

# HERALD

The Bangalow

**FREE** | March/April 2022



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**Diamonds in the mud**  
Our local flood heroes

**Good Sports**  
Ball, bowls and ponies

**Vale Peter Powditch**  
Local artist, national treasure



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## GET INVOLVED



Photo Justin Coombs

### Bangalow Bowlo: New board members needed!

The Bangalow Bowlo's management is supported by a volunteer Board of Directors who help guide and decide the day-to-day operation and longer-term direction of the club.

There are currently a couple of vacancies (unpaid) on the Board for people who love the Bowlo, have time to help out each month, and ideally have some understanding or expertise in HR, finance or business. Board members must have been a paid-up member of the club for 12 months (or close to it).

Contact Atosha Clancy [atosha@bangalowbowlo.com.au](mailto:atosha@bangalowbowlo.com.au)

### Men's Shed welcoming new members

Bangalow Men's Shed is a welcoming and safe space for men of all ages to practice physical, social, and emotional well-being and develop skills through meaningful projects for the community at large. Not just woodworking (although the group is skilled in this area and has a large, purpose-built workshop), the Shed offers everything from fitness classes, to musical jam sessions with the *Herald's* own Murray Hand, community fundraising through its firewood service, first aid courses and more. Now welcoming new members including those under 18 years of age (who must attend with an adult male). Contact Peter Bainbridge on 0414 410 406

### Sewn with Love 2022

Local quilters, those who love to sew, and of course, fabric hoarders, Sewn with Love 2022 are calling out to the community for those interest in stitching simple quilts and throws for survivors of the recent floods. Founder Holly, originally from Lismore, says "Like a lot of people locally we've helped to clean, donated goods and money but I wanted to do something that would tell people that they were loved. The way I normally do that is to sew something special...and people will be needing quilts as the weather cools." Crafters are encouraged to add a heart motif somewhere on their design.

Find out more [www.facebook.com/sewnlove2022](https://www.facebook.com/sewnlove2022)

### Bangalow Parklands needs a hand

The Bangalow Parklands group is seeking committed people to help out on their working bee days at the Parklands surrounding the Weir and playground areas. They meet every Wednesday from 8.30-9am in summer (weather permitting) and 9.30am in winter at their room behind the toilet block near the bush tucker garden. Work wraps up around 11am with a cuppa and a chat. They work along with Byron Council in maintaining the Parklands gardens and infrastructure within the Parklands so that it is an enjoyable experience for everyone. Please wear the appropriate clothing and shoes for working outdoors.

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# HERALD

The Bangalow

## From the editor



Photo Isaac Brandon

It's not often that I'm lost for words, but this editorial has been hard to write. The March edition of *The Bangalow Herald* was destroyed in the floods that engulfed our printers in Lismore. Obviously, an insignificant loss in the scale of things but just one of the many knock-on effects that have been felt through the wider community, fuel shortages, lack of fresh produce, and no internet connection and phone reception.

It has been a shocker of a month. These inconveniences pale when compared to what the people of Lismore, Mullum, Ocean Shores, Ballina and surrounds have suffered. Lives lost. Businesses decimated. Homes devastated.

The March edition of this publication contained stories about the housing crisis in our region. This issue has just been catastrophically amplified, and we will bring our attention back to that crucial matter in our next edition. Another of March's now eclipsed stories was about the sense of belonging that comes from participating in the community. This original story was about the cheerful comradery and contentment gained from volunteering our time and services to others. Instead, you will read how our social capital is critical to our survival. Community groups, friends, and strangers, rallied swiftly to rescue, comfort, feed, accommodate, clean up and fundraise for our Northern Rivers neighbours after literally being left to fend for ourselves in the days following the region's worst natural disaster.

The most selfless charity is when the giver does not know the receiver, where assistance is offered without condition, expectation, or acknowledgement. So, while the right words can be a struggle to find, this editorial is a resounding thank you on behalf of us all to those kind, brave, generous, resourceful unsung local heroes in our community who heard the call and responded.

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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Printed by Lismore City Printery

DISCLAIMER: This news magazine is published by The Bangalow Herald Inc. (registration no. INC 1601577). Membership applications are open to all adult residents of the 2479 postal district and surrounds. The opinions expressed by individual contributors are not necessarily shared by the editor, nor members of the association's editorial or management committees.

