

The fine art of friendship



Margaret Olley in her studio in Sydney, NSW, Australia at 9.22am on December 13, 2005 (detail).
Photo: R. Ian Lloyd
Tweed Regional Gallery collection. ©The artist

When Ingrid Hedgcock was sorting through Margaret Olley's Paddington home three years after the artist's death, preparing thousands of items for re-creation at the Tweed Regional Gallery, she came across two photographs of an artist's studio that left her mystified.

Digby Hildreth uncovers the mystery.

The photos powerfully evoked something of Olley's workspace, with its vast collection of vases, jars, flowers, statuary and bowls of fruit that she had assembled to provide subjects for her still life painting. But Ingrid, a Bangalow resident and curator of the Margaret Olley Art Centre at the Tweed, didn't recognise them.

The photographs marked the start of a journey of discovery that took Ingrid to a tiny village in the south of France and illuminated a deep friendship and mutual artistic passion between Olley and Australian artist Fred Jessup.

Olley's friend and biographer Christine

France identified the studio in the photos as belonging to Jessup, who had met Olley in 1945 when they were night-class art students at East Sydney Technical College (now the National Art School). He had gone to Europe in 1948 and continued to live there until his death in 2007.

(continued p.4)

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Bangalow Community Children's Centre

The Year 5 students from Bangalow Public School visited our classroom to get to know us, so that we will have friends to help us when we start school.

They were dressed in their uniform and green hats.



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HERALD

The Bangalow

From the editor

After two years as editor of *The Bangalow Herald*, I've decided it's time to step down. It's been a terrific experience and something I never anticipated doing. What I've enjoyed most has been getting to know people I would never have met had I not taken on the role.

There's been much to report on over the last two years and it's been a privilege to help publish the stories that matter to locals.

If you'd like more information about what's involved in being Editor, or would like to apply for the position, please email Murray Hand by July 15. Murray is the current President of the Management Committee that oversees the running of *The Bangalow Herald*, and like everyone I've worked with here over the last couple of years, he's a community-minded legend who is very approachable.

Murray's email is: murrayhand1@bigpond.com

Our regular writers and contributors have turned out another cracking edition for July. Digby Hildreth uncovers a mystery amidst the history of Margaret Olley, and Jenny Bird reports on local writers appearing at this year's Byron Writers Festival. There is also a profile on local ultra-marathon runner Raymond Howells.

I'm very much looking forward to attending a number of shows we've covered over the last few months, including The Bangalow Music Festival, *Flow* at NORPA, and the production of *RENT* by the Bangalow Theatre Company.

I'll close by thanking all our contributors and volunteers, as well members of the business community who advertise with us, without whom there would be no publication. Thank you all very much.

I'm staying in the area, so no doubt I'll continue bumping into you on the mean streets of Bangalow.

Bye for now.

Jim Hearn

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Business News

New Food and Drink Venue

June saw the opening of Ciao Mate pizzeria and bar in the main street of Bangalow. Owners, Matt and Luke of Eltham Pub fame, have bought into the partnership Nick Stanton, who made his reputation in Melbourne but has escaped to tantalize the palates of this area. Nick offers specials that change daily, made from ingredients sourced locally. The pizzeria has a heated outdoor courtyard to supplement the booths inside. It is licensed with beers on tap and Australian and Italian wines. Ciao Mate is open in the evenings from 5 until late on Thursday through to Monday and also for lunch Friday to Sunday. Bookings are available online (ciaomate.com.au) but Matt will ensure that locals who walk in will be fitted in.

Free Feed

Good news! The Dine NSW vouchers have been extended a month and now expire on July 31. Unfortunately, in our postcode, there are only three venues where the vouchers can be redeemed, however, they are all good places to visit. The Dining Room at the pub, the Bowlo and Butcher Baker all offer good food and drink where you can use the vouchers. *Murray Hand*



Ciao Mate (L to R) Luke Sullivan, Nick Stanton and Matt Rabbidge. Photo supplied.

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The fine art of friendship



Fred Jessup in his studio, Espondeilhan, France, 2006.

Photo: Stephen Netherwood

(from page 1) Ingrid dug deeper, learning more about Jessup, his work and his connection with Olley, but it was when a Murwillumbah woman, Pam Timmers, told her she had lived in France and knew Jessup well that the research really took off.

"This was an incredible coincidence. I thought 'this is beyond my control, this is serendipity', and I knew this was a story I was meant to tell; Fred's story and the story of their friendship," Ingrid says.

Pam had one stunning piece of information: Fred's studio had remained closed up, almost untouched, since his death 11 years earlier.

Olley visited and painted alongside Jessup in France several times, from as

early as 1950; on his visits to Australia, they travelled up the East Coast, painting all the time, including scenes of the Tweed River at Murwillumbah, the place where Olley said her childhood had begun.

On her first visit to Europe, Olley was overwhelmed by the art she saw. She drew copiously and learned to make monotypes. Fred organised an exhibition of her work using this technique in Paris in 1952.

On a later trip to Australia in 1959, Jessup noted a deterioration in Olley caused by her drinking – and a falling off in the quality of her work. He steered her into Alcoholics Anonymous – a pivotal moment in her life and career. Sober, she dedicated herself to still

life painting, with a new colour palette and a rediscovered joyfulness.

Jessup said Olley was his greatest friend, their friendship based on a shared passion for art and specifically, despite the modern art trends of the day, to still life and interiors.

Hence the echoes that Ingrid saw in the photographs.

With the aid of a Gordon Darling Foundation grant, and with renowned photographer and Olley friend Greg Weight alongside her to document what she uncovered, Ingrid travelled to Jessup's studio in Espondeilhan.

It was a revelation. What she found was "like a soul-sister studio", Ingrid says. "As if they were neighbours but separated by half the world.



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Ingrid Hedgcock in the re-creation of Olley's home studio with the photo of Fred Jessup's studio that spurred the project

"It was dusty and without Fred's beautiful plants and fish and cats. The life was gone, and you feel a bit of sadness from that, but it was as it was when Fred passed away. You know you are uncovering an old story."

She was thrilled to find traces of Olley still there: "Friendship things. Letters she had written to him, books and newspaper articles she had sent from Australia. And more photographs, including an album containing pictures of them on a beach in southern France around 1950 – "things which to me cemented and illustrated the strength of their life-long friendship. They loved each other dearly".

Ingrid's understanding of their shared

obsession also deepened. They had very different ways of painting (including even the hours they kept: Olley followed the sunlight around her house, moving from room to room, from painting to painting; Jessup preferred the night, and artificial illumination). But both of them filled their studios and homes with objects to capture on canvas. Their studios are “dictionaries” for painting, each providing a portrait of the artist, Ingrid says.

Greg Weight's photographs of Olley's home studio in the days after her death, and of Jessup's workplace, suspended in time, reveal the poignant details of their shared passion.

Lismore-born Olley spent most of her life

away from the Northern Rivers, but we continue to see her as one of our own, and revere her strengths, as a great colourist, and a humble celebrant of the everyday.

It's 10 years since she passed, and the Margaret Olley Art Centre is marking the anniversary with an exhibition that tells the story of her life through her greatest legacy, her art. All the works are from the Tweed gallery's collection, arranged chronologically – including a watercolour of the Tweed River, which she painted alongside her dearest friend.

A Life in Art: Margaret Olley runs at the Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre until Sunday, October 31.



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Eric Avery will be at Bangalow Music Festival. Photo courtesy *The Echo*

Bangalow Music Festival Bitesized

Bangalow locals will surely be delighted to see some of their favourite in-town spots take on a new role and thrill to the sounds of beautiful music during the 19th Bangalow Music Festival next month.

