

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE | February 2022

The eye of the storm

My Corona
COVID strikes 2479

From little things...
Local kids start school

The Joy of Bowls
Roll up, roll up



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History buffs, roll up!

Are you a long-time Bangalow local or history buff? Fancy a bit of fun?

The Bangalow Bowlo is more than 100 years old (112 years and counting), and following the recent discovery of some gorgeous old photos taken at the club (now hanging on the walls), they have been inspired to start a project to capture more about the history of the venue and the community it serves.

And to do that, the Bowlo needs people who were here back in the early days, or people who know people who were here back in the early days, or local amateur or professional history buffs who just happen to know stuff about the club and the community way back when.

So if you know a thing or two about the old days at Bangalow Bowlo, or you know someone who does, and you fancy a bit of fun working with them on a history project, please drop a line to Vice President, Atosha Clancy: atosha@bangalowbowlo.com.au



Star scrapbook

Triple players in full training

The Northern Star, Thursday May 13, 1976.
TWO teams of triples players have high hopes of smashing an endurance record at the Bangalow Bowling Club this weekend. The record was 24 hours and 30 minutes.

It was set by a team of six bowlers playing triples at the Mangrove Hill Bowling Club at Ealing, near London on June 1 and 2, 1975.

The two Bangalow teams will be made up of Robert Hosking, Ron Hannigan, Fred Hill, Pat Latta, Jim Morris and Noel Dunn and with an average of only 25 years they have youth on their side.

The teams have been on a full training routine for the past six weeks and have built up a run of four miles a day in preparation for the attempt.

The Guinness Book of Records who recorded the previous record has given their permission for the attempt so that it will qualify officially for the record book. The NSW Bowling association has approved the attempt.



KEEPING his hand in for the attempt on the Guinness Book of Records triples record is Noel Dunn, watched by Ron Hannigan and Robert Hosking. They are one of two teams attempting the record at the Bangalow Bowling Club.

HERALD

The Bangalow

From the editor



February marks the start of the school year, and we were delighted to hear from some excited and enthusiastic local kids who are starting their journey to 'big school'.

The wild weather has also been a talking point around our towns, and this month, we've shared some

incredible photos submitted by local photographers.

This month's cover image is of the wild storm that lashed our region on Saturday 4 December 2021, a moment that was captured by Oscar Stevenson, 12, at the Bangalow Community Celebration at the Showgrounds. "I'm starting high school at Woodlawn in Lismore, and I've lived in Bangalow for two years," says Oscar. "I have always loved taking photos. It's just really cool."

Aspiring photographers! Want to see your image on our cover? Show us what you've got for the March edition with the theme 'House/Home'. Email your photo to editor@bangalowherald.com.au

It certainly feels like we're in the eye of that *other* storm, too, with COVID well and truly present in 2479. We recently made a callout on social media to the community to hear from those who have tested positive for COVID to help destigmatise it and show the various ways it presents.

The year has gotten off to an unsurprisingly wonky start, but the warmth and generosity of our community in taking care of one another in these uncertain times are a comforting constant.

Take care – and as the Bangalow RSL encourages in the photo above, 'mask up.'

Sally Schofield

We acknowledge the original storytellers of the land on which we live and work, the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung Nation.

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COMING UP:

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AUSTRALIAN ARTS REVIEW

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NORPA PRESENTS

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FRI 11 & SAT 12 MAR

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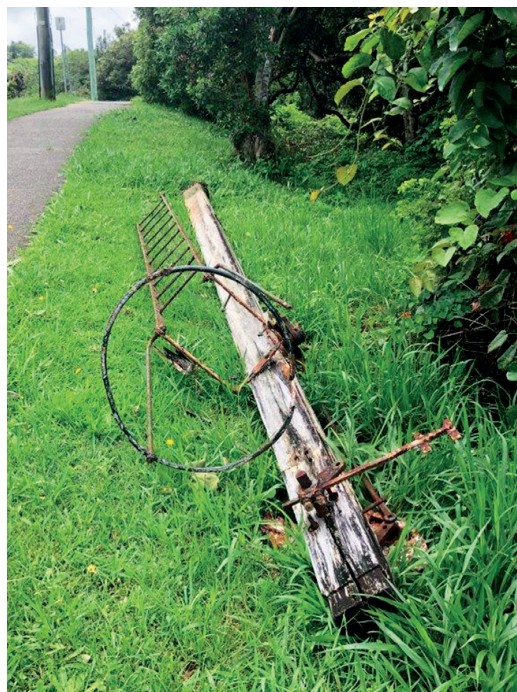
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A sign of the times

When eagle-eyed *Herald* contributor and archivist **Judy Baker** spotted a curious relic in Leslie Street, Bangalow, she documented the object for posterity and the town's history hounds banded together to solve the mystery of its origins.

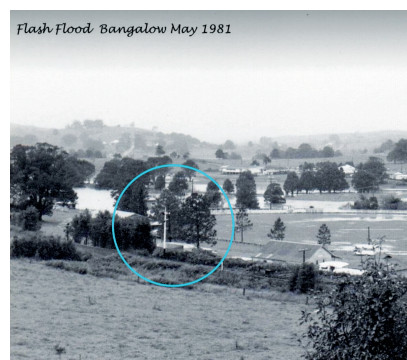


Bangalow Rail relic bites the dust
Photo: Judy Baker

Through the tedium of lockdown in late 2021, Facebook was abuzz with comments pondering the original purpose of a curious old post located in Leslie Street, Bangalow. The community response was equal measures of nostalgia and concern, with the structure threatening to topple at any moment.

But what is it, and how did it get there? Informally known as a Home (or Up Home) Signal, the post was used to signal to incoming trains if the station entry or 'block' was clear. Railway 'semaphore signals' such as this one were modelled on an original design by Joseph James Stevens, patented in the early 1840s. They soon became the most widely used form of mechanical signal, the inclination of the pivoting arm (and combination of coloured lights) alerted train drivers to changed conditions ahead. These posts have now been replaced with electronic signals.

Though decommissioned in 1985, the Bangalow Railway was once an essential transport service in our community. In this photo from 1981, you can just make out the post (then painted white) in its original location on the rail line. "I'd always assumed the rail line through here was built as a gradual extension out from Sydney," says Brian whose interest in the local disused train lines was piqued while planning a bushwalk in the Talofa, Hayters Hill area many moons ago. The Lismore to Murwillumbah line (later on to Grafton) was constructed as a standalone line in the early 1890s and the first passengers came to



Bangalow Flood 1981

Bangalow in 1894 (for the opening of St Kevin's church). "For the 10 years or so prior to this time, the early dairy farmers obtained most of their supplies from Tintenbar or Ballina by a very difficult trip with horse-drawn wagons," says Brian.

"The line carried freight and passengers and was closely linked with the privately owned North Coast Steam Navigation Co. They operated ships to ports such as Grafton, Lismore and Byron Bay where the wharves had rail connections. Passengers could come by steamer from Sydney to Byron Bay (24 – 30 hours), then by train to Lismore, Grafton etc. The line was always planned to join to the Queensland system, but this never eventuated.

"Coming from Byron by train through 2479, there were stations/sidings at: St Helena, Talofa, Bangalow (originally called Byron Creek

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TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA

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THE GREENS



Nashua Station 1920



Bangalow Station circa 1900

and then Granuaille), Binna Burra, Nashua and Booyong. A branch line from Booyong ran to Ballina from 1930 to 1948. It was never profitable, partly because the line never went as far as the wharf. A disused tunnel on the line has been used for mushroom growing.

"Diaries of the Wareham family in the St Helena area, record the occasional trip to Lismore by horse and sulky taking two days with an overnight stop at the Eureka hotel!

You can imagine the enormous benefit when a station was built at St Helena and they could catch the train," says Brian.

But how did the former Bangalow Railway home signal end up in Leslie Street? "That was put there by my father after the station closed," says Bangalow local Glenn Hanigan. "It was given to him by someone working on the railways at the time. It was originally located closer to the track but it was salvaged and



Railway post Photo: Neil McKenzie

installed as part of a parkland in Leslie Street."

