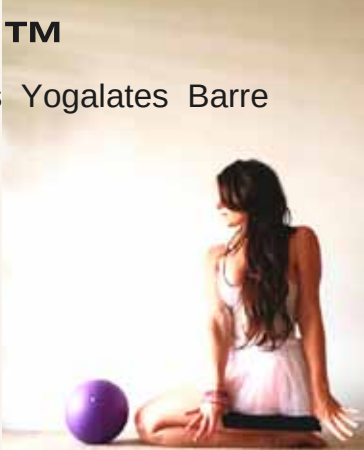
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Young people and mental health

During the current period of isolation and social distancing, mental health is critically important. **Mery Stevens** interviews Sereena from headspace Lismore to find out how they're dealing with the changed landscape.



Team members at headspace Lismore standing by to help.

Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12 to 25-year-olds. It grew out of a need to assist young people with mental and substance use disorders in a way that is accessible and effective. Headspace Lismore was set up in 2014 and has a passionate and dedicated team of more than 20 people from across the Northern Rivers, including Bangalow.

Sereena, the president of headspace Lismore Youth Advisory Group (YAG) says: "It is evident that, as a result of what has been going on globally, our community is feeling heightened levels of anxiety and stress. People are also feeling less connected due to self-isolation and physical distancing measures... We have been affected by the cumulative

impacts of many natural disasters... including drought, bush fires, flooding and now a global pandemic. We want the community to know we are still open and supporting young people and their families who may be struggling with all or any of these disasters."

The staff at headspace Lismore are young and friendly and the services are free or low cost, covering essential psychological services, counselling, case management and medical referral support. Staff are there to help young people get back on track and strengthen their ability to manage their mental health.

Sereena says she believes "the current generation of young people is more articulate and has access to the words and information that can help them understand

the way that they are thinking, feeling and behaving. Due to this, they may feel more comfortable expressing their mental health needs with trusted individuals and seeking help if need be."

Headspace is active in the community, organising and taking part in events and workshops that help break down the stigma surrounding mental health. A spokesperson said: "We are really proud to have been supported by the Byron Bay Lighthouse Run last year and in the coming four years. The efforts of the local community were incredible."

Headspace Lismore is a great local resource for young people who wish to discuss any topics related to mental health.

Contact: headspace.org.au
Ph: 6625 0200

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 plenty happening online to keep us entertained and connected.

ADFAS Byron

Contact Dianne Stuart
vcadfasbyron@gmail.com

ADFAS has purchased a series of 'virtual' lectures that will be rolled out into July. They cover a range of topics presented by both Australian and UK lecturers. They include topics such as Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and Renaissance Italian Villas and Gardens and their Afterlives. Lecture and access details will be emailed to current ADFAS Byron members and to 'Friends of ADFAS Byron' (people who are



not a member but would like to access the lectures).

ADFAS Byron hopes to resume normal lecture gatherings at the A&I Hall in Bangalow by October 2020. To become a member or to learn more about ADFAS contact Sandra Manikowsky sjmank@outlook.com

Byron Community College

Where byroncollege.org.au

Choose from the usual range of courses in Byron Community

College's Term Two program, offered online via Zoom. Courses include yoga, social media, photography, music, meditation, French and more. A great way to learn and connect.

Critical Stage Touring

Where criticalstages.com.au/news/

Critical Stage Touring has put together a comprehensive list of streaming theatre, cabaret, arts education and artist opportunities happening online.

INClub

Where theinclub.com.au

When Wednesdays
10am-11.15am

If you fancy learning more about writing, Siboney Duff is running Zoom writing classes with small groups. Siboney covers a different topic each week and helps you to develop your writing style through short writing exercises.

National Theatre at Home

Where nationaltheatre.org.



Shotokan Karate Do and Self Defence

Contact byronshireshotokan.com

Classes are now available both online and outdoors in the Bangalow Showgrounds. Pre-recorded sessions are released twice each week for students to practice when it suits. Online gradings are also available. Outdoor sessions are open to a maximum of nine students per class for Cubs (six to 10 years old), Tigers (11-16 years old) and adults.

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Join the CWA!



More than Tea and Scones
Bangalow Branch
Join us Wednesdays/Thursdays 9-2
The CWA is a substantial and influential women's lobby group



Andrea Smyth is back on the tools in the salon!

0405 594 240

Bangalow Hairdressing
15 Byron Street, Bangalow

uk/whats-on

Available from the UK, National Theatre Live offers world-class theatre performed by headline actors on YouTube and from their website. The program changes weekly so go to the website and see what's on offer. They stream a free full length play every Thursday. Always top shelf theatre. Donations also welcome.

QPAC at Home

Where qpac.com.au

Queensland Performing Arts Centre offers all sorts of interviews and shorts/mini-documentaries— music, dance, art and more.

Token Events

Where comedy.com.au

Fancy an online laugh with some of Australia's funniest comedians? The Comedy Company Token has a whole pile of comedy Live Streams, TV Shows, podcasts (like Tom Ballard, Judith Lucy, Wil Anderson) and more. Contributions to support artists are invited.

Tweed Regional Gallery

Where artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

The prestigious Border Art Prize 2020 is on offer as an Online

Exhibition until 5 July 2020. The gallery is also offering online art activities that you can do in your own time, including a Flower Portraits Activity and ART PLAY – World of Birds Activity.

Queensland Museum

Where qm.qld.gov.au

If you and your children love natural history museums, then visit Museum at Home on the Queensland Museum's website and Watch or subscribe to the Museum's YouTube Channel for a collection of fabulous museum related videos.