Five Bitesize performances and conversation events are planned for some of the town's most beautiful spaces.

Bangalow Antiques, and the Uniting Church in Station St, will host mini concerts such as Virtuoso Clarinet and Beautiful Beethoven. Audiences will be able to soak up the Art of the Didgeridoo at Ninbella Gallery in Byron St, and in a separate event, learn about the journeys and practices of First Nations artists such as the actress Paula Nazarski and Gumbangirr violinist, dancer and composer Eric Avery.

Tickets cost a bite-sized \$26, or \$100 for all five events.

Book online at southerncrosssoloists.com



Kathryn Heyman presented by Friends of Libraries

Get your knitting on

The CWA is calling all knitters and crocheters to create squares that will be included to make blankets for those in need. If anyone has finished squares, they can be dropped off at the Bangalow CWA between 10am and 2pm Monday to Friday or 8am and 12noon on Saturdays.

Squares should be 20cm x 20cm. When using 8ply wool, the CWA suggests using 4mm needles with around 43 stitches depending on your tension.

If you're having trouble with your knitting or crochet pattern for this or other projects, Bangalow CWA members invite you down to their rooms each Wednesday where some clever members will be sure to help.

In conversation with Kathryn Heyman

Friends of Libraries, Byron Shire, will be teaming up at this years' Byron Writers Festival to hold a satellite event in Bangalow on Thursday 5th August.



Gavel agency: Thought about your voice in Local Government?

Kathryn Heyman will be in conversation with local author Sarah Armstrong, discussing her recent release *Fury*. Growing up in Lismore, Kathryn came from a family of poverty and violence. After a traumatic sexual assault trial, Kathryn ran away from her life and became a deckhand on a fishing trawler in the Timor Sea. With books as her salvation, she transformed her past and herself completely.

The event is set to be a thought-provoking discussion on courage, determination and joy. Hosted by Bangalow CWA, attendees will enjoy a delicious afternoon tea.

Tickets are \$25 and will be available online at www.byronbayfol.com and from Bangalow Bookworms and Papermites.

Ever thought about joining Byron Shire Council?

With the NSW Local Government elections being held on 4 September 2021, a new Byron Shire Council will be elected to



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Woodfest Design competition now open

serve until 2024.

People thinking about throwing their hat in the ring to become a councillor are invited to attend a Candidate Information Session to learn more about what to expect if elected and the roles and responsibilities of councillors.

Former Lismore Mayor, Jenny Dowell, will be chairing the information session which will be held online on Wednesday 28 July.

The sessions will cover a range of topics including: the role of a councillor; challenges of the role and how to deal with them; and the structure of council.

For more information or to register for the Candidate Information Session, go to Byron Shire Council website.

Woodfest Design Competition now open to woodworkers

2021 Woodfest Design Competition is open to woodworkers, architects,

boatbuilders, designers and cabinet makers in the Northern Rivers and Southeast Queensland.

Organiser, Subtropical Farm Forestry Association, is calling for entries with a focus on the best use of sustainable farm grown native timbers, including silver quandong, silky oak and Queensland maple.

Designers and makers are invited to create something unique from panelling, doors or a chair, shape a surfboard, or decorate an interior. The sky is the limit.

Entrants could win a share of \$4,000 in cash and prizes and the competition will culminate in a showcase event at Federal Hall on Sunday 26 September 2021.

"The Woodfest Design Competition will demonstrate the amazing qualities of our native rainforest timber species," says Martin Novak, forest grower and President of the Subtropical Farm Forestry Association. "

www.qualitytimbertraders.com



Meet your local council candidates

Meet the Candidates Evening

The *Bangalow Herald* is hosting a Meet the Candidates evening at the Bangalow Bowlo on August 18 at 6pm. The evening is a chance to come and grill candidates and become better informed.

The council elections will be held on September 4. Nomination for prospective councilors closes on August 4 and it is expected there will be plenty of hopefuls with a wide variety of agendas.

Voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens 18 and over. If you haven't enrolled to vote it is easy to do so at the AEC web site. You must have lived at your current address for at least one month, however, non-residents who own rateable land in Byron Shire can also enrol.

In the next issue of the *Bangalow Herald* we will be informing readers of who is standing and giving a brief profile of each candidate.

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Music brings the community together at Tintenbar Upfront
Photos: supplied



Tintenbar Hall the place to be

When Peter Lino retired from teaching, he wanted somewhere to play with his musical group Bronny and the Bishops. He regarded Open Mike Nights at pubs and clubs too noisy with not much respect shown to the performers. In 2002, he found the perfect venue, the Tintenbar Hall. Totally renovated 15 years ago and well maintained by a dedicated committee of volunteers, the hall has become a community hub for many regular user groups.

Tintenbar Upfront is one of its star events and on every second Friday night of the month. With Peter as the M.C., there are six performance spots each night which can be musicians, dancers, comedians, poets, story tellers or choirs.

At 6.30pm and prior to the concert, Beverley Singh provides a delicious curry for those who would like to enjoy a meal. The performance begins at 7.30pm with supper served halfway through so people have

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plenty of time to mingle.

Most of the artists who strut their stuff in this creative, supportive and appreciative environment are from the Northern Rivers and range from amateur to professional. It's a real community event and over the last eight years has donated \$53,000 to many causes. Entry is \$10 and a gold coin collection for the supper is all donated to charity as the artists and team of volunteers who keep the show on the road all give their time freely. One recent patron from

Bangalow said, "Thank you for providing such a friendly and entertaining local evening, I will be back again on July 9th."

Tintenbar Upfront is a Covid Safe event and the limit of 60 seats has to be booked.

\$10 per head for entry and \$20 for a curry meal.

Other musical events are also held in the hall every month. More information can be found on the website tintenbarupfront.com or on Facebook.

Helen Johnston



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Ray “I decided to go for a little run” Howells

Imagine if you can, running a 100km ultra marathon through the hilly Blue Mountains. Then try imagining how you'd feel doing it the year after suffering a broken and compressed vertebrae. Certainly not for most of us, but Bangalow local, Raymond Howells is not like most of us. His story is worth telling.

Raymond Howells
Photos: Caroline Howells

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Ray encounters some custodians of the mountains on his trek.

Back in 2010, Ray decided to complete a marathon, which is 42kms, with his mate Richo before he turned 40. Having duly completed the marathon they asked each other how they felt. The answer was: "Great! I thought it would be harder!" so the idea of completing an ultra-marathon was hatched.

Raymond completed his first in 2011 with Richo. He continued competing each year in the Ultra Trail Australia 100. In 2016 however, Raymond was knocked from his stationery motorbike by a driver who was texting, suffering crippling back injuries. Unbelievably, that didn't prevent him from competing in 2017 when he still managed to complete the course in under 20 hours, to gain another bronze buckle. The pain and suffering he endured though, was enough to convince him to take a breather for a few years.

Last December, the urge to compete became too much, so Raymond entered for the 2021 run in May. He went back into training, doing 100km each week. Local training runs include running from Bangalow to Byron Bay, down to Lennox Head and then back home, which is a little over 50km in six hours.

Raymond says this year's race at Katoomba was even tougher than usual. "The weather was not friendly. The day of the race was very cold, the coldest I've experienced. There was sleet, and as the evening drew in (we started at 7am), the organisers made it compulsory for us to wear our fleeces.