The old railway signal has clearly seen better days but concerned community members have rallied in hope the post can be restored or repurposed.

"I have spoken with the council and they have agreed to save the signal and will transport it to a safe place," says long-time Bangalow resident Janne Coleman, who has appealed to any members of the community who might be able to give this relic a temporary home. "I hope it can be saved and restored. Perhaps with the help of the Men's Shed or the Lions Club. It would be a great feature at Heritage House, or perhaps if the Rail Trail goes ahead, the signal can be returned to its original location?"

Sally Schofield and Brian Sundstrom

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Sharon Cadwallader, Will Gammon from Cumulus VFX, and Ben Franklin Photo supplied.



Sunshine Super Girl, the story of Evonne Goolagong Photo: Jamie James.

Special effects industry coming to Ballina

One of Australia's premium visual special effects companies is relocating its operations from Byron Bay to Ballina and expanding its products for the film and TV industries, thanks to a grant from the state government.

Parliamentary Secretary for Energy and the Arts Ben Franklin said a \$1 million grant from the Regional Job Creation Fund will help Cumulus VFX relocate to a purpose-built facility in Ballina, capable of accommodating up to 50 sustainable local jobs on the North Coast.

Cumulus VFX provides post-production visual effects to the film and television industry, both locally and internationally. "Cumulus VFX is proud to be part of the driving force for sustainable growth in our region and most importantly a provider of job opportunities and career pathways," says local Bangalow resident, Will Gammon, founder and CEO of Cumulus VFX.

The \$130 million Regional Job Creation Fund aims to create more than 6,500 new direct jobs in regional NSW, expand facilities, acquire technology, create new production lines or establish businesses in regional NSW.

Round one of the Regional Job Creation Fund has now closed. A second round will open in early 2022. For more information, visit investregionalnsw.com/RJCFund.

2022 season announced for NORPA

NORPA has revealed its 2022 season with adventurous, world-class performances that will transport audiences to different worlds.

The theatre will be transformed into a tennis court with court-side seating for Sunshine Super Girl, the triumphant story of Australian sporting hero, Evonne Goolagong. For The Boy Who Talked to Dogs the theatre becomes an Irish bar with multiple stages to tell the true story of Nimbin's famous 'Dogman' Martin McKenna, who grew up tough in Limerick and found his family in a band of stray dogs.

"We're delighted to present a season of world-class performances for our region. Audiences will be taken to unexpected and wonderful places with NORPA in 2022. We'll dance together in a French café, sing in an Irish bar and cheer court-side at Wimbledon!" says NORPA Artistic Director and CEO Julian Louis.

"This announcement is part one of NORPA's 2022 program. We're planning a live, in person event in February where we'll announce exciting additions to the 2022 program, as well as our First Nations program curated by Rhoda Roberts, our NORPA Youth program and new, ambitious NORPA works in development."

To become a NORPA subscriber to get the best seats in the house and discounts, find out more here norpa.org.au

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Bangalow Bluedogs in action!

Bangalow Bluedogs – open for all ages

As one of the region's oldest, largest and most successful soccer clubs, the Bangalow Bluedogs offer a strong sense of connection and team spirit.

The club is a Bangalow institution, passionate about whole of life sport and the Bangalow community. With male and female teams starting from five years of age to senior teams over 55, the Bangalow soccer club provides players with enjoyable and competitive opportunities to play team sport, stay active and foster friendships.

The Bluedogs sign on is open from 1 February with the registration process managed by Football Far North Coast. For the younger players, Active Kids vouchers can be used.

To stay up to date on events, training and start dates, follow the Bangalow Bluedogs Facebook page facebook.com/BangalowBluedogs

Kieryn Deutrom



Photo: Marc Shaefer

Telling your story

How much of the truth goes into a memoir? And what exactly is an autobiographical novel? Is it possible to write about loved ones honestly, and what are the ethical implications? Find out as the Byron Writers Festival presents Year of the Memoir with Alan Close to help local writers extract and shape a story based on their own life experiences. Held over 12 sessions 6-8pm throughout March, June and September, the workshop is a hybrid learning experience combining face-to-face sessions in Byron, with YouTube video content. Remote attendance is also available.

Alan's writing career spans fiction, poetry, short stories and creative non-fiction including a column in the *Good Weekend*. His most recent book is *Before You Met Me: A Memoir Of One Man's Troubled Search For Love*.

byronwritersfestival.com

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8:30					
8:45					
9:00					
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9:30					
9:45					
10:00				BodySculpt	CardioTone
10:15				Live Online	Outdoor-Bangalow
10:30				09:15 - 10:15	09:30 - 10:30
10:45				Pilates	
11:00				Live Online	
11:15				10:30 - 11:30	
11:30					
4:00					
4:15	Pilates	BodySculpt			
4:30	Live Online	Live Online			
4:45	4:15 - 5:15	4:15 - 5:15			
5:00			Pilates Course		
5:15			Moller Pavillion		
5:30		Yoga	5:00 - 6:00	Yoga	
5:45		Live Online		Live Online	
6:00		5:30 - 6:30		5:30 - 6:30	
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From little things big things grow

This month, the next generation of students start 'big school'. Here we hear from an excited bunch of local kids about starting school, dream jobs, living in 2479, and most importantly, what they hope is in their lunch box!



My name is Charlie

What are you most excited about starting school? Going to school with my sisters

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Strawberries

What do you like about living in 2479? Because my best friend Hazel is there

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? A vet.



My name is Azaliah Blue

What are you most excited about starting school? Playing with my friends and meeting my new teacher

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Pasta salad

What do you like about living in 2479? Going to the park and playing on my monkey bars

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? I want to be a bus driver like Von. Von will be my new bus driver.



My name is Rockford

What are you most excited about starting school? The playground.

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? I hope there will be a lot of sandwiches in my lunchbox.

What do you like about living in 2479? I like living in Bangalow because my friends live here.

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? When I'm older an inventor would be a good job for me.



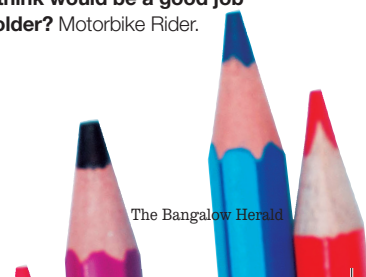
My name is Ryan

What are you most excited about starting school? Playing with new friends

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Jumpys

What do you like about living in 2479? Living on a farm

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? Motorbike Rider.





My name is Clara

What are you most excited about starting school? Making new friends and learning the answers to all my questions.

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Chocolate and strawberries. And ice cream. It's ok if the ice cream is melted.

What do you like about living in 2479? The awesome neighbours who I'm now friends with. And the tree on the corner with the cool leaves.

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? Being a scientist. Or a teacher. I could teach at big school some days and then the little kids on different days. And also baking bread like mummy. But only on Saturdays and Wednesdays.



My name is Indi

What are you most excited about starting school? Making new friends!

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Candyyyyyy! And strawberries!

What do you like about living in 2479? Sitting on the roof of the car while driving on our land!

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? When I grow up, I want to sing like Elsa.



My name is Remy

What are you most excited about starting school? I can't tell you this because I don't know yet!

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Skittles. And goats cheese.

What do you like about living in 2479? I can be with my family and ride my bike around the track.

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? A ninja.



My name is Georgia

What are you most excited about starting school? Making new friends.

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Healthy food.

What do you like about living in 2479? There's a park on the corner of town and I can scoot there on my scooter.

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? Being a scientist.



My name is Elliott

What are you most excited about starting school? I'm excited to have a school uniform and to play (learn) musical instruments.

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Banana muffins.

What do you like about living in 2479? I like to go to the markets. I like walking down the Main Street.

What do you think would be a good job when you're older? A science teacher. Because you can make explosions and making lots of fun mixing potions up together.