Wanted: Sudokion volunteers

Contact stephensudokion123@gmail.com

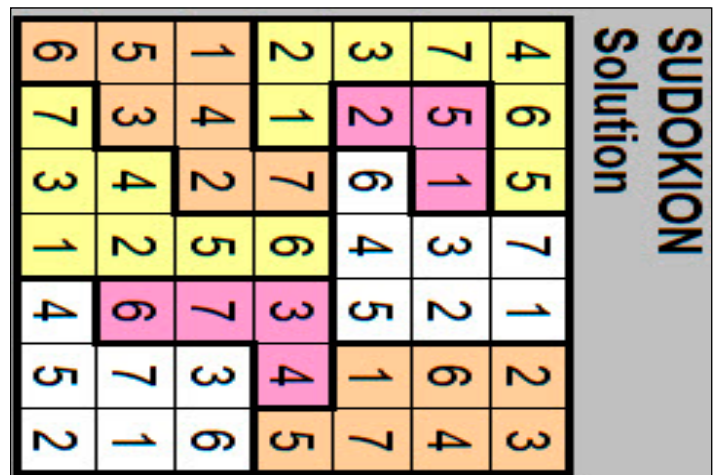
Local Sudokion designer is seeking volunteers for pre-launch testing of a new Sudokion app. There are thousands of puzzles to test, ranging from very easy (level 1) to extreme (level 5). No experience playing Sudoku necessary.

Deadlines for July issue

What's online 12 June

Advertising 12 June

Copy 14 June



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WWW.BYRONBAYFN.COM.AU

Modern natives

Cooking and hospitality have always been a science and an art. There's no way of measuring the exact portion of science required to make a dish perfect or means of determining appropriate level of creativity. When the mix is right the experience works, and when it isn't, we don't go back. It's a tough game and no one pleases everyone all the time.

When I was an apprentice chef in the early 80s, there was one French chef that everyone studied to learn how to cook. You needed his book to pass TAFE. That was Auguste Escoffier and his book was *A Guide to Modern Cookery* (1903). What no one questioned at the time was the appropriateness of learning how to cook food in Australia from a French cookbook published a century ago. There was a right way and a wrong way, and the right way was whatever Escoffier said it was.

What we essentially learned was the meaning of a lot of French words: mise en place, commis chef, sous chef, beurre blanc, crème anglaise, crème patisserie, pomme puree, mirepoix and the list goes on.

That all changed in the early 90s with the introduction of molecular gastronomy, which began as a scientific discipline in 1988 by Herve This, a physical chemist. He was interested in understanding physical and chemical transformations that occur during cooking. Ferran Adria of El Bulli fame is the most famous of many chefs to have applied the knowledge of molecular gastronomy and turn it into a unique, modernist, molecular cuisine.

Basically, molecular gastronomy changed how cooking is taught and understood from being a French practice drawing on Escoffier's techniques to a scientific one that explains why Aldi supermarkets now sells sous vide sticks and food vacuum sealers.

In the Northern Rivers, we have our very own Herve This and her name is Sheryl Rennie. Her



Sheryl Rennie on her farm at Friday Hut Road, Possum Creek.

Photo: David Hancock

company, Australian Fingerlime Caviar, is in the business of changing the molecular properties of Australian native foods via processes of snap and freeze drying before turning them into powders and chips that are used by myriad companies in multiple ways.

Sheryl was selling finger limes to El Bulli in 2007 when it was voted best restaurant in the world, but I'm most keen to talk about how boutique breweries such as Four Pillars, Brookfarm, Pirate Life and Yullis are using her snap frozen fruit and native food powders to make their gins and beers quite so compelling. All Sheryl wants to talk about though is what various pharmaceutical and nutraceutical companies are doing with her produce.

"I'm an agent for 10 growers from Taree to the Northern Rivers and farmers grow and harvest different varieties of finger limes, as well as Davidson Plums, lemon aspens, ribberries and lemon myrtle. I market and sell the produce fresh, snap frozen and powdered. France was our largest export market before the GFC hit, and now it's Taiwan and Singapore. We look after Australian companies first though, and the micro-breweries and nutraceutical companies are our biggest customers."

There are 11kgs of fresh fruit in 1kg of Davidson's Plum powder, and 9.5kg of fruit in a kilo of finger lime powder. That quantity of

produce accounts for the \$250 per kilo price tag for the powder. "It stores well in the fridge or freezer and because we're a wholesale company, most businesses buy in the tens or hundreds of kilograms at a time. We also supply snap frozen finger limes to Blue Bay Gourmet and Suncoast Fresh, which local chefs can order from. The only restaurants we supply directly are Town Café and Restaurant and Harvest. Karl and Katrina from Town are ambassadors for finger limes. Karl has done a video for our website that shows people how to peel and scrape pearls from the defrosted or fresh finger limes to avoid getting seeds mixed with the pearls."

Sheryl says that rising temperatures have caused the finger limes to produce more seeds making it difficult to harvest the caviar pearls. Karl's technique is an easy, sure-fire way to avoid that problem for chefs who want to use finger lime caviar, from either fresh or snap frozen fruit.

Australian Fingerlime Caviar is a successful local agribusiness that uses the latest food production techniques to value-add to their harvest. Sheryl's 25-year journey into the farming and processing of Australian native plants is great news for the region, as well as for chefs and food producers throughout the world.

Jim Hearn



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