# Bangalow Film Festival

FRIDAY 8 APRIL | 7:00PM

THE DROVER'S WIFE

SATURDAY 9 APRIL | 7:00PM

THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER

SUNDAY 10 APRIL | 7:00PM

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# Diamonds in the mud

A people's army mobilised itself to support the region during the catastrophic flooding last month. **Digby Hildreth** talked to just a few of its thousands of foot soldiers.

A common theme runs through the many stories being told about the nights and days of dumping rain and the deluge it delivered in the first days of March, drowning towns and villages across the Northern Rivers and beyond.

Alongside the reports of official unpreparedness and complacency, and of heartbreaking loss and trauma, accounts emerged, time and again, of extraordinary selflessness, courage and compassion, as people leapt into action to help neighbours and strangers alike survive, be safe, and recover.

The community spirit displayed – an instinctive care for others – was the great gift of the disaster, though it came wrapped in stinking mud. After two years of anxiety and division caused by an invisible, air-borne threat, the floods – an identifiable common enemy – brought us together.

Bangalow – much of Byron Shire – was relatively unscathed and fielded great numbers of such folk, each stepping up according to their talents and capabilities.

Among them were burly blokes braving the waters in boats and swimming into homes to carry out children and the elderly and ferry them to safety; legions of sandwich-makers working with military precision to make sure no-one went hungry; a Binna Burra businessman paying for canopies and generators and the creation of an access way into Lismore Showgrounds; and local vets housing and treating injured and terrified animals.

Local mother Kierny Deutrom heard about the disaster while in Brisbane with her two girls, promptly did a big shop of toiletries and



**Jesse Palmer and Lismore resident Denise** Photo supplied

food and headed straight to the Newrybar Hall, which had become, overnight, a bustling help centre brimming with produce and dry clothing. She then spent the next five days at the A&I Hall – the hub for a pop-up food-producing factory that saw tens of thousands of meals cooked and delivered to places in need.

Chef and Woods Café co-owner Sam Campbell's emotions well up as he recalls how it felt to see his community's sense of impotence at the scale of the disaster morph into concerted action; to be among dozens of people working in harmony.

"Our chefs and staff really stepped up," Sam says. "It was so touching and beautiful. Some said they've never felt so proud of living here because of the way the community responded, and the willingness and courage to get in there and get it done – contributing their time, energy and money, and mostly without ego or attachment or desire for anything else. That's one of the most amazing aspects of this."



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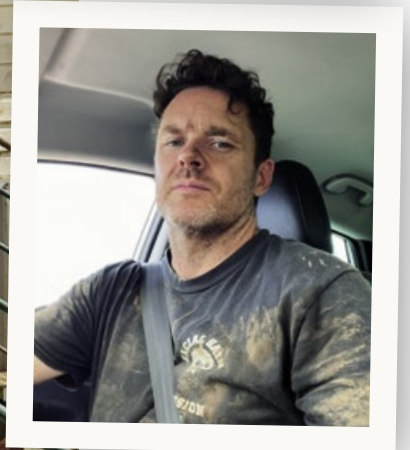
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**LEFT:** Amber and Indya help out in Lismore local

**TOP:** Jesse Palmer with fellow rescuer Sam Campbell

**BOTTOM:** Riley Batchelor

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## LOCAL HEROES

What began as a spontaneous eruption of individuals' need to help at a time of unprecedented crisis quickly became a well-oiled machine. Workers in the Woods kitchen joined the bigger team in the A&I Hall, from there to the Moller Pavilion in the Showground and then to the Lions Kiosk nearby, where platoons of volunteers formed production lines.

The 2479 food effort kicked off, unsurprisingly, with CWA members cooking at home and dropping the meals off at the Showground, where Rosemary Hill was one of a number of drivers taking them to people in flood-hit towns.

Rosemary, a Possum Creek beef cattle farmer born in Bangalow Hospital, says it was a natural response, but also one sharpened after experiencing the 2017 floods that devastated Lismore.

"Like then, the region was an island for a while," she says, so she knew that there would be little food available for a few days and that the grassroots community had to act.

The call went out for meals to be cooked and brought into town, where they would be loaded up and transported to Summerland Christian College, a resource hub for Lismore.

After a couple of days of this – the details are blurred in everyone's mind – Rosemary recalls "a chef sticking his head in the door and asking what he could do to help".