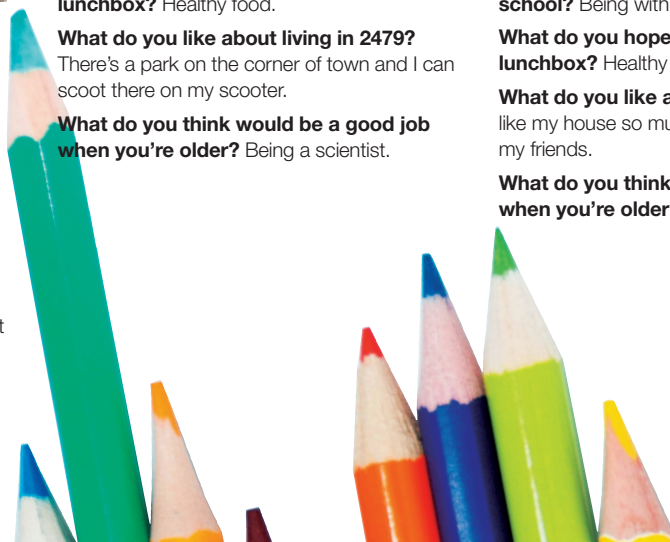
My name is Gracie

What are you most excited about starting school? Being with my big buddies.

What do you hope is in your school lunchbox? Healthy food and some treats!

What do you like about living in 2479? I like my house so much and I love being with my friends.

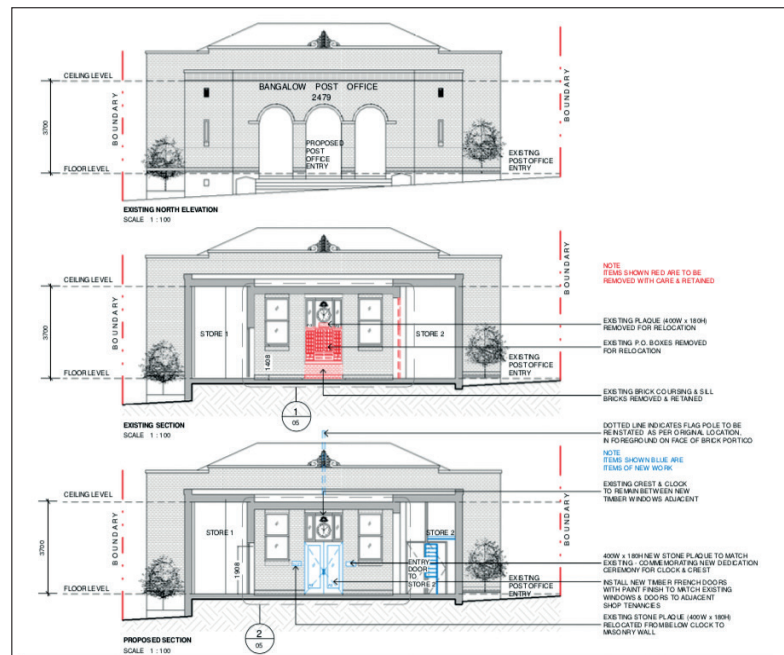
What do you think would be a good job when you're older? Being a mummy.



Council Matters

Bangalow Post Office

Alterations to the heritage listed Bangalow Post Office building were approved by Byron Shire Council in early January. The alterations are: installation of front door entrance and reinstatement of heritage features; use of existing hairdressers; use of existing jewellers; and change of use of part of the post office floor space to one shop resulting in a mixed-use development comprising two business premises (post office and hairdressers) and two shops. The plans included improved disabled access. The heritage fabric of the building is to be retained and the memorial clock and memorial plaque on the wall fronting the main street will be repaired and reinstated. Archival records will document the history of the building, contributing to our understanding of the environment, aesthetics, technical skills and customs associated with its creation and use. Ian Holmes, President of the Bangalow Progress Association, says 'these new plans keep the post office as an iconic building on our main street. It will be a more functional structure that meets current business standards.'



Illegal dumping campaign

Illegal dumping has more than doubled since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year 590 illegal dumping incidents were reported in the Shire including several large construction waste dumps, some containing asbestos. Council issued \$8,000 in fines along with many written warnings.

Illegal dumping will be a key focus for Council in 2022.

If you see illegal dumping report it via: Phone 02 6626 7000

Report it to Council online: byron.nsw.gov.au/System-pages/Report-it-to-Council

NSW Government's Report Illegal Dumping: ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au

Free trailer

Council recognises that it's difficult for some residents to transport their waste to the Byron Resource Recovery Centre (BRRC) at Myocum. The BRRC is offering a new free trailer service to residents. People can use the trailer to drop-off bulky waste, take home a bargain from the second-hand shop or buy a trailer-load of mulch. This is just one of several prevention strategies that Council will put in place this year to reduce the amount of illegal dumping in the Byron Shire. Call the Resource Recovery Hotline on 1300 652 625 to book the trailer. You will need to provide proof of residency, a current driver's licence, and of course have a vehicle that can tow a trailer.

For more details go to: byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Waste-and-recycling/Byron-Resource-Recovery-Centre

Jenny Bird

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Business News

Come On People to the Common People



The Common People's Brewing Company has finally opened at the Bangalow Industrial Estate. The set-up is superb, with indoor and outdoor tables where you can enjoy a choice of up to eight different beers, wines and food from the wood-fired pizza oven. Takeaway beers are available in cans or draught in glass growlers and squealers. The brewery is open Thursdays to Saturdays, midday until 9pm and 8pm on Sundays.

Old Business Reborn



The servo on Granuaille Rd, Bangalow has reopened as the Bangalow General Store. The building was gutted and remodelled to house a variety of local products such as bread from Masa Bakery, Yulli's dumplings, Zentveld's coffee, Martin's Pies and kombucha from Brunswick Heads. You can also fuel up on coffee. For your car, Don's mechanical service is still operating out the back.

Investment Advice



Nick Berry of Pure Asset Management has opened an office in the old Readings building. His business gives investment advice to non-professional investors seeking straightforward advice and means to invest savings for a better return.

Nick co-founded Pure Asset Management four years ago and now has offices also in Sydney, Port Lonsdale and Melbourne. contact@puream.com.au



Mirabelle Early Learning and Education

Mirabelle Early Learning has finally opened their doors to local families after years in the making, with Granuaille Road roadworks now complete for easy access. The centre follows the Reggio Emilia philosophy, which sees children as innately creative and unique. Mirabelle focuses on nature, sustainability and co-learning, lovingly guided by each child's individual interests and inquiry. Care is provided for children aged six months to six years old, with an in-house chef whipping up snacks and lunches with many ingredients sourced from their own garden. While there is already an active waitlist within some of the rooms, there are currently a few spaces available for certain age groups. admin@mirabellelearning.com.au

Murray Hand

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My Corona

As the rest of the country is engulfed in a third wave of the ever-evolving coronavirus, 2479 residents experience their first real taste of the dreaded 'Rona'. With symptoms ranging from mild to debilitating, these insights show the many faces of the virus in our community.