"I have kidney disease (IgA Nephropathy) which means I have to be very careful with nutrition, particularly with salt levels. I can't just chomp down on salt tablets like most ultra-marathoners do. Instead, I drink

electrolytes at the check points and eat food with a little extra salt on, but not too much. I completed the run in 17 hours 39 minutes, coming 638 out of 1600 competitors. That was my fifth finish, all under 20 hours, which qualifies me for their Legends Board".

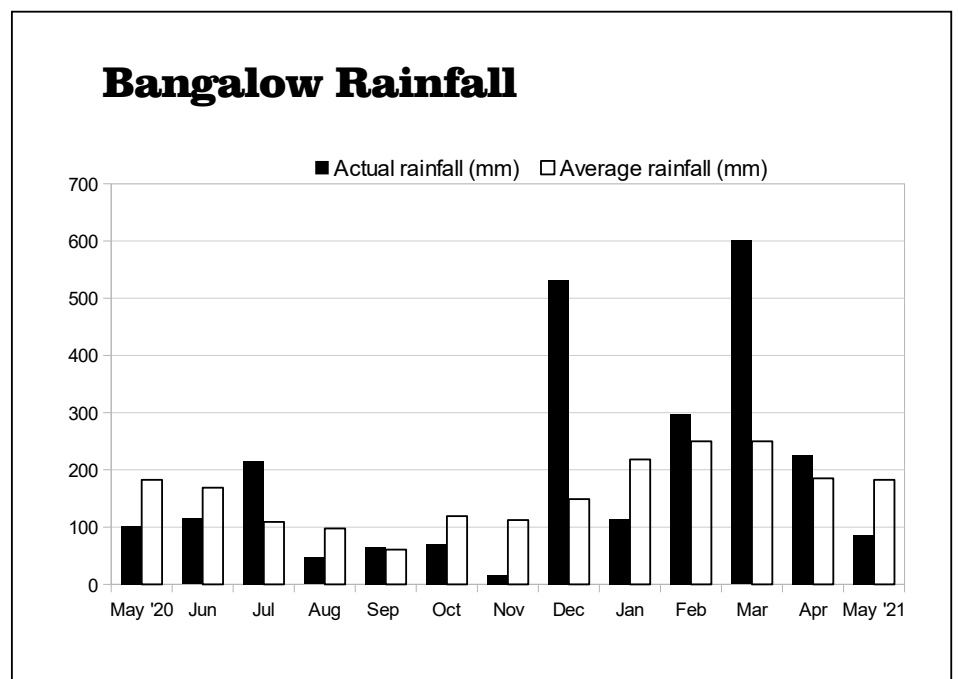
The UTA 100 is a qualifying event providing points towards competing in the Ultra Trail Mt Blanc, 171 kms at above 2500m, which Raymond hopes to run one day.

Raymond and his wife Caroline are renovating their house in Bangalow while he completes his master's degree in architecture. He has worked in the building game for 30 years. Raymond loves the encouragement he gets from the locals in Bangalow. He says that long distance running is more mental than physical, or as comedian, Rich Hall, said: "It's 90 per cent mental and the other half is physical". *Murray Hand*



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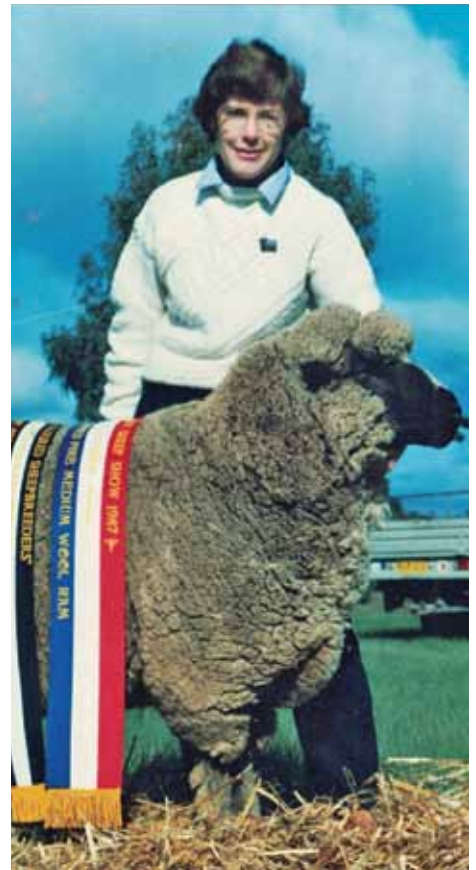




Judy concentrating during biology prac at UNE



Judy at home in Bangalow



With her prize-winning ram at the Albury Sheep Show, 1987

Judy Baker: Diversity and experience

In this article in our occasional series on the team behind the publication, **Christobel Munson** speaks with Judy Baker.

Among her many extremely varied talents, *Herald* proofreader and photographer, Judy Baker, was an accredited wool classer. That dates back to the time she bred 'coloured' sheep. 'Coloured' in that context, means every shade from 'white' through brown to 'black'.

In the staid mixed farming area of Grenfell, she also ran the Black Sheep section in the local show for 14 years. At first, that was somewhat controversial, but finally she was accepted as the only woman member of the show committee, who also turned up for all the working bees. Grenfell, an historic gold mining town in central NSW, was the birthplace of Henry Lawson and the stomping ground of bushranger Ben Hall.

Judy earned her PhD with her thesis on 'Detecting toxicity in blue-green algae' at the University of New England in Armidale, where she studied and worked for some years as a microbiologist. It was in Armidale that she met her husband, Brian Sundstrom. Brian was also working at the university in a farm advisory role with the Department of Primary Industry, specialising in beef cattle. The couple bought a block of land in Bangalow in 2001 and moved into town in 2005, ending up living next door to Colin Cook, founder and creator of *Bangalow's Heartbeat*, the predecessor publication of *The*

Bangalow Herald.

On hearing that she had worked at the university, Colin immediately said: "Well you must be able to write. You can write for *Bangalow's Heartbeat*!" And so it began.

Judy particularly enjoyed a column she wrote for *Heartbeat* called Nature Notes. In it, she described the life and times of insects, plants, fungi, possums, or whatever she chose – the perfect writing outlet for a biologist. When Colin saw she had a camera, she immediately became the staff photographer, a role she enjoys to this day, now sharing it with other local talented people. In 2006, Colin's wife Carol, an inspiring gardener, took Judy to a meeting of the Bangalow Garden Club, and she's been its photographer ever since.

It's Judy who handles the *Herald's* subscriptions, mailing out hard copies to Byron Shire councillors, local and NSW State libraries, MPs, and people who have moved away from town but still want to stay in touch.

For some years, Brian and Judy have worked as auditors for Northern Rivers Farmers Markets. They have inspected the farms of more than 70 stall holders, to verify that they grow their produce locally, on their own farms, and that they grow enough produce to be able to stock their stalls. Brian's

experience with the DPI serves them well in that role. For many years, Brian has been the primary distributor of the magazine, having also written articles for it. Their house, located in town, was a convenient location for many *Heartbeat* editorial team meetings.

A passion for travel has taken the couple on many overseas adventures. Other *Herald* team members have been envious of their trips to places such as Madagascar, Antarctica and the Galapagos. Their recent COVID-friendly 'overseas' trip was to Norfolk Island. This included one of Judy's other interests, playing bridge, and for Brian, playing golf.

The couple are keen members of a local book club and the bushwalking club. Judy has been closely involved with ADFAS for years (that's the 'Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society'), which meets regularly with guest lecturers. Fit and active, Judy is also a keen bird watcher, bush walker, tennis player and a member of the local 'Strong Women' exercise group.