That chef was Wal Foster, founder of Natural Ice-cream Australia, who, with caterer Pip Sumbak, owner of Pip's Plate, took the operation to the next level. Systems were put in place and roles allocated, including a receptionist to triage people arriving with food donations, and to update details of areas of need. The logistics of the effort took on a military precision.

"Wal and Pippa did an amazing, amazing job, including organising a private helicopter to deliver food to a cut-off area," says Rosemary. "There's was a massive effort and they deserve all the accolades." (Modesty is a striking feature of the disaster: people repeatedly downplayed their efforts. Rosemary risked her personal safety to get food delivered, even sliding down a muddy hill near Lismore in her 4WD.)

As the scale of the disaster escalated, so did the team's focus. Wal estimates that 15,000 sandwiches were made at the Moller Pavilion; needing more capacity, he asked the Lions to open their kiosk, which has a large kitchen and a cool room – "large enough to face the apocalypse", he says.

Wal also rallied Byron Shire food businesses: Bread Social had been helping with supplies of freshly-baked loaves, then Stone and Wood reached out to their contacts to gain access to kitchens capable of producing bulk food as fast as possible. Among the 20 or more



Conor, homeowner Lynette, and Jesse

restaurants taking part, The Beach Hotel, Bay Leaf, Papaya, the Lennox Hotel and Bruns Bakery made their kitchens available – and the contents of their coolrooms. Coopers Shoot Tomatoes, Trevor Mead Butchers, Bangalow Farm and many others contributed fresh produce. Local gardeners brought in armfuls of basil to be made into pesto; a woman from Brisbane headed down with a truckload of watermelons.

With the help of heavily detailed white boards, the supply chain and transport roster became highly organised and effective, on a mind-boggling scale: Lions president Greg Nash says 70,000 wholesome meals and sandwiches were generated in 10 days – "and no army rations among them", says Pip.

Maintaining that culinary quality was a priority for Sam, whose goal had been to make the Woods meals as tasty and nutritious as possible. And as fresh. Bangalow mother-of-two India Reynolds, who worked

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**Jesse Palmer looks on from a rescue boat as Sam Campbell (pictured far left under awning) helps haul a Lismore family into a tinny**

alongside Sam from the get-go, says India “the first day we got into Coraki there was great joy from people seeing a salad. They hadn’t had anything fresh for a week”.

Meals throughout the crisis went to evacuation centres, “helicopter guys”, street teams and “feeding people who were cleaning out their houses”, India says. In larger areas like Mullum and Lismore, the team sometimes went door to door.

India’s first inkling of the severity of the floods came from her mother, who lives in Lismore.

“She was safe, so as a Bangalow local and regular at Woods I connected with Sam and began driving to deliver meals they had prepared.”



**Holistic Vet Dr Louisa Fenny with Sabush the camel Photo supplied**



**Bec Villanti, Pip Sumbak and Wal Foster Photo Jess Kearney**

This turned into a bigger role as the Woods crew became part of the larger collective effort.

“I became folded within that, co-ordinating all the volleys and food allocation and deliveries in synch with Wal and Pip. What they achieved was incredible,” India says.

She and her team drove food to the Ballina SES, to Mullumbimby, Lennox Head, then Lismore, Woodburn, Evans Head and Cabbage Tree Island.

After more than a week of intense focus, Wal went south to join those on the ground working to clear houses and clean up where possible.

“It was carnage, but I needed to get out there, away from the whiteboards, and help people scrub and gurney their houses.”

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## LOCAL HEROES

The next day he headed to Coraki and into a more familiar milieu, the kitchen, to cook more meals.

But it was not only humans that needed looking after in the crisis. Animals suffered on an enormous scale, prompting horse-mad Jazz Hardy to set up a field hospital in the Showground and enlist the help of local veterinarian Dr Megan Kearney.

Megan, equine vet Nikita Stibbard and 20 or so volunteers ended up looking after 14 horses, some from Coraki, and some rescued from the Woodburn Bridge. All of them were injured or sick, some with swamp cancer, one with pneumonia. Many had no homes to return to. A camel that had lost two of its mates to the waters was brought in and cared for by visiting vet Dr Lu Fenny before being found a forever home.

Rosemary Hill says everyone did their bit, and that every little bit added up to a lot, but some, like electrician Jesse Palmer, went above and beyond, joining the flotilla of small boats in Lismore that went house to house, saving lives.