Terry's Christmas story

Santa delivered more than a few presents to our house on Christmas Day. Along with my wife, Trish, and myself, 22 family members contracted COVID at our Christmas lunch...we couldn't blame the prawns for that! Cases were gradually revealed over the next few days, with symptoms being mild or non-existent. Everyone was vaccinated, and no one arrived at our house knowingly having symptoms. A few family members work in retail, and it is likely a customer or staff member shared the love a little too enthusiastically and handed it over with their credit card. I am immune-compromised, and after 15 days, I still test positive, despite being invited out of isolation by Government text at day seven. My symptoms returned, and I have re-entered isolation (at the time of writing) to wait it out. Our initial symptoms included fatigue, headaches, raspy throat and elevated temperature. Later symptoms are mainly fatigue and a mild, chesty productive cough. COVID is a nuisance, but only because of vaccines. Without the vax, it would be disastrous. Aided by an abundance of information out there, most vaxxed people have little to fear. Good old common sense is the best antidote for dealing with COVID, the same common sense that led to getting vaxxed in the first place. *Terry*

The isolation of COVID

My initial reaction to testing positive was OH SHIT! Because I had only done a test two days previous (it did feel a little like a pregnancy test but had more chance of wind pollination, ha ha!) At first, I felt dirty, my house felt dirty. I thought: God, I don't want anyone to know about this and I will just hide. Then I thought... when have you ever hidden from anything? So, no, I am loud and proud and one of the cool COVID kids now. The first 72 hours was the worst. I experienced a tight chest, was clammy, had night sweats and extreme tiredness. I had a very congested chest due to previous asthma and chest infections. I have to say, I was a little afraid. I couldn't breathe properly, and living on my



own was of a concern to me. I am vaccinated twice over. Now due to me having had COVID, I have to wait six weeks after feeling well and having a negative test to be eligible to have my booster shot. Being in lockdown is one thing. You can still go out for a walk, to the beach and exercise. Being in total isolation is another. The most challenging part of having this at home is being alone. I live in a small studio, and it feels very isolated. The days are long and the nights even longer. The hardest, I think, was Saturday morning... it's market day, and it's my favourite day of the week. But the unconditional love and support from people in our community has been amazing. Angela and her team at the Bangalow Pharmacy delivered medicine to me, and friends delivered food and supplies. Pip from the Bangalow Cellars did a delivery for the Irish medicinal needs... *Andrea*

Parenting with COVID

My husband tested positive first, so he isolated away from the rest of the family in a separate room. With young children who don't understand, I quickly started to hope I would get it (as bad as that sounds) so that I didn't have to isolate with them for seven days while also trying to keep them away from their dad! I tested positive the following day, and the kids (aged one and five) after that. Our

DON'T IGNORE YOUR SNORE

It could be harming you.

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Bangalow Medical Centre **sleep_{GP}** **Lot 1, Ballina Road, Bangalow**



Abbey Road by Peter Sutherland. Acrylic on canvas. 150x70.

main concern was that we had been at a small gathering a few days beforehand, and we felt tremendous guilt about possibly exposing our friends (some with other health issues). Community support has been nothing short of amazing. Every person we told offered to bring us food, we had soup and brownies left at our door, and my lovely mum did our groceries for us. The kids were only very mildly unwell, but my husband and I were quite unwell for two to three days; fevers, chills, shakes, sweating, sore throat, headaches... which is made 100 times worse with having young children around that still need to be fed, supervised and entertained. My sense of smell is still a bit intermittent. My husband works in the hospitality industry and generally works a lot over Christmas/New Year, so, as unwell as we were, it was nice to have some quality family time together. We are double vaxxed and will be getting our booster shots when we are eligible. I support vaccination and believe we need to do what we can to protect those who may be more susceptible to suffering complications from the virus. *Lucy.*

Preparing for the inevitable

I sort of had in the back of my mind that I was going to test positive as it's been years since I had a cold, so for being sick at this time of year I was thinking maybe it was COVID. I didn't really panic, I just went and got

"I still worry when I go out and about as people are so blasé about not wearing masks".

tested at Byron Hospital. For me, it was a light head cold with nasal drip causing a tickle in the throat. I got onto the Betadine gargle, so no sore throat and no temperature but I was sneezy for a couple of days. My ears got a bit blocked and lost smell and taste, and I guess still nearly three weeks later I'm slowly getting my taste and smell back. But overall, the main symptoms lasted, say, five days. The only scary part was wondering how sick I was going to get, basically the unknown and all the hype we have endured over the past two years. I am double vaxxed and get a booster in March. I am not antivax in any way. I'm alive today because of childhood vaccinations like most people. I have underlying health issues as far as I had a heart valve replaced last year also a section of lung removed, leftover from cancer I had 10 years ago, but generally I live a healthy lifestyle. There was no stigma with having COVID, I told everyone I had been in contact with, and they were sorry, but not upset with me whatsoever. The only challenge was being isolated as I live alone and food was an original worry but people rallied for me. It was fairly easy, really. I was just happy it was a mild event but I still worry when I go out and about as people are so blasé not wearing masks. Blah, blah. It's very frustrating. I also got a call from a triage nurse the same day a doctor from Bangalow Medical Centre informed me I was positive. The nurse took all my details and said I would get a phone call everyday as I was in the high-risk category but I got absolutely no support or calls from anyone. *Name withheld.*

Sarah's Sydney souvenir

We'd just returned from Sydney after visiting family over the Christmas period, where we no doubt picked up COVID. We came home to our very small rental in Bangalow, a three-bed villa (which also doubles as my husband's office – he sits in the corner of the lounge room). The living areas are open plan but there is minimal opportunity for proper flow through ventilation. One of the biggest challenges for us was attempting to isolate family members in such a small house, but also trying to look after our younger family members (and three cats) when both of us tested positive and were feeling at our worst. My husband was the first to test positive, followed by me and then shortly afterwards our kids, although we all knew we had it before we had our PCR tests back because we'd driven back from Sydney while my husband was at his most infectious. Although we did make an effort to isolate him when we got home, it really did feel a little bit hopeless! I work at a local hospital, and throughout the pandemic I assumed I'd contract COVID through work, but ironically it was Sydney that got us in the end! *Sarah*



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The eye of the storm

Local residents share their photos of the December storm.

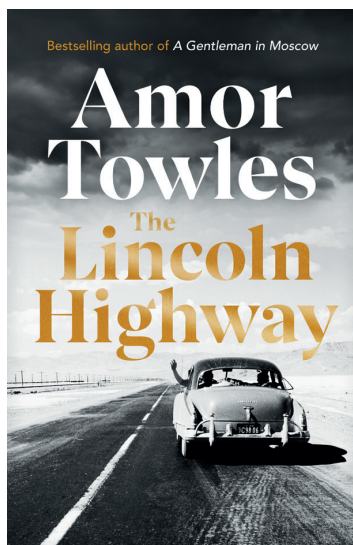


- 1 Looking east from Springvale Hill Farm at Nashua by Kor Paola
- 2 View towards Bangalow village by Sue Franklin
- 3 View towards Possum Creek by Sue Franklin
- 4 Looking along coast from Coopers Shoot towards Broken Head by Claire Oelrichs
- 5 Looking east from Springvale Hill Farm at Nashua by Kor Paola
- 6 Cover image Bangalow Showground by Oscar Stevenson



The Lincoln Highway

by Amor Towles



My final read for 2021 was *The Lincoln Highway*. It disappeared off the shelf so quickly and, as I have not read Amor Towles before, I thought I should give it a go. It's 1954 and Warden Williams from the Salina Juvenile Detention Centre has made it his personal responsibility to drive the three hours to Nebraska to return Emmett Watson to his home. Emmett, he counsels, we try to instil good values and ambitions into our boys but most leave and cast all their learning aside – you are not one of those boys!

From the very start it's impossible not to love

Emmett but he has some challenges ahead of him; his father has died from cancer while he has been in detention, the bank has 'generously' held off from foreclosing on the farm mortgage until Emmett could return home to collect his things and face the impossibility of staying in such a small community after the crime he committed. The reason Emmett has returned at all is to collect his things, his motor car and his little brother, Billy, who has been in the care of the neighbours, Mr Ransom and his daughter Sally.

Whilst incarcerated Emmett has decided that the best opportunity for his and Billy's future lies in Texas. This presents Emmett with his very first problem because Billy has decided, with very sound reasoning, that their future lies in California. The next problem presents soon after with the appearance of 'Woolly' and 'Duchess' fellow inmates from Salina Detention Centre who have covertly hitched a ride all the way to Emmett's home in the trunk of the warden's car.

What transpires from here on, at times, reads like the script of a Coen Brother's movie – hilarious, tragic, infuriating. This is story writing at its very best and as each character's back story is explained I couldn't help but love even the worst of them. When this story finished, I wanted to go back to the beginning and read it again.