Judy said, on moving to Bangalow: "Joining the *Heartbeat* team gave me a great introduction to the community. Being sent to interview locals and take photos let me meet people from all walks of life and I soon felt part of the town. I'd recommend it to newcomers to get involved and find new friends."

Gems of culture

The history and romantic allure of diamonds and pearls will be examined in this month's lecture for the ADFAS audience at the A&I Hall.

ADFAS – Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, of which Byron is one of 38 throughout Australia – is itself a treasure chest, brimming over with cultural gems. The local group's eight lectures this year roam the world of art from prehistory to now, with subjects as diverse as the Architecture of Mughal India, Aboriginal Art from Rock Art to Today and, in coming months, Australian landscape painters from Glover to Olsen, The Art of Seduction and The Book of Kells: Its History, Myths and Wonder.

The last ADFAS presentation, *Those Mitford Girls*, from Susannah Fullerton, President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, drew an audience of more than 90 people to the Bangalow A&I Hall – an indication of the depth of culture and intellectual curiosity in the Shire.

July's lecture subject, *Diamonds and Pearls: The King and Queen of Gemstones*, is so large that a whole morning has been devoted to it – two one-hour talks, replacing the usual monthly evening lecture.

Fashion and design expert Charlotte Nattey will examine some of the myths and legends that surround these enchanting objects, tell the stories of early diamond discoveries, and some of the famous and infamous diamonds that have left murder, mystery and mayhem in their wake.

Audience members with a piece of personal jewellery they would like to learn more about are invited to send a photo for consideration to adfabyronbay@gmail.com by July 7.

The local ADFAS crew ensure that the inner person is taken care of as well as the aesthete, with a glass or two of fine wine and a snack. The social aspect is very important, says new chairperson and 2479 resident Dianne Stuart. "The pleasure of connecting with people who share a love of the arts.

Those delights, and the fact that the A&I Hall is now heated, makes for an all-round delightful outing", she says.

While audiences tend to be older, plenty of younger people came to see the lectures on Aboriginal art and the 'Images and Ideas in Three Waves of Australian Films' in April.

Younger people tend to have families, so a night out is not always practical, Dianne says, but across the ages "there is a very discerning



Death by Diamonds and Pearls, by Stella Blue Design.

group of people in our region" thirsty for intellectually nourishing experiences.

In addition to offering cultural delicacies to its members, ADFAS contributes to the community in other ways: it has forged a link with the Bangalow Music Festival, by offering an annual cash grant to a promising young musician. This year's recipient was Reuben Flower of Kyogle, a pianist and third year student at the University of Queensland, who will be performing at the Festival. *Digby Hildreth*

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Local writers shine bright

Three writers who call 2479 home will speak at this year's Byron Writers Festival. **Jenny Bird** talks to Sophie Hardcastle, Benjamin Gilmour and Tristan Banks about their latest books, the joys of writers festivals and life in 2479.



Sophie Hardcastle

Photo: Charlie Ford

Sophie Hardcastle wrote their debut novel *Below Deck* in 2018 while working as a researcher at Oxford University in the UK. "*Below Deck* is me dispelling the myth that sexual violence only happens with strangers in dark alleys. What happens when it is someone you know and trust?" asks Sophie. "It came off the back of a lot of discussions with friends and colleagues and my own experience of personal assault. I didn't have the language to talk about it until #metoo."

Olivia, the main character, has synesthesia, as does Sophie. They see colour when they hear sound. "I wanted to write an horrific experience in a stunning and beautiful way" says Sophie, "my writing style is visual and cinematic."

When *Below Deck* was published in early 2020, Sophie flew to Australia to promote it. When COVID hit, everything was cancelled and Sophie could not get back to the UK. Sophie bought a block of land in Bangalow, moved a Queenslander onto it and is now renovating it, as well as starting a PhD. As a teenager, Sophie came to Byron Shire as a competitive surfer. "Now I'm putting down roots in the community and I feel really connected and at home here," says Sophie. "I've moved around a lot and this is the most settled I've felt."

The Gap is the true story of Benjamin Gilmour's experience over one extraordinary summer working in the eastern suburbs of Sydney as a paramedic. That summer the suicide rate spiked and Benjamin found himself, again and again, in 'talk downs' with people standing at the edge of The Gap at Watsons Bay. "It was nerve wracking and tense, sometimes lasting five or six hours," he recalls. "I wrote the book six months after that summer but had to put it in the bottom drawer and let some water pass under the bridge."

Almost burnt out, Benjamin snagged an ambo job in Mullumbimby and moved to Bangalow a place to recuperate and rest and find a different pace. Then he pulled out his draft and edited it, a difficult process that unlocked all the memories of that summer. It was shocking and moving, but I also wanted it to be entertaining, to share the dark humour that paramedics use as a strategy for resilience. Bangalow has offered Benjamin the company of other creatives. "I've struck up friendships with writers, artists, filmmakers," he says.



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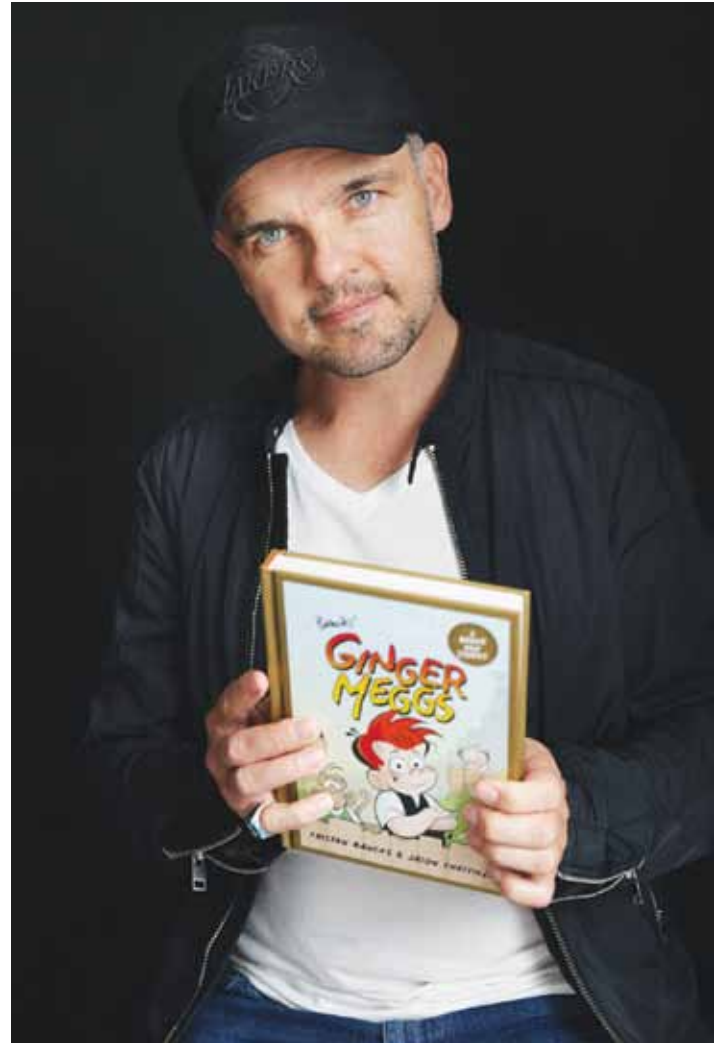
GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE





Benjamin Gilmour fills a gap.