Jesse and his wife, Emma have lived in Bangalow for five years, but despite being near the coast he admits to being "a shit swimmer who gets queasy at sea". He does, however, know about the treacherous power of rivers from his early years in the badlands of Alberta, and he witnessed the Brisbane/Ipswich floods in 2011.

Jesse is also the proud owner of a four-metre "tinny", a 42-year-old Qintrex and with his wife's blessing knew what he had to do.

He enlisted the help of a builder friend, also named Sam Campbell, and they travelled south to the Bruxner Highway in Jesse's Land-Rover.

Despite the streams of traffic heading in the other direction, they were not prepared for the sight that met them as they crested the final hill into Lismore and found the entire basin under water.

"It is still hard to digest the size of the affected area," he says.

The sandwich crew hard at work at the Bangalow Lions Kiosk  
Photo Digby Hildreth



Despite the confusion on the ground, when the pair heard there were people trapped in a unit block, they found a makeshift ramp, launched, and headed straight to it, even as street signs were disappearing under the rising torrent.

"Sam and I pulled a father and two teens out and then we heard calls from the building next door. We dropped the family off and shot back and pulled out two men and two women."

During later rescues, Sam jumped in and carried people, including a "happy and smiling" three-month-old baby, on his shoulders to try to keep some of them dry.

"We cleared out another unit block and four houses," says Jesse. "We pulled out a family of seven and their elderly neighbour. We used our boat as a bridge for the teenagers from their balcony to the tinny on the other side of

us and put their personal belongings and elderly lady under our covers.

"The last house we attended contained four elderly and unfit people. We thought we could possibly drag them out of their top floor window and load them from the rooftop but it was far too slippery. With the help of another man on a kayak, Sam swam under the eaves and brought them out to our boats one by one."

One larger man was towed through the water until shallow ground was reached. "His wife and two labradoodles were high and dry in the boat," Jesse says.

He estimates he and Sam carried more than 20 people to safety.

That immense courage was matched by the doggedness of members of the Mud Army – a countless number of people who turned up day

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**Equine Field Hospital volunteers including Megan Kearney (in blue overalls)**  
Photo Sam Cavallo

after day to help with the clean-up, wading through mud and shouldering the emotional burden of engaging with families as the material sum of their lives – furniture, photographs, children's toys – was reduced to mounds of anonymous trash on the footpath.

Bangalow dad Riley Batchelor helped clean more than 25 houses over seven or eight long days, from Ocean Shores to Lismore, carrying out mud-soaked household contents, shovelling, scraping and sweeping the sludge and silt, stripping swollen Gyprock from walls.

Some houses were harder to clear than others, emotionally, says Riley, "especially those with the owners present", in a state of shock and profound grief, watching as strangers carried the remnants of their lives out the door.

Riley was joined by mates from Bangalow, working alongside young people from as far away as the Sunshine Coast. Rosemary Hill's two sons were there too: Bradley and Daniel with their rugby teams, from Byron and Bangalow respectively.

Paula Bannan, co-owner of Pack Gallery, spent five days cleaning

homes, along with her daughter Indya and crews of Indya's young friends and their families.

She was struck by the stoicism of the people she encountered. "In one Lismore house was a family who had lost everything. They had two 14-year-old boys and through all the time I was there I didn't hear them complain once."

The region is in the recovery phase now – slowly trying to return to some kind of normality.

For the worst hit, "normal" is off the agenda. For many others, including the local heroes, the adrenaline will have long drained away. The trauma remains, but within that, beneath the shock and the pall of sadness hanging over neighbouring towns, there is a renewed awareness of our capacity to come together when needed, neighbour helping neighbour, and a kind of quiet joy at seeing the good in each other.

As Rosemary Hill says: "We live in a community that's full of amazing people."

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The Bangalow Film Festival team  
Photo: Murray Hand

## Bangalow Film Festival returns in April

The second year of the Bangalow Film Festival is scheduled to happen on 8-14 April at Bangalow Showgrounds. After a postponement earlier this year, film buffs will be eager to pencil in this new date and start reviewing the program.