Amor Towles is the bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

Good Reads rating 4.3 stars. Published by Penguin

Carolyn Adams – Bookworms & Papermites

Rosé – Take Two



A random thought perhaps, but I think Shakespeare was probably drinking rosé while writing *Romeo and Juliet* and the summer weather has me gravitating towards crisp, dry wines and in particular, rosé. I like the word gravitate. Think meditate, procrastinate, gravitate, pontificate and you probably have, in no order, the process I use when writing these articles. Maybe not pontificate though, I'm never that certain about what I'm putting down! I always thought of rosé as a wine made

by winemakers as an afterthought. "My lord, we have a little grenache left over maybe we should make a rosé?" History suggests, however, that rosé is probably the oldest style of wine made. Press the juice from black skinned grapes, ferment with skin contact for about a day and voila! The colour comes from the phenolics in the skin and plays a significant role in influencing punters' decision about the wine they choose. I holidayed with a fantastic little, neon Italian rosata in the July issue earlier in the year, but generally drinkers look for the pale, dry Provence style. Rosé can be made from any dark skinned grape but commonly from Grenache, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Mourvèdre. The **Mon Tout Strange Love 2021 Rosé** from Margaret River is a tip of the cap to the popular Provence style and matches perfectly with Mediterranean style cuisine accordingly. No coincidence then, that it should be popular with drinkers here in our climate. A blend of Grenache and Pinot Noir sourced from Swan Valley, Karridale and Mount Barker, salmon coloured with crunchy red apple, strawberry and watermelon on the palate, it finishes long and crisp. Made in the natural, low-fi way with minimal sulphur and no fining or filtering this beautiful rosé presents as the perfect accompaniment to your summer holiday lunch. Drink and enjoy!

Wayne Steele

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New viewing for strange times



Don't Look Up (Netflix) is a modern morality tale about the end of the world. It has big star power, including Leo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence and Cate Blanchett. The Jennifer Lawrence character (an astronomy PhD student of DiCaprio's) discovers a meteor hurtling towards Earth which will utterly destroy it. A planet killer. The scientists try to alert the media (expertly played by Blanchett) and to persuade the US president (Meryl Streep) to act to save the Earth. This is about vanity, frailty, and ambition in a crisis. It's a strong

commentary on the weakness of an easily distracted society and the values of the political class. Critics are divided. Some called it lightweight, avoiding the whole fossil fuel issue. Others found it a biting satire on the idiocy of world apathy in the face of disaster. It was promoted as funny. I couldn't see much of the humour, only bleak absurdity. You'll need to watch it to decide for yourself if this is a clever or ridiculous movie.

Stranger than Fiction (Netflix) is an interesting movie. Will Ferrell is an IRS officer and quietly going about his day when he hears a voice describing all his actions. No one else can hear it. He comes to understand that the monologue describes a character in a book that is being written by Emma Thomson, that he is that character, and that she has control of his destiny. He seeks help from literary expert professor (Dustin Hoffman) to find out if he is in a tragedy or a comedy. Queen Latifah is Emma Thomson's assistant, employed to help her meet a publishing deadline (and a little underplayed in the role). Maggie Gyllenhaal runs a bakery shop that Ferrell is auditing. She is very appealing but for my money in that excellent cast, it's Dustin Hoffman who steals the show. It's an odd conceit but somehow works. Enjoyable. Recommended for those who enjoy a quirky story.

Fans of *After Life* (Netflix) by Ricky Gervais (*The Office*), keep an eye out for Season Three. Gervais says "I don't know why people like it. It's about a man whose wife dies and wants to kill himself." It's a marvellous series, has won every award going, about the bitter daily realities of grief and life. You'll laugh, you'll cry. Much recommended.

Queer Eye (Netflix) is a reality TV show where five fabulous queer guys transform appearances – and lives. I was hesitant, but this is a charming, good-natured show about much more than appearances. Each of the team covers an aspect of food, fashion, culture, design and grooming. While they do give people a makeover, they also look at their lives and their contexts. For example, in the most recent series, set in Texas, they go to an animal rescue sanctuary and look at the organisation and the supports they can enable as well as helping the key person look after herself better. It's heart-warming, generous and respectful. Nice viewing and a bit of uplift in these uncertain times.

Dr Airdre Grant

The earliest antique furniture 'Cricket' Tables



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.

As the name goes, so called 'cricket' tables are in essence pieces of rural furniture which were first created in the early 16th century (1500's). In general terms, a 'cricket table' refers to an occasional table with a round top, set on top of three angled legs.

The cricket table was first named and used during the 16th century well before the advent of cricket as a sport or game. Instead, the name appears to have been adopted from the French word '*criquet*' which refers to its stick legs. The table has three legs, so it sat levelly on the uneven dirt floors which prevailed at that time. These extremely rare cricket tables are only pre-dated by storage boxes/coffers and three-legged stools. Even in the fine palaces of Henry VIII (1491-1547) three-legged stools were the normal form of seating.

In the early 1500's England had no cities as such except for London, whose population was less than 10,000 people. The population of Manchester in 1540 was less than 500 people. Most people were poor farmers living in rural areas throughout the country or at best in small dirt-floored one room houses in tiny hamlets. All furniture from this period was made by country carpenters employing joined construction (mortice and tenon glue-free joints secured by wooden pegs or hand forged iron nails).

Four-legged furniture as we know it today did not appear until approximately 100 years later.

billtracey81@gmail.com



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Bangalow Heritage Conservation Area

The Bangalow community takes great pride in its heritage. Built around 1900 to service the timber getters and dairy farmers of the district, the village of Bangalow has a historical character that is unique in Byron Shire.

The historic heart of Bangalow is gazetted as a statutory Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) (see map) which protects its significance and setting. Listed within the Bangalow HCA are over 70 houses, shops, civic buildings, churches, parks and monuments which have heritage status as individual items. Whilst not all properties in the HCA are individually listed, most contribute to the collective value of the HCA and have a story to tell.

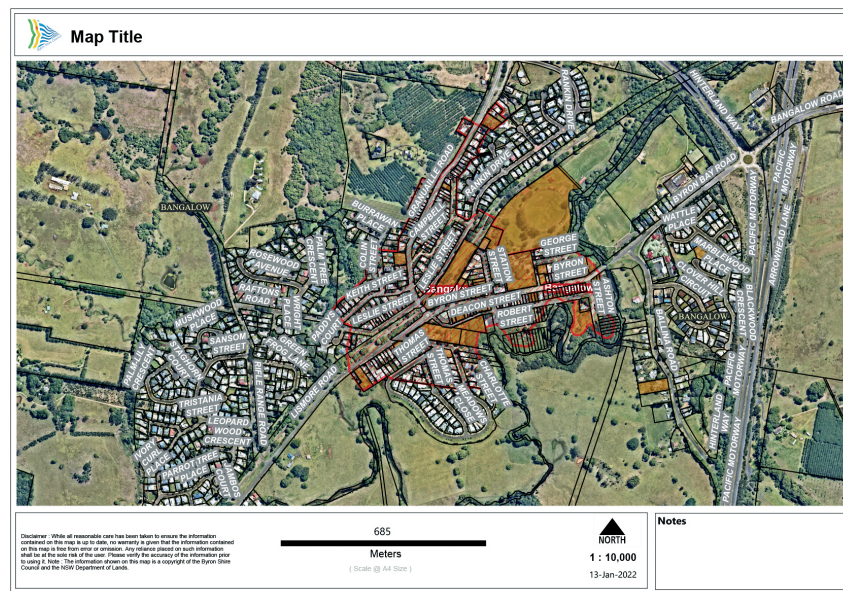
Byron Shire has seven heritage conservation areas. Two are listed of State Significance (Cape Byron State Conservation Area and the Byron Bay Railway Station precinct). The remainder, including Bangalow, have been assessed as having local significance.

What does it mean if you own a property in the Bangalow Heritage Conservation Area (HCA)? It means that you are bound by law to those sections of the Byron Shire Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP) that protect the heritage significance, setting and fabric of individual heritage items and HCAs overall.