Photo supplied



Tristan Bancks and Ginger Meggs

Photo: Amber Melody

Tristan Bancks' latest book *Ginger Meggs* seems like a date with destiny. "My great-great uncle Jimmy Bancks created Ginger Meggs 100 years ago. As a child it felt exciting to have a familial connection to him. We used to draw comic strips and I think that's what drew me to writing children's books" says Tristan. Pitched at 7–10 year old children, and illustrated by the current Ginger Meggs cartoonist Jason Chatfield, the book contains four new stories that celebrate the adventures of the legendary red-headed rascal. In the back of the book is a comic strip history of Ginger Meggs that celebrates his centenary.

Tristan and his family have lived in Bangalow for 15 years. Last year they rented their house and went overseas. "We'd spent three months in LA and were heading to the UK and then Vietnam when COVID struck and we had to high tail it home," says Tristan. "We couldn't move back into our own house, so we're in Brunswick Heads for now and enjoying it."

All three writers love writers festivals - the camaraderie and stimulating discussions with other writers, sharing stories, interacting with audiences. For Sophie its connecting with people because "writing is such a solitary thing. When you emerge from that period of

isolation, it's such a privilege to be with writers and readers at festivals and explore ideas in your work." For Tristan it's a second chance at "putting your finger on what exactly the book is about." And for Benjamin it's about connecting with his readers "I want to reach them, I'm interested in their response".

Between them Sophie, Benjamin and Tristan will speak on seven panel discussions at this year's Byron Writers Festival. Tristan will also do a one-on-one interview and appear in the children's marquee. They will not only explore their latest books but other projects and themes across their bodies of work.



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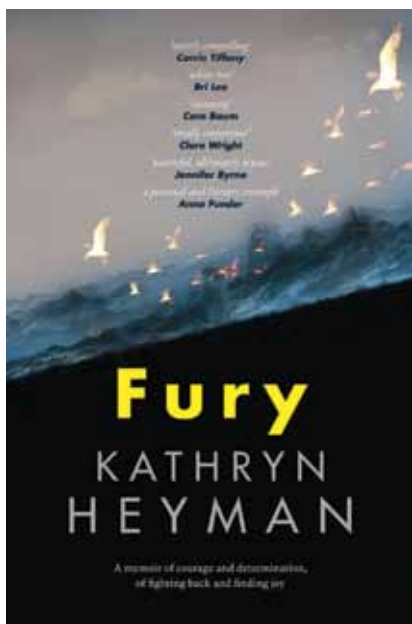
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Fury by Kathryn Heyman



I first read this gripping and compelling memoir in early 2020 when I received a proof copy. For some reason, its release was delayed until June of this year and in the ensuing months the world has changed. I'm not talking about COVID specifically, but about the societal shift that has occurred because of the bravery of women such as Bri Lee, Brittany Higgins and Grace Tame.

Bri Lee expresses it brilliantly in her endorsement of this book: "Raw and bloody and real. The hundreds of indignities and offences accumulated over a lifetime of class and gender warfare are boiled down into one white-hot book".

Kathryn Heyman's life has been both heartbreaking and triumphant. From a dysfunctional and abusive childhood, neglected and almost homeless from the age of 15, she fell into a lifestyle of drug and alcohol abuse and sexual promiscuity in her teens. After a season on a fishing trawler in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Heyman reinvented herself, overcoming all her early roadblocks to have a successful career and a long list of literary accolades.

Her redemption came from her love of books and reading and was driven by her astounding intellect. From the time she could read, she always loved books and the places they could take you. Many years later, that gift

became the lifeline that took her to another place and a different life.

This memoir does not cover much of her life beyond the age of 20, but instead, focuses on significant events in her life from childhood to her teens.

Reading her description of sexual assault and the ensuing traumatic events at the resulting trial outraged me. But it was her descriptions of those other, smaller, incendiary, minor offences enacted upon her that really got under my skin and took me back to my own childhood and teens where similar events had traumatised me. I can only hope that we are doing a better job of teaching boys respect and ensuring they grow into young men who understand the true meaning of the word.

After the rape trial, Kathryn ran away from her life, hitchhiking her way to the North, wary, but taking huge risks at the same time. In Darwin, her friend Karl organised a job for her as a cook on a trawler named *Ocean Thief*. She spent one season on the trawler in perilous seas as the only woman with a group of dubious men. It was during that time she decided her life would be different to what had gone before.

I enjoyed this book just as much on a second reading. *Carolyn Adams, Bookworms & Papermites*

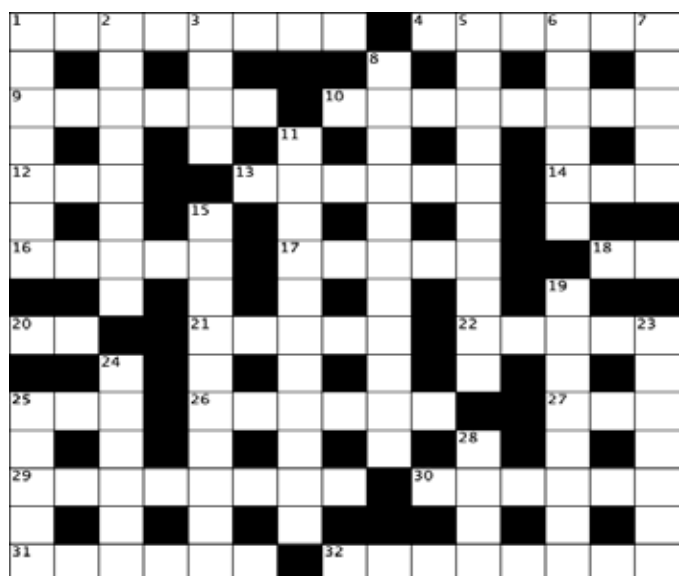


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008

ACROSS

- 1, 27** "G": Crude band. (8,3)
4 The leaders of some unusually nationalistic leftist idealistic types are caught in the open. (6)
9 Four not out in the greatest game of benevolence. (6)
10 Remainder of playful overt elf. (8)
12 Some of Martin Newsteads watering hole. (3)
13 I hesitate after a group of whales reach the platform. (6)
14 Went backwards, lost time, but still fresh. (3)
16 Relish the loss in two states. (5)
17 Sound of dismay heard in the garden? (5)
18, 20 Current band. (2,2)
20 See 18 across
21, 24 down OK braha lass mix performer? (5,6)
22 Sounds like Tom mans the ship. (5)
25 This headless cad is a slimy one. (3)
26 UN diet adjusted for release. (6)
27 See 1 across.
29 Information technology in sunshades can be found in Byron Bay. (8)

- 30** Wonderful fruit? (6)

- 31** Scans the endless court amidships. (6)

- 32** Improved the hill side gravel road? (8)

DOWN

- 1** Strange pig, same birds. (7)
2 Band 501 records (8)
3 Ten points to particles. (4)
5 Overwhelmed and in the deep end? (2,2,2,4)
6 Six surrounded by lengthy adoration. (6)
7 Chucked some earth. Rewind! (5)
8 Rapid eye movement returns in over sized male record for this wool grower. (6,5)
11 Spooners incorrect watchers? The more the better in any band. (4,7)
15 Sounds like a pretty debauched instrument in the band. (4,6)
19 Was happy again. Yay! (8)
23 Mucked around after second operation. (7)
24 See 21 across. (6)
25 Departs but left out the covering edge. (5)
28 Rip up this drop. (4)

Rosé by any other name



Il Villaggio Nero D'Avola Rosato
 Available at The Cellar, Bangalow

I know the weather is cooling, but in my mind, I'm still revelling in an imaginary Italian summer, all pasta and pizza, scooters on cobblestones and uber stylish Romans strutting and parading in their own unique, summertime fashion. With that in mind I open the fridge to find one of my all-time favourite wines, the Il Villaggio Nero D'Avola Rosato.