After a successful inaugural year, the Bangalow Film Festival is excited to premiere award-winning films from across the globe, the program offers a diverse and inclusive film festival experience. With a line-up of local, national and international critically acclaimed films, the festival presents curated selection of exclusive film premieres along with film concerts, panels, art exhibitions and special guests, all enjoyed with the finest locally sourced food and beverages. There is also a kids activities and film program taking place during the day at the A&I Hall.

The opening night film is the award-winning drama, *The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson* directed by Leah Purcell. *Green Is The New Black* a film by Northern Rivers resident Jake Taylor, tackles themes of climate change and 100% of ticket sales will be donated to various local flood appeals.

[bangalowfilmfestival.com.au](http://bangalowfilmfestival.com.au)



Bangalow Palm Leavings by Victoria Keesing Photo supplied

## Art Fair at Stokers Siding

Come and meet the artists at a curated art exhibition held 10am-3pm Sunday 10 April (and monthly thereafter) at the historic Stokers Siding Dunbible Memorial Hall. Organisers Patricia and Chris met years ago at architecture school, and the Art Fair was created in loving memory of Patricia's parents, Rita and Noel Sims. The event aims to provide an accessible platform for local artists to show and sell their work and also for the community to view the amazing talent of artists in a beautiful country setting.

Presenting a diverse range of original painting, printmaking, photography, pottery, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, mixed media, textiles, fashion and works on paper by regional and local artists including Karena Wynn-Moylan from Bangalow, Victoria Keesing from Bangalow, and Sigrid Patterson from Federal, as well as Kay Knights of Lennox Head, Colleen Da Rosa of Ocean Shores, and Hunter Wilson of Lismore.

Art Fair will be holding a silent auction at the launch with all proceeds donated to help flood recovery. Relax in the grounds of the hall with a delicious selection of locally made baked goods, coffee and music. Applications for both artists and food stalls for future events are now open.

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**Jacqui Sosnowski and the obvara treatment**  
Photo: Nelly le Comte

## Ceramic market at Newrybar Hall

Most famous for their annual Mud Trail held across the region, North Coast Ceramics supports local ceramic professionals by preserving and promoting quality artistry while nurturing broader community appreciation of the handmade. They are hosting markets in Newrybar and Federal on Easter Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17 from 9am – 3pm. One of the ceramicists on show at the Ceramics Market is Jacqui Sosnowski. Jacqui employs 'obvara', a 12th century surface treatment for pottery which uses only natural ingredients such as flour and yeast to create amazing, unique, organic patterns.

Jacqui has been perfecting the technique for the past five years, and has some great insights into what still is, essentially, a serendipitous process. The bisque-fired pots are taken from a raku kiln while red hot and then plunged into the 'brew' of flour and water. With much steam and excitement, the pots immediately take on the 'obvara' patterns – sometimes like rivers, sometimes like coral, sometimes like wood. Always different and never predictable or controllable. Take a break from the excess of chocolate on the Easter weekend and head to the hills to celebrate the skills and creativity of our local artisans. For more information contact Robyn Porritt 0409 785 138



**Stingless bees** Photo supplied

## Native bees a problem at your place?

Australia has close to 2000 species of native bees. These are made up of solitary bees and stingless bees. Stingless bees vary greatly from European honeybees, in a few important ways. Firstly, they are very small in size, around 4mm long and black in colour. Without a protective stinger, they need other methods to protect the hive which includes enclosing it in a protective bubble of propolis (bees wax and resin mixture), leaving only one entrance and exit. This entrance is always guarded by guard bees, who will attack and smother any intruders in resin. As our local native bees are now living amongst development, they often build their hives in inconvenient places like water meters, down pipes, walls and rotting logs.

If you have found a native bee hive, and would like it rescued, the Stingless Bee Lady is here to rescue and remove them. As an environmental scientist and passionate Australian native bee lover, Courtney will happily come and rescue them without cost, and then donate her rescues to local schools and day cares, to help kids learn about this non-aggressive bee.

If you have a hive that needs removal, please contact Courtney on 0400 092 888 or [stinglessbeelady@gmail.com](mailto:stinglessbeelady@gmail.com)

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# Bean there, doing that

How far would you go in pursuit of the perfect cup of coffee? wonders **Digby Hildreth**

It would be hard to beat the lengths gone to by Greg Cromwell, who planted 50 coffee trees on his family's farm at Federal and spent the next five years picking, cracking and pulping the plentiful fruit in a quest for the optimum cup of joe.