Any proposed changes to an item or place of heritage significance need to be sympathetic with heritage values with respect to bulk and scale, roof forms, colour schemes and material finishes. Non-compliance is taken very seriously by both Council and the community.

If you own a property in an HCA you need to apply for permission to alter the fabric, finish and/or appearance of a place. This includes, for example, repainting, reroofing, alterations to the exterior and the erection or removal of fences. Owners must put the proposal in writing to Council, and approval must be in place prior to work starting. This is not a development application process and is currently free.

There are four Fact Sheets on the Heritage in Byron Shire page on Council's website. They contain useful information to consider before



Gazetted Bangalow Heritage Conservation Area Photo supplied

launching into any works on your property. They cover consent requirements, heritage colour schemes, fences, roofing and guttering. Go to byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Building-development/Heritage/Heritage-in-Byron-Shire

Working with a heritage architect and or a heritage consultant is highly recommended when considering extensions and new works. You will need to read closely the recently updated Chapters E2 (Bangalow) and C1 (Non-Indigenous Heritage) in Council's DCP 2014.

Council also offers a free heritage advisory service for conservation projects and new works. It is better to consider heritage issues upfront in the early design stages of a project than as an afterthought. To contact the Heritage Advisory Service, email DSO@byron.nsw.gov.au

or byron.nsw.gov.au or ring 02 6626 7025, or check byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Building-development/Heritage/Heritage-Advisory

Council has a Heritage Advisory Committee upon which Bangalow is well represented. The Bangalow Progress Association also keeps a very close eye on development applications in the HCA and plays a significant role in protecting heritage in Bangalow. For general advice on heritage matters in Bangalow feel free to contact the Progress Association at ian.holmes1@bigpond.com. You can discuss your proposal before submitting a development application to Council.

Jenny Bird



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Bangalow Getaways

Sometimes it is good to find somewhere outside the house where you can just sit in peace and quiet, enjoy your own breathing or even go deeper inside your head. Following are four spots in Bangalow village where you can enjoy fresh air and relative solitude. If possible, leave your car at home and walk, writes Murray Hand.



Bangalow Creek

1. Cemeteries are always peaceful places, and in ours, there is the added beauty of the Lich Gate. Built in 1934, and restored in 2002, it is a shelter in the middle of the cemetery that makes a perfect place to sit and contemplate the meaning of life or even do some tai chi exercises. The soft whooshing of cars on the nearby Hinterland Way gets lost in the calls of the numerous magpies that call the cemetery home. A meander around the cemetery is also a



Lich Gate

good way to stay grounded.

2. Wander down to the Showground, entering via the bottom gate. Go through the yellow gate on the right and follow the sealed road around the right side of the main arena. Where the bitumen ends, go a little further and then down to the creek where there is a flat bank above the slow-flowing water. You can dangle your feet in the creek and may even be soothed by the sound of lowing cattle.
3. In the Bangalow Parklands, is a bench beside the creek, off the path and downstream from the old weir. Here the water flows faster, so you can hear it gurgle over the rocks. This spot is more popular than some other locations, but you should have it all to yourself early or late in the day during the week.

4. Lastly, a place that is hidden well away. At the southern end of the Men's Shed carpark is a broken sign that says 'Walking Track'. Follow this path into the dense forest of camphor laurel trees and privet saplings until you come to a small clearing where a couple of huge cedar stumps remain from the clearing of the Big Scrub. Some bench seats have been placed here by thoughtful locals. The susurrus of the leaves is calming, but for an invigorating experience, come here when a storm is brewing, and the trees start thrashing overhead, and darkness descends. You can exit this woodland further up the path, where you will pass what is possibly the second largest hoop pine tree in NSW. It is truly awesome!

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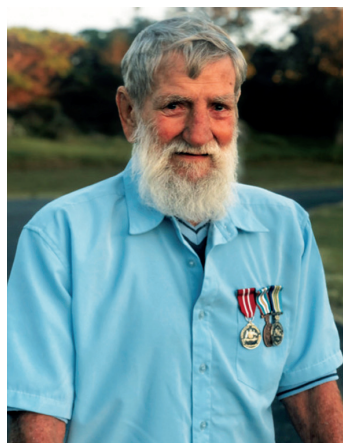
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Vertex Tree Services	0428 715 886
Tallow Tree Services	0401 208 797
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Slash Me Silly	0429 994 189
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Bathroom Renovations – Fully professional	0401 788 420
Concept Carpentry – Big jobs and small	0401 788 420
The Bio Cleaning Co Restoration Cleaning	0414 480 558
Stroud Homes – home builders	0448 746 018
Window Tinting, cars & homes John Crabtree, Bangalow	0410 634610
Handyman and Odd Jobs	
Pete Haliday Odd Jobs	0408 963 039
Absolute Handyman All repairs & renovations, large & small	0402 281 638
Cleaning – Mel Richardson	0402 921 948
Plumber	
Matt Wilson Plumber	0408 665 672
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Juno Energy	0425 256 802
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Michael Spiteri Drafting	0417 713 033
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Kennards Hire	6639 8600
Ikea Delivery and Installation	
Big Swedish Store Run	0401 880 170

WHAT'S THAT NUMBER?

Community		
AA (5.30pm Tues)	Richard	0423 567 669
ADFAS	Dianne	0412 370 372
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)	Rebecca	0438 871 908
Garden Club (1st Wed)	Annie	0417 636 011
George the snake man	George	0407 965 092
Historical Society/Museum/Cafe		6687 2183
Kindred Women Together	Janice	0401 026 359
Koala rescue line (24 hr)		6622 1233
Land & Rivercare (8.30am Sat)	Noelene	0431 200 638
Lions Club (7pm 2nd/4th Tues)	Chris	0416 005 700
Market (4th Sun)	Jeff	6687 1911
Men's Shed	John	0427 130 177
Op Shop (9.30am-2.30pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm)		6687 2228
Parklands	Lynn	0429 644 659
Park Trust Committee	Shane	0475 732 551
Police – DCI Matt Kehoe	Fax: 6629 7501	6629 7500
Pool Trust	Jo	6687 1297
Progress Association	Ian	0414 959 936
Poultry Club	Hector	6687 1322
Quilters (2nd/4th Thur)	Karen	0413 621 224
Red Cross (1st Fri)	Liz	0409 832 001
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
Karate self-defence	Jean	0458 245 123
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		6684 3552
Bowling Club	Chris	6687 2741
Coorabell Hall	Ouida	6687 1307
Heritage House		6687 2183
Moller Pavilion		6687 1035
Newrybar Hall	Blair	0404 880 382
RSL Hall	Charlotte	0418 107 448
Scout Hall	Shane	0475 732 551
St Kevin's Catholic Hall	Russell	0423 089 684

LIFE AND TIMES

William 'Bill' Charles Chappel 13 May 1947 – 15 November 2021



Loving husband of Glenda Chappel. Great family man and adored father of Brett Chappel, Jodie Isaacson, Rick Chappel, Mark Chappel, Kim Clark. Cherished father-in-law of Shannon, Lloyd, Natasha and Joel. Admired pop of Ella, Zac, Beau, Benny, Charlie and Liana.

Always missed and never forgotten.

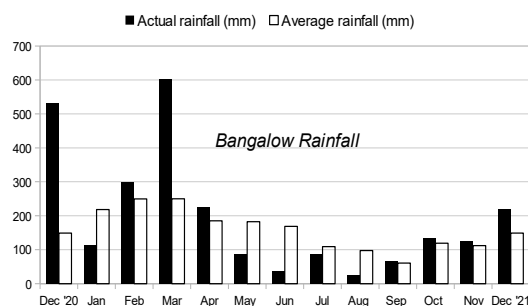
Michael McGettigan 13 March 1942 – 3 November 2021



Michael McGettigan, descendant of one of the early European settler families in district passed away on 3 November 2021. Mike was born 13 March 1942 in Bangalow. Son of Bernard Joseph McGettigan of McGettigan's Lane (originally), and Madge McGettigan (nee Hughes), he had five siblings Joseph, Cathy, (both deceased) Dan, Anne and Rose. Mike was very fond of Bangalow, and his wife Celeste recalls he had fond memories of the pub, the main street and visiting the annual show. He also enjoyed visiting his cousin Martin McGettigan at St Helena. Michael spent

nine years Australian army 1962-1971 and served in the Vietnam war 1968. He then spent 11 years on the Gold Coast before settling in San Jose, USA. He is survived by his wife Celeste, daughter Jennifer and grandson Miles.