This is definitely a go to wine for me and probably one of the most versatile wines I've come across.

An excellent food wine, this Rosato will work with antipasto, cheese, pasta, seafood or just on its own in the afternoon sun on the back deck.

The label design is distinctly Italian, dominated by the image of the crowing rooster and inspired by the wrap labels of classic Italian tinned tomatoes.

French rosé is fine, but this is not one of your pale, dry Provençal offerings, this wine is bravo! Made in Sicily from 100 per cent organically grown Nero D'Avola fruit, it has quintessential Italian style. Time on skins is used to achieve the beautiful neon colour and the wonderful cherry and raspberry flavours. Large format oak is used and helps to give the wine texture with a little spice on the palate. Good acid and some fine tannins balance the red fruits and the finish is long. You will need another glass! The 2016 vintage available at the moment is still fantastic drinking. I'll snap out of my Italian

dreamtime soon enough, but the Il Villaggio Rosato is a celebration of all things Italian and highly recommended.

Buy some, drink and enjoy. Ciao!

Wayne Steele

Wine supplied by The Cellar, Bangalow



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Antique Borers

Bill Tracey, former host of *Antiques and Collectables* on 2UE Sydney, provides a monthly roundup of what's happening in the local and national antiques market.



Fully matured adult borer



Active borer infestation

Harking back to my radio days, I was always quite surprised by the amount of interest expressed by listeners in regard to furniture borers in antiques.

For many years, misinformation, myths and stories have circulated far and wide about borers and woodworm and this post endeavours to clarify the facts for all.

In Australia, the tell-tale tiny holes in wood surfaces are known as "borer" whereas in England and Europe they're known as "woodworm" - same thing but different local names.

Woodworms are not worms as the name suggests, but the larval stage of the common furniture beetle. Beetles and bugs of many and varied types, many of which grow wings on maturity to allow migratory flight, are rampant throughout the world and are all looking for a place to lay their eggs and eat. All of them need moisture to survive and thrive.

Many people believe that the tiny holes they see on the wood surface are where the borers have "bored" into the wood to set up home inside. In fact, the opposite is true, as the infestation first occurs when the adult female furniture beetle lays its tiny eggs in minute crevices on the wood surface to commence the next life cycle. These tiny eggs are only visible on the wood surface

under strong magnification.

Most of the damage occurs when the borers or woodworms are at their juvenile stage and hidden inside parts of the wood. The larvae typically spend around five years munching through the deep parts of the wood before they transform into fully grown adult beetles and burrow their way out. The little round holes you see on the surface are their exit holes.

The diameter of the holes can vary according to the particular type of borer and the extent of the infestation. In Australia, antique dealers nickname particularly large exit holes as King Borer.

'Frass' is produced by the borer's exit drilling and looks like fine sawdust around the holes. The presence of frass means your wood needs treatment because the borers are still active. If no frass, you can either seal the wood with plastic wood or wax, or replace it with new wood if you don't like the cosmetic look of borer holes. Borer poison is available at hardware stores.

Many people mistakenly believe that antique aged timbers are particularly attractive to borers and prone to borer attack. That is not the case, and the opposite is true, given most antiques have thoroughly dried out over time and no longer contain sufficient moisture to support borer survival.

The reason there is evidence of past borer infestation in some antique pieces, especially 17th and 18th century examples, is that over their very long life, these pieces have passed through multiple ownerships and have probably been stored many times - sometimes in damp or poorly ventilated environments which provide the conditions favoured by adult migrating furniture borers.

Most antique furniture is likely to have been exposed to damage by borers at some point. Furniture constructed of softwood is more prone to borers as they are particularly attracted to softwoods.

In Australia, people are often unnecessarily alarmed by the presence of old borer holes. In England and Europe, France especially, most purchasers expect it and readily accept it as bona fide evidence of age.

Many European manufacturers of high-end reproduction antiques actually drill borer holes in their finished products to give an aura of authenticity. And you don't need to worry about any imported antique pieces given all antique furniture imported to Australia is carefully checked by Australian Quarantine to ensure that each and every piece has been thoroughly fumigated to the very strict Australian fumigation requirements.

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Airdre Grant's guide to what's worth streaming in July.

The third season of **The Kominsky Method** (Netflix) just came out. This is a series led by Michael Douglas, as Sandy Kominsky, who runs an acting school in New York. His friendship with long-time agent Norman Newlander (Alan Arkin) provides the backdrop as they navigate a number of juicy life issues such as aging, divorces, adult children, sex, aspirant actors and death. It has won Golden Globes for Comedy and Best Actor and several Emmy nominations. The wry, sharp script and the great acting are exceptionally good. It's full of self-deprecating humour. For example: "If I saw me in a Rolls Royce, I'd hate me. Yeah, nothing sexier than an old guy who can't get out of his car". Take a moment in these chilly days and watch it. It's smart and amusing viewing.

I have a dilemma. I watched **Halston** (Netflix), the miniseries about the life of the US designer Halston, fabulously played by Ewen McGregor. It's a snapshot of a decadent, cocaine-fueled time. Halston is gifted, self-indulgent and badly behaved, not unlike other famous talents (thinking Picasso, Constable among others). My dilemma is this: Do these shows valourise bad behaviours and somehow make it okay because the greatness of the art cancels out the injury they cause others? When does the possession of great talent mean no personal accountability? The stories are entertaining, but also showcase the selfishness of hedonism. If



we cancel great, badly behaved talent would the world be a sadder, emptier place? There is narcissism and there is also that sublime muse-gifted talent which soars and uplifts us all. I don't want everything neat and well ordered, but I do want a degree of accountability. I fear

this is my Protestant ethic: "Lead a useful life" my father used to say. I have had to consider this deeply. I have no answer.

On the other hand, the story of **Nureyev** (Netflix) is beautifully done and describes well the Cold War politics that shaped his path in life. Nureyev is both captivating and sad. This is a story of politics and extraordinary talent. The pathos of his relationship with the wonderful ballerina Margot Fonteyn is tender and heartbreaking. Nureyev's dedication to his art gave the world a sublime talent. I was enthralled. He was a complicated, driven man, but no dilemma here. Go figure.

Thoroughbreds (Netflix) is a film about two young women who conspire to kill a hated stepfather. It is faintly reminiscent of *Beautiful Creatures* by Peter Jackson and also has the cool eye of *American Beauty*, tapping into the darkness which runs beneath privilege and wealth. Narcissistic, entitled Anya Taylor (*The Queens Gambit*) and Olivia Cook (*Ready Player One*), who is unable to feel emotions, are the key players in this compelling crime story. A key role as hapless drug dealer is played marvelously by Anton Yelchin who died in a freak accident at the age of 27. The spare score and clever cinematography create an ominous mood as the menacing story plays out. It's weird and gripping. More bad behaviour. It would seem the world is full of it.



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Pirates Gold, or Goldfire, which produces apricot flowers

Ixora congesta javanica

The family Rubiaceae has over 500 forms and hybrids, which is a testament to the popularity and adaptability of these plants, originally found in Tropical Asia and also subtropical USA, including in the West Indies.

They range from tall scrubby bushes of three metres to dwarf varieties. The colour range is extraordinary. The most common is an orangey-red, *Ixora coccinea*, but hybridised versions have dozens of names which is confusing if you are choosing your colour by labelling. It's probably best to buy them in flower to avoid surprises.