But, while Greg possessed a connoisseur-level appreciation of roasting and drinking coffee from selling ROK Espresso-making equipment, he wasn't so savvy in the raw bean processing arts.

So, he sought help from Reece Cooper, a youthful former Sydney-based roastmeister with experience buying coffee in Kenya and Ethiopia, who arrived in Byron three years ago and set up his own roastery, Beam Coffee, supplying Barrio and Harvest restaurants, among others.

Reece was impressed with the fruit on the trees, which glow with a healthy green vibrancy thanks to having their roots in the region's iron-rich volcanic soil.

The pair began picking in September last year, still by hand, to take advantage of a longer harvest period – three or four weeks.

"Picking is the most important stage of good coffee," says Reece, and handpicking means that the fruit is extra ripe when it's picked."

They roasted a small amount at Reece's Mullumbimby plant, and were surprised, and blown away, by how good it tasted.

"It was definitely among the best Australian coffee we have tried," says Greg. "Though I may be biased," he adds.

"There's a clean, bright quality to it," Reece says. "And it has a milk chocolate note, a strong sweetness and some dried-fruit sweetness too, like raisins or dates."

Although no purists, they drink it black, but Reece says if he roasted it more it would become "caramelly" and combine well with milk.

In any case, individuals' palate experience is hugely subjective experience, he says.

Despite the brew being so exceptional, the growers of the other 49,950 coffee trees in Byron Shire need not panic.

At this stage the project is a pilot – and even a pilot of a pilot, says Greg.

"Considering the time and effort that has gone into it – like much farming and artisanal things – it's about love, not money," he says.

Reece also treated the project as an experiment, deliberately leaving



**Greg Cromwell and Reece Cooper among the trees**  
Photo Digby Hildreth

the cherries on to ferment for too long. "And somehow it worked."

He is planning to go to Colombia in July to study the "really interesting things they're doing there with extra-long fermenting, to make it taste a bit different, a little more fruity".

The crew at Harvest are reportedly keen to have a local brand and are interested in serving his coffee, Greg says, but it's far from a commercial venture ... yet. A restlessly inventive entrepreneur, he'll keep trying to figure that out.

"When you start getting something in return for your effort, it's pretty exciting. And the reward! It's greatly satisfying to consume your own product, especially when it tastes this good."

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# Miso Roast Chicken

**Sam Campbell** from Bangalow's Woods Café and his team worked tirelessly with an all-star crew of local chefs, hospitality workers and generous volunteers to prepare fresh meals for flood affected locals. Amazingly, he also had time to share this tasty and nourishing homestyle recipe with *Herald* readers. Best shared with loved ones.

## Recipe

1 organic or free range local fresh chook, large ('Tree Range' Chicken, from Bangalow Markets)

3 tbsps white miso

3 tbsps gochujang paste (find it at Red Ginger!)

1 tbsps soy sauce

2 tbsps fish sauce

1 tbsps maple, mirin or unrefined cane sugar (add more to your preference)

1 tbsps sesame oil

1 lime juiced or some lemon myrtle fresh to infuse inside the chicken is ACE

## For The Chicken

Mix the marinade ingredients until smooth, pour over and inside the chook. Let it marinade at least an hour.

Heat oven or low slow BBQ at 160c

Cook the chicken for an hour, piercing at the thigh to check for clear juices. Roast another

10 min if needed.

NOTE: place some foil over the chicken if it begins browning too much.

## To Serve

Boil plenty of brown rice, in a large pot, like pasta. 18-22min til done.

Quickly stirfry some kimchi, greens or fermented vegetables, with some onion, preferably green shallots. I love to use Byron

Gourmet Mushrooms here, sliced and stir fried with the vegetables. Toss with the rice, season with a little soy and spice it up if you please. We use our own Furikake at Woods, I would recommend some Togarashi also would be very welcome.

Enjoy this meal – it's like a really close hug. We all could sure use more of them at the moment. Keep well, safe and healthy.