Bangalow Rainfall



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The Golden Shower Tree

This magnificent *Cassia fistula* tree is in full flower in my garden at the moment although it usually flowers in early December. Now it is covered in pendulous yellow flowers with soft green foliage, similar to that of the poinciana, gradually appearing. Native to parts of India and SE Asia it is said to bring happiness and good luck, an added bonus for us all.

In cultivation it will reach about 10 metres with a beautiful creamy, greyish, horizontally fissured trunk and it may be multitrunked. It can take several years to flower so it is better to buy than propagate, which is a slow and tedious process for this tree.

Relatively fast growing, drought, and frost tolerant, it adapts to most conditions which is slightly worryingly and has led to it being declared an environmental weed in NT and northern Queensland.

The seed pods are numerous: long, hard cylinders about 20cms with seeds that emerge when the pod is split. I haven't ever found seedlings springing up although I leave the pods and leaves on the ground to break down and provide nutrition for the tree. Hopefully it won't become a problem 'garden escapee' this far south!

In some years when there has been an explosion of monolepta beetles, they have almost denuded the emerging foliage (nature's pruning) but it quickly recovers. I always say, much to the annoyance of some gardeners, that "everything is food".

The cassias are all part of the large legume family, commonly known as "nitrogen fixers" and as such are not only fascinating but important in the Tropics and Subtropics where most of the nitrogen essential for plant growth is in the atmosphere.

But all of the legume family can do something else: they can "fix" nitrogen from the atmosphere with the help of bacteria known as rhizobia and convert it into a form that is useable by the plant. That is, they actually gather the atmospheric nitrogen and can store it in nodules that the bacteria make on roots using energy (nutrients) from the soil that the tree has gathered from the root hairs. Clever?!

So, because legumes have this capacity, you should grow peas and beans in your vegetable garden to improve the fertility of the soil that will benefit all the other vegetables as the soil will be enriched even after you have eaten the crop.



Other clever aspects of this lovely tree:

The bark has been used to make potions that have a slight antiseptic action so are used for cleaning wounds and in Ayurvedic medicine parts of the flowers, pods and seeds are said to have healing properties for a large number of conditions.

Commonly, "cascara" has aperient qualities and is used in many laxatives, including the simple Coloxyl and Senna, prescribed by many for centuries and apparently unchanged in its constituent ingredients.

The timber, should you ever need to remove the tree is well regarded for its tough durability and pest resistance.

So, here I sit, looking out at the profusion of golden overhanging flowers forming a canopy over the garden beds. The blooms are buzzing with bees and their heavenly, light perfume is wafting in. Perhaps you have space for one in your garden?

Carole Gamble

LOCAL LIVING

Helpful neighbours to the rescue!

After the pre-Christmas storm, the resident of a large Coorabell rural property got in touch with the following story. "The morning after the storm, with the power out, there was nothing much we could do at home. With no power, we had no running water to flush the toilet or make a cuppa, use the computer, or anything. So we went off to the beach for a swim. "Meanwhile, our neighbours had noticed that some huge tree branches on our property had fallen across the power lines, so reported the location to Essential Energy.

"By the time we returned home at 3pm, the place was swarming with Essential Energy repairmen, fixing the problem. "When I went to thank the Essential Energy team, they told me that you must always report any storm damage on your property, as soon as you can, and advise your neighbours, too.

Once they hear where the damage has occurred, they can more efficiently send a team directly to the source of the problem and fix it faster." The Coorabell resident is "very grateful" to have such "wonderful



neighbours", so important during times of emergency.

Essential Energy contact number to report supply interruptions: 13 20 80. Excellent storm-prep info at www.essentialenergy.com.au/safety/storm-safety

The Joy of Bowls

Laugh it up and make the most of the remaining summer enjoying the classic outdoor Aussie pastime of lawn bowls. Bangalow bowler Ian Holden gets on a roll with *Justin Coombs*.

With Christmas, New Year and Australia Day celebrations done and dusted for another year, you might be looking for a more relaxed, slower paced type of fun to enjoy the rest of the summer. So why not discover the joy of 'barefoot' bowls, the quintessential Aussie outdoor sport which is, quite literally, for everyone. Bring your five-year-old, bring your grandma – everyone loves an afternoon in the sun on the lawn, playing a fun, easy game with laughs galore.

"Of course, you don't have to go barefoot, if you prefer you can wear any soft flat sole shoe, like a runner or a loafer, but lots of people love playing barefoot on a sunny afternoon," says Ian Holden, committee member of the Bangalow Men's Bowling Club, treasurer of the Bangalow Bowlo board, and all-round bowling ambassador. Ian has been rolling his bowls in Bangalow since moving here from Binnaway in 1990.

"It's such a fun way to spend an afternoon," continues Ian, "Up to eight people can play in any one game, and there's often lots of different games going on the same green, so it's a really friendly,

social atmosphere. It's a great chance to catch up with your friends and family, and you often make new friends from the group next to you.

"And because it's a safe, mostly grass setting, the majority of bowling clubs allow drinks and snacks on the green sidelines. They certainly do at Bangalow Bowlo, so you can play, drink and eat in the sun, or under the shades, with all your favourite people. What more could you want on a gorgeous Aussie summer afternoon?" says Ian.

And what about the game itself? I ask Ian if it's true, can 'anyone' really play? Could I really bring Grandad with his gammy leg? Would my teenage daughter have a laugh? Could I bring a few of my mid-life crisis mates, who are 50 years old wishing they were still 30, will they enjoy themselves and forget their age for a few hours?

"Absolutely!" replies Ian. "There's an old saying about lawn bowls, 'it takes a second to learn, but a lifetime to master', and that saying is so true. It's really easy to learn, because all you're

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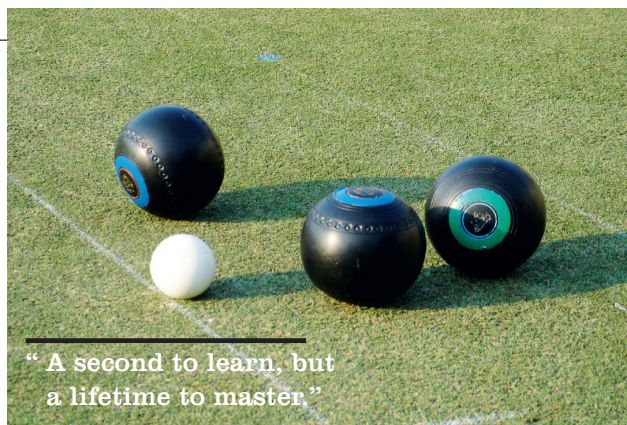
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doing is rolling the bowl along the ground from one end of the green to the other. So, yes, your gammy leg Grandad could come along and I guarantee he will enjoy himself. But the beautiful thing is, it's also really challenging, because the bowl is weighted to make it roll in an arc to the left or right, and you're aiming at a small white 'jack' right at the other end of the green, which takes skill and precision and practice. So, yes, your teenage daughter will be just as gripped as the rest of us trying to master the art.

"As for your mid-life crisis mates, my advice is to book a rink [what the playing lanes are called on the green] and get them down to Bangalow Bowlo for a game ASAP. Another thing to love about lawn bowls is that men and women can play together without any unfair advantages, and if you're the competitive type it can be an enthralling, highly enjoyable contest as you all take turns to roll your bowls closest to the jack, often bumping each other out of the way. Walk past any busy bowling green and you'll hear whoops of delight and good-humoured groans of disappointment in between an almost constant cacophony of laughter and chatter. When we say bowling has something for everyone, we really mean it."