Some of the registered trade names include Prince of Orange, which is a very hardy, tall variety; Pink Malay, which is soft pink, maller and bushier; and Maui Sunset, which is a strong gold. There is also a white hybrid called White Malay, which is better for tropical regions as it only flowers sporadically here.

My favourite is Pirates Gold, or Goldfire, which produces soft apricot flowers on new wood several times a year.

Ixoras prefer slightly acidic soils, so if your soil is alkaline, you will find the foliage yellows because they need good access to manganese and iron which are not present in alkaline soils. This deficiency can be corrected with coffee grounds around the base of the plant. Epsom salts can also be used in conjunction with good compost which lowers the pH over time and enriches all soils.

Many of our soils are neutral or alkaline, especially after heavy rains, and a friend swears by a cup of vinegar in four litres of water a couple of times a year.

Ixora grow equally well in full sun or partial shade. Propagation by hardwood cuttings is easy. Frequent tip pruning is best because the flower spikes form on new tip wood.

A related form is *Ixora pavetta*, which has a totally different flowering spike with smaller, complex blooms and a lovely perfume at night.

Carole Gamble

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Illustration: Lyn Hand



Lemon Curd Crumble

Now that we are experiencing colder winter nights, comfort foods start to appear on the weekend menu. The ubiquitous rhubarb crumble is a favourite at our house but try this delightful alternative. It's a cake, curd and crumble all in one. Use Meyer lemons if you can. They are sweeter but regular lemons will do, giving more of a lip-smacking result.

Ingredients:

90g butter, melted and cooled, plus extra, softened, for brushing
330g (1½ cups) caster sugar, plus extra for dusting
3 tsp finely grated Meyer lemon rind (see note above)
4 eggs, at room temperature, separated
70g plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
300 ml milk
120 ml Meyer lemon juice
Thick cream or vanilla ice-cream, to

serve
110g (¾ cup) plain flour
55g (¼ cup) caster sugar
50g unsalted butter, diced and frozen
2 tsp finely grated Meyer lemon rind
¾ tsp baking powder

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180C and line a baking tray with baking paper. For lemon crumble, combine flour, sugar, butter, lemon rind, baking powder, ¼ tsp sea salt and 1 tsp cold water in a bowl, then rub with fingertips until small and medium-sized clumps form. Spread on baking tray and freeze until firm (10 minutes), then bake until golden brown (12-15 minutes). Set aside.

2. Brush a 25cm cast-iron frying pan or ovenproof dish with softened butter and dust with sugar. Whisk rind and 220gm sugar in a bowl with an electric whisk until sugar is wet and fragrant, then add yolks and whisk until creamy

(1-2 minutes). Whisk in melted butter, then sieve in flour and baking powder and whisk until smooth. Whisk in milk and lemon juice and set aside.

3. Whisk egg whites and a pinch of salt in an electric mixer until foamy, then gradually add remaining sugar and whisk until soft peaks form (3-4 minutes). Fold half into lemon batter with a whisk, then fold in remaining egg white. Pour into prepared pan or dish and place in a roasting pan. Place in oven, then pour in enough boiling water to come halfway up the sides of pan and bake until the top just sets (20 minutes). Scatter crumble on top and bake until golden brown and just set (15-20 minutes). Remove pan from water, stand for 5 minutes and serve warm with cream or ice-cream.

Lyn Hand

Recipe courtesy of *Curtis Stone, Gourmet*



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POSITION VACANT EDITOR

The Bangalow Herald is looking for a new Editor. Previous journalistic experience preferable. This is a paid position. Please apply to Murray Hand at murrayhand1@bigpond.com and let us know how you would keep Bangalow informed and entertained.

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M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T		S	U	N	L	I	T
A	I	O						M	P	O	H			
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Kate Egan OSTEOPATH Neil Moran OSTEOPATH Betty McKew OSTEOPATH

Jamie Bellamy - ACUPUNCTURIST

Evelyn Stavrinidis - SHIATSU THERAPIST & BODYWORKER

Taylah Cockram MASSAGE THERAPIST

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BANGALOW MEDICAL CENTRE

Dr Graham Truswell Dr Steve Middleton
Dr Jill Pryor Dr Sasha Morris
Dr Jan Maehl Dr Jemma Buultjens
Dr Clinton Scott Dr Alex Booth
Dr Callie Irving Dr Lydia Hubbard

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Bangalow Health and Wellbeing

womens health and wellbeing

88 Byron Street, Bangalow
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Practitioners:

Dr Jane Reffell Women's Health Doctor
Lisa Fitzpatrick Pelvic Floor and Continence Physiotherapist
Dr Victoria Maud Clinical Psychologist
Melanie Manton Psychologist

Reception Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 4pm



Down the track

Photo: NSW Rail

Council Matters

Shared path rail corridor

At its meeting of 25 May 2021, Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the following recommendation from staff:

That Byron Shire Council:

1. Supports further investigation of design options for a shared path from Rifle Range Road to Bangalow utilising the rail corridor, west of Bangalow Railway Station.
2. Supports staff to commence discussions with the Bangalow Showgrounds Committee regarding the possible position and placement of a shared path through the showgrounds.
3. Supports an application to TfNSW and John Holland for the construction of a shared path within the rail corridor and along the rail line west of Bangalow Railway Station.

The item had two concept plans attached – one from Council engineers and one from the Bangalow community.

Clare Hopkins, who represents Bangalow on Council's Place Planning Collective, presented to Council a list of written support for the general idea of a shared path on the rail corridor, and for the community's concept plan in particular. The list offered Councillors an impressive and reassuring display of unity across the Bangalow community: Bangalow Chamber of Commerce, Bangalow Progress Association, Bangalow Primary School, Bangalow Park Trust, Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Bangalow Lions Club, Bangalow Bowling Club, Bangalow Men's Shed, Bangalow Parklands, Bangalow Community Children's Centre.

Jenny Bird traced the five years of community consultation that supports this project - from the Bangalow Village Plan and the Bangalow Movement Strategy to the Byron Shire Bike Plan and the Byron Shire Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan.

The two sets of plans can be viewed at byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Councilmeetings/Agendas-Minutes

This project will only be funded by a successful grant. At time of writing Council have submitted a \$1.6million grant application

to the joint NSW/Federal Government Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Package and are awaiting the announcement of successful submissions.

Byron loves BYO/ ditch disposables campaign

Did you know that more than 2.7 million single-use or disposable coffee cups go to landfill in Australia every day? And that 'compostable' and 'biodegradable' products are not necessarily compostable because there is no regulation around the labelling and many items are not certified to Australian standards?

Even more worrying, did you know that when you put your 'compostable' take away coffee cup, bioplastic smoothie cup or container in a green organics bin (thinking that you are doing the right thing), Council have to pull them all out again because they could be contaminating the recycling or organics system?

Council has launched a swap-and-go program that asks consumers and businesses to re-use BYO cups and containers. Council has enlisted 60 local businesses to the program and is now looking to consumers to pressure more businesses to join. The program works like this. The coffee drinker (you) buys or borrows a cup from a business in the swap and go program. When you order your coffee and present your cup, the café puts it aside to go through a commercial washing process. Your coffee is then made in a freshly washed and sanitised cup. Next time you take that cup back, and around you go. Ask a local business to join up.

Jenny Bird

SUDOKION⁷

MODERATE © Muddled Puzzles Ltd

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

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 to keep us entertained and connected

Connecting Generations

When Sun 4 July, 10am-12noon
Where Bangalow Parklands
Contact Ruth 0413 261 011

Everyone welcome, especially seniors and parents with young children, to help build a giant cubby house from recycled cardboard boxes. Connecting Generations aims to develop enriching relationships between all generations. Please bring boxes of all sizes and masking tape. Music and story time included.