White Miso Paste  
Photo supplied

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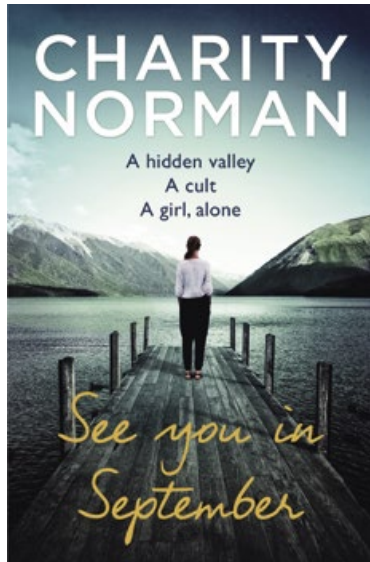
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# See You in September

by Charity Norman



Imagine you are 20 years old, and that you're taking a break from your university studies by flying halfway round the world to New Zealand. You've been hitching rides for a few days but, today, you've been on the side of the road for hours; it's pouring with rain, and you've really got the s\*\*ts with your long-term boyfriend. Feeling like a drowned rat, you storm off to the distant service station where some hippies in a run-down van offer you a ride. Spurning the boyfriend, you accept the lift and are welcomed into a warm van where you are given a dry towel, offered hot tea and

nourishment. Further down the road these lovely people offer you a bed for the night, and they take you to their idyllic compound nestled remotely in the beautiful New Zealand bush at the foot of a volcano. "See you in September" were your last words to your parents as they waved you goodbye at Heathrow airport – a short break in NZ before returning to be Matron of Honour at your best friend's wedding and the pressures of uni. But what if you decided to stay in this beautiful harmonious new place, disconnected from the world, sharing the little you have, sharing in the daily chores of growing vegetables, cooking, cleaning, and minding the children? Life could be so peaceful and uncomplicated here.

Uncomplicated for you "Cassy" but a living nightmare for your parents Diana and Mike and your sister Tara!

This story explores the modern-day cult and the methodology behind recruiting new members and the ease with which a vulnerable person relinquishes responsibility to others.

The chapters alternate between NZ and London where Cassy's silent mobile phone builds the sense of unease with her parents. The boyfriend is eventually located but he doesn't know where she is, nor does he seem overly concerned! The deadline nobody wants to believe Cassy will miss – the wedding of her best friend – is fast approaching!

Charity Norman is an English author and barrister and has written several books. I loved this tense and pacy thriller.

Good Reads rating 4.2 stars. Published by Allen & Unwin

**Carolyn Adams – Bookworms & Papermites**

## Just call me Al



**2019 Nugan Estate 'Alfredo' Frasca's Lane**

What does it mean to be Australian I wonder? Many changes over the years but the multicultural mix that is Australia in the year 2022 has brought with it insights into food and wine culture from around the globe. It has even served to enhance our understanding and appreciation of our indigenous population and their connection to this land. In wine terms though, the biggest external influences have come from Europe. No one-trick pony, the Australian wine industry offers a truly cosmopolitan, continental array of vinous treasures from home, Europe and further abroad. We haven't always done justice to the European varieties grown here, particularly the reds, quite often coming across a little light on in terms of the earthy, savoury, sometimes toasty characters that we enjoy. Chianti and the fabulous Tuscan wines that we have grown to love are made predominately from the Sangiovese grape. It appreciates a warm climate and not too much rain, needs to be treated carefully with naturally high acidity and firm tannins, ripeness is important. When **Alfredo Nugan**

and his wife **Annelise** emigrated from Spain in the late 1930's they bought with them a love of fresh, quality produce. The family built an expansive, modern, agricultural business over many years and in 2000 produced their first commercial vintage. They source fruit from the Riverina, Coonawarra, Langhorne Creek, McLaren Vale, Wrattenbully and King Valley. The **2019 Nugan Estate 'Alfredo' Frasca's Lane Sangiovese** is drawn from the cool climate of the **King Valley** and is a resounding success. Peppery, red fruit on the nose, dark cherry and plum, thyme like herbs perhaps, on the palate. It's juicy and lush, the acidity and firm, dusty tannins bookend the concentrated flavours up front. Grilled meats, pizza and any tomato-based pasta is going to match up magnificently. Valé Alfredo and the Nugan family! This Franco-Italian-Oz fusion is a winner. Drink, enjoy!

**Wayne Steele**  
**The Cellar Bangalow**

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## Diving into the stream



I sometimes go to the streaming services and whine "there's nothing there!". But there is. There are loads of choices. I see old favourites, follow recommendations and hunches. I cruise through SBS on Demand, ABC iView and the various platforms. Sometimes it works

out. This month is about fun and relaxation... not hard soul-searching examination of your conscience or thrashing of your optimism. A bit of light relief and renewal of faith in the world.