OK Ian, you've got me. I'm in. What do I need to do next to have a game?

"Well, you've got a few options," replies Ian, sitting up and looking excited that he's succeeded getting a new rookie onboard. "The Bangalow Men's Bowling Club runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays, we gather at Bangalow Bowlo at 12.30pm ready to play at 1pm. Everyone is welcome, all you need is \$10 green fee and some soft flat soled shoes – no bare feet when we play in the club. If you like it and keep coming back, there's a \$30 per year social membership, or if you love it and want



to enter regional and state competitions and championships with the club, membership is \$100 a year."

"Or of course you can just roll up to Bangalow Bowlo anytime they are open and pay just \$5 to play – they even have bowls to lend you. And you can play barefoot then if you like!"

For more info

Bangalow Men's Bowling Club – Gerry Swain, 6687 1142 (bowling, men & women welcome)

Bangalow Women's Bowling Club – Frances Raisch, 6687 1339 (bowling, women's club)

Bangalow Bowlo Manager – Chris Watson, 6687 2741
chris@bangalowbowlo.com.au

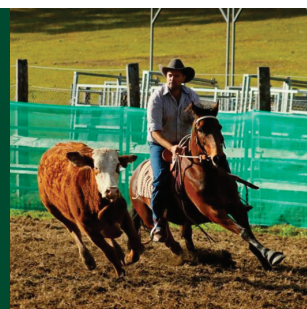


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WHAT'S ON

Things have once more become uncertain in the world of events but there are opportunities to get out and about emerging.

Bangalow Garden Club

When Wed 2 February, 1.30pm

Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow

Contact Diana 0418 288428 or
bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com

Member Stephen Wedd, a dahlia breeder, plant collector and propagator, will be giving a talk on plant propagation. Please bring a mug for afternoon tea. All attendees are required to be double vaccinated and to sign in on arrival. There is no Saturday garden visit in February. To join the club please email the above address with your details.

The Garden Club is looking for an able bodied person to set up the hall for our meetings on the first Wednesday of each month between 12 noon and 3pm. The job involves putting out the chairs (120) and tables (6-8) and putting them away after the meeting. Payment is \$100 per meeting.

In the Raw

What Art exhibition

When Until February 10

Where Lennox Arts Collective,
2/72 Ballina St, Lennox Head

Bangalow artist Belinda Sochacki joins Byron Shire's Yvonne Fenech and Carol Potter in a group exhibition to celebrate their mutual appreciation of our dynamic environment.

Belinda's ballpoint pen-on-paper works depict the precise technical and mechanical details found in local wildlife. Yvonne's painting burst with energy, strength and colour and Carol

delights with colourful abstract expressions of the landscape.

Beach Dogs of Byron Bay

When Until 26 February,
Wed to Sat 10am-4pm

Where Lone Goat Gallery, 28 Lawson St,
Byron Bay

Information lonegoatgallery.com

Award-winning local photographer Rob Scott-Mitchell loved to walk on Belongil beach with his four Scottish terrier dogs. He took photos of his and other dogs whilst he walked, capturing the world from the dogs' point of view. This posthumous exhibition commemorates his life and work.

NORPA The Wharf Revue: Can of Worms

When Fri 25 and Sat 26 Feb, 7.30pm

Where Lismore City Hall

Tickets norpa.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/
salesevent/18717

Join the hilarious Jonathan Biggins, Drew Forsythe, Phil Scott and Mandy Bishop in a daring adventure as they navigate the dire Straits of Covid, sail round the treacherous Horn of Somo, steer well clear of the empty Cape of Pauline, only to be becalmed in the Nationals Bermuda Jacket Triangle before stumbling across a New World, filled with hope and promise.

The Loop Short Fiction Prize

When Entries close midnight 11 March

Information/Entry forms

loopstorycomp@gmail.com

Write an original story, no more than 300 words, that includes the word or theme RAT. Submit it for free if you live in the 2479 postcode. Open to writers of all ages. First prize is \$300, plus an encouragement award of a \$50 voucher from Bookworms and Papermites. The Loop Prize is the bi-annual writing competition honouring the memory of past *Bangalow Heartbeat* editor Karen Jordan who passed away from cancer in 2016.

Bangalow Music Festival Early Bird Tickets

When Until 14 March 2022

Tickets stickytickets.com.au/a6qj6/19th_
bangalow_music_festival_2022.aspx

Early Bird ticket packages are now available





Rob Scott-Mitchell, *Tis true the rainbow has no end....*, 2020 from the Beach Dogs of Byron Bay exhibition

for the 19th Bangalow Music Festival 2022, Thursday 11 August to Sunday 14 August. The packages offer discounts on regular ticket pricing and priority seating. The theme

for the program is 'music's inexhaustible joie de vivre'. Headlining the programming will be international coloratura soprano soloist Alexandra Flood.

LOCAL PRODUCE

Broken Head Road Produce



Broken Head Road, Newrybar offers up a cornucopia of produce. There are about eight roadside stalls and provide everything from

fruit and vegetables to many varieties of plants depending on the season. A random visit in January offered up finger limes, cherry

tomatoes, bananas, chokos, limes and potted sunflower plants in bloom. A generous bag of finger limes and cherry tomatoes was purchased for not too princely a sum. I will make a finger lime dipping sauce with a little chilli and limes as the base to drizzle on oysters. The tomatoes used fresh and baked in one pan dishes of fish, vegetables and herbs. These stalls are worth a leisurely drive to explore and support our grower's passion and love for their local produce.

Lyn Hand

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 The CWA is a substantial and influential women's lobby group

February 2022

2 Bangalow Garden Club

10 In the Raw

25-26 NORPA: The Wharf Revue

26 Beach Dogs of Byron Bay

27 Bangalow Markets

March 2022 Deadlines

What's On 14 February

Advertising 14 February

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Neighbourly
Photo: Nina Strehl

Whatssup Bangalow?

Sarah Tucker finds out more about how social media is connecting our community through COVID and beyond.

Back in the good ol' days when you needed a favour from a neighbour, you'd likely have walked over to ask them face to face, potentially with a basket full of that morning's baking or a few sprigs from your overgrown rosemary plant.

Today, however, the popularity of social media has meant we are shifting our conversations from across the fence to our mobile phones, but according to some of Bangalow's community members, they feel more connected than ever. In fact, many are taking to popular social media platform, WhatsApp, to share community news with one another, and most importantly, stay in touch.

"We have a street WhatsApp group that started last year to help bring approximately nine families all together," says Anna Vinfield. "The group started as a way to organise our regular Friday night street drinks and determine who was bringing the chips or check if it was going to rain."

"It's now become a catch-up channel, which has been crucial during the past couple of months." Although Anna makes light of the group's recent conversational topics, she says it really is much more than just banter and memes.

"There are kindy and school updates and most critically, we have check-ins around how people are coping," she says. "During lockdown it really provided a chance to connect and still maintain a sense of community, especially when we weren't able to talk face to face."

In 2021, TechCrunch reported that WhatsApp saw a 40% increase in usage during the Pandemic as more users go online to stay connected with family, friends and colleagues.

For local resident Kendall Casey, her street's WhatsApp group has helped her and her neighbours with daily family life.

"Our street's WhatsApp group chat is between four mums, all with 12-year-old boys," says Kendall. "It's great because it enables our kids to have the freedoms of yester-year (when we could roam and play until the streetlights came on), but with the knowledge our kids are safe."

"We message each other to check where the kids are at, and what they are up to, and when they need to come home. It's the equivalent of yelling over the back fence... 'dinner-time!'. We are very lucky."

As 2479 finds itself riding its first real wave of COVID, the neighbourhood WhatsApp groups have become useful for keeping up to date with a rapidly changing health landscape. "We use our street group chat to let others know about COVID test results, to hunt for RATS (rapid antigen tests), and to let others know if we are isolating," said one Bangalow resident. Fingers crossed they will once again be used for organising Friday night drinks in the near future...



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