Bangalow Garden Club

When Wed 7 July 1.30pm
Where Moller Pavilion Bangalow Showgrounds
Contact Annie 0417 636 011 or abbinkanne48@gmail.com

Member Steven Wedd will give a talk on the propagation of various plants. Due to COVID restrictions numbers are limited and the meeting is strictly for members only. Please bring along a teaspoon and mug for afternoon tea. Details of the garden visit on Saturday 10 July will be provided at the meeting.

ADFAS Byron

When Mon 12 July, 10am
Where A&I Hall, Bangalow
Contact adfas.org.au or adfasbyron@gmail.com or



Friends of the Library
BOOK FAIR
Sat. 3rd, Sun. 4th July
9am - 4pm
Mon. 5th July
9am - 4pm
Byron Surf Club

Never put off till tomorrow the book you can read today
Photo supplied

Book Fair
When 3-5 July, 9am - 4pm
Where Byron Bay Surf Club
Contact byronbayfol@gmail.com

The Friends of Libraries Byron Shire Book Fair will, for the first time, run over three big days. There are two sheds full of books ready for sale - rare books, art books, gardening books, spirituality/health and wellbeing books, children's and young adult books and of course, contemporary fiction. Bring your own bag. In the last hours of the Fair you can fill it with books. The annual fundraising raffle will be drawn, and you can buy tickets at the Fair. All monies raised go to the libraries of the Byron Shire: Byron Bay, Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby.

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Special Dual Lecture Event
Diamonds and Pearls
Charlotte Nattey will present two

one-hour lectures tracing the history and romance of diamonds and pearls, and the myths and legends that surround them. Discover those that have left

a trail of murder, mystery and mayhem in their wake. You are invited to bring an item with an interesting back story to share on the day. Morning tea is included. Members \$10, non-members \$25

RENT

When 15-18 and 21-24 July, 7pm
Where A&I Hall, Bangalow
Tickets bangalowtheatre.com.au

Bangalow Theatre Company is proud to announce the 2021 production of RENT, The Musical. Set in New York in the late 1980s, RENT is a gritty rock musical based loosely on Puccini's 1896 opera La Bohème. Imagine a bohemian jungle, a virus ripping through it and the harsh realities of living as an artist. Doors open at 6pm. Drinks and snacks available at the bar, cash only. The show starts at 7pm sharp. COVID safe sign in essential and social distancing required inside at all times.

Lions Club Kiosk Opening

When Thurs 22 July, 4pm
Where Bangalow Showground
Contact Richard 0428 573 511

The Bangalow Lions Club will be holding the official opening of the Lions Club Kiosk, formally known as the Lions BBQ and Bar, at the Bangalow Showground.

All showground stakeholders as well as all those who have helped in building the Kiosk are most welcome.

CWA Cake Stall

When Sat 31 July, 8am-12noon
Where CWA Rooms, Byron Street
Contact Rebecca 0438 871 908
All the usual CWA goodies on sale - cakes, biscuits, slices, jams, pickles and lots more.

The journey is as important as the destination.

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NAIDOC Week by Charli-June Welch. Photo: Dianne Belleair

NAIDOC Week

When 4-11 July

Where events all over the Shire

Information Watch the local press

This year's theme is Heal Country! It calls for all of us to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, and Indigenous sacred sites and cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration and destruction. The organisers say that NAIDOC week 'is an opportunity for all Australians to come together to celebrate the rich history, diverse cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the oldest continuing cultures on the planet.

July diary

3-5 Book Fair

4-11 NAIDOC Week

4 Connecting Generations

7 Garden Club

12 ADFAS

15-18, 21-24 RENT

22 Lions Kiosk Opening

25 Bangalow Markets

31 CWA Cake Stall

Deadlines for August 2021 issue:

What's On 12 July

Advertising 13 July

Copy 13 July

BANGALOW SOCCER CLUB

51ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER



SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST

6PM

BANGALOW BOWLING & SPORTS CLUB

ENTERTAINMENT: CATH SIMES BAND

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

TABLES OF 12 AVAILABLE OR

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- General Civil Litigation – Courts / Tribunals
- Trusts, Corporate Trustees & General commercial



Taking time out in the winter sun
Photo: Vanessa Reed

Nothing Gold Can Stay

The winter sun is a powerful force, but it can't fix our internet.

It's been pretty cold lately, but the sun really packs a punch in winter. Particularly in the morning driving in to Byron, and in the late afternoon driving home. Like liquid gold flooding your eyeballs.

Driving up the hill towards the Coolamon Scenic lookout on a cold, clear winter's morning reminds me of the Robert Frost poem.

Nature's first green is gold / Her hardest hue to hold.

The vast ocean, mist in the valley, hot-air balloons against a blue sky. I dropped a kid off at the bus stop and walked the dog at Belongil. A pod of dolphins swam past.

I had all the feels driving home - how lucky are we!

I was home by 8am sharp, making sure not to jeopardise my long-awaited appointment with an NBN technician.

So dawn goes down to day.

The technician didn't turn up. No-one called to tell me they weren't coming.

I waited a week for another appointment. Again, no-one.

Another two days for the next appointment - it was scheduled between 1-5pm. There'd been a lot of phone calls from me to Dodo in the interim. I was losing the plot.

Someone at Dodo told me, at 3:15, that a technician was on his way. He was finishing another job and then he would come to my house.

No-one came.

After weeks waiting for an initial appointment, three no-shows, countless angst-ridden phone calls, and hours of missed work, a technician arrived yesterday and fixed my internet. There was a fault - something along the lines of when the box for our area was reconfigured someone put our connection in the wrong plug.

The whole saga hit me at a vulnerable time and nearly broke me.

There's a mural on the side of Ewingsdale Road, just past the hospital. It's big and bold, but it's the 'Stay Gold' logo of the studio responsible that always jumps out at me.

I memorised that poem when we studied *The Outsiders* in Year 8 (*Stay*

gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold). I'd (briefly) contemplated getting a tattoo inspired by it when I travelled as a 20-year-old. I referred to it in my wedding speech.

Nothing gold can stay.

I woke with purpose this morning, my singular obsession with fixing my internet finally clearing to get other things done. I messaged Vanessa, she said she'd sent through photos last night, but they weren't in my inbox. I stopped at Sparrow early to grab a coffee on the way to dropping the kid at the bus stop.

The coffee order hadn't gone through properly. They told me later they'd had a shocker - everything had gone wrong. Actually, mostly it was just the internet.

Vanessa sent me a message: "f*#@ my email is driving me mad it's not sending".

That winter sun is the offer of a morning hug against the winter chill.

Johnny Cade and Ponyboy were just kids from the wrong side of the tracks. Robert Frost knew something of maturity. That golden hour is a wellspring to draw from, not to drown in. The activity of adulthood includes confronting issues and contributing to the greater good.

(Heath Donald is campaigning for better internet in Bangalow. Sign the petition and fill in the survey - it's easy, like ordering coffee on an app).

Rebecca Sargeant



Are you thinking of selling?

With decades of selling and living in the Byron Hinterland, Greg is perfectly placed to assist both sellers in the preparation and sale of their property and buyers to find their ideal hinterland lifestyle property.

Give Greg a call 0412 871 500.

RayWhite

Greg Price
Ray White Rural Bangalow
0412 871 500
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