**US** (ABC iView) is a series adapted by David Nicholls from his best-selling book. Tom Hollander (well-known British actor of many productions including *Bohemian Rhapsody*) takes his wife (Saskia Reeves) and teenage son (Tom Taylor, you may remember him from the BBC series *Dr Foster*) on a 'trip of a lifetime' across Europe in an effort to save his marriage and keep his family together. After 24 years of marriage, Connie is tired of her cautious, over planning husband. Albie, the son, just wants to break free. It doesn't go well as the fractured family break further apart. I liked this as it is about ordinary people struggling to cope with ordinary challenges, albeit in a European context. An appealing aspect is that, similar to *After Life* by Ricky Gervais, no one is glamorous, gorgeous, everyone struggles, makes good and bad decisions and muddles through the swampy mess that is family life and relationships. It's very human, recognisable, and funny. Recommended.

**Mustier Dogs** (ABC) is a show about five kelpies being trained to master mustering. Shot across various Australian states, from the Pilbara to the Territory, it shows the critical relationship between owner and dog, and gives great insight into what life on the land is like. The dogs must perform certain tasks each week e.g., follow commands, not bite sheep, not get distracted, work in a team. This is a simple premise for an enchanting series. What a welcome respite from the crazy politics swirling around us. One wonders if certain politicians would benefit from the training these dogs receive. Dog lovers and humans will enjoy this.

And then there's **Wellington Paranormal** (SBS On Demand) a series created by Jermaine Clement and Taika Waititi (*Flight of the Conchords*, *What Happens in the Shadows*, *Hunt for the Wilder People*). It's a mockumentary about two Wellington police officers and their captain who try and contain the paranormal activities that cause havoc in the dark city streets. If you feel like a night off a gloomy world and seek entertainment that is whimsical, absurd and nutty, then this is for you. It's full of witty one liners and asides. Deadpan and delightful. Take a walk on the paranormal side. It's good fun.

**Dr Airdre Grant**



Italian stone bust  
made in 1895

## Decorative antique statues

**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.**

Seventeenth and 18th century stone statuary is quite rare and very expensive and so most people opt for affordable contrasting 19th century pieces, like the piece depicted, to display in their homes instead.

They are often the choice of interior decorators who purchase these pieces on behalf of clients seeking to make an impact statement in their foyers or entrance halls despite the fact that such clients may live in ultra-modern homes and apartments and possess no other antique pieces at all.

Values of all antique pieces are largely governed by fashion but as a number of stand-out pieces like this example have been featured over recent years in both international and Australian design magazines, it's likely that antique statues will at least retain their present values. With good pieces becoming much harder to find, they could well appreciate in value over time.

Note that antique statues purchased by businesses to enhance client reception areas in commercial premises (or home office) are fully tax deductible under current Australian Taxation Office rules and for all others, are allowable investments under current Australian SMSF regulations.

This bust, with its decidedly Art Deco (c.1930) appearance, is both signed and dated by the artist, and at 1895 perhaps a little ahead of its time. It is sculpted in alabaster, a slightly softer stone than marble, which has been used throughout history primarily for carving decorative artifacts.

[billtracey81@gmail.com](mailto:billtracey81@gmail.com)



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# Council Matters

## Flood recovery

All staff and Councillors have been fully engaged in the flood disaster and recovery across the Shire. Infrastructure staff (engineers and works crews) remain focused on repairing roads and bridges in those parts of the Shire with the greatest need – particularly re-establishing safe access for isolated communities. Crews are also busy collecting flood waste from the north of the Shire. Council staff are available at the Mullumbimby Flood Recovery Centre.

Council is finding that people who are not flood affected are dumping rubbish in the skips provided for flood affected households.

If at all possible, hold off making non-essential trips to the tip. Flood waste is the priority.

## Development applications updates



View from proposed Parrot Tree development Photo Sally Schofield

Bangalow and its surrounding hinterland remain subject to a consistent stream of applications for small, medium and large developments. The following DAs are of particular interest to the community. They demonstrate just some of the complex planning issues faced by Council and the community – protecting the heritage values of the village, the impacts of tourist facilities in the hinterland, and increasing density of residential housing in the village.

At its March 2022 Planning Meeting, Council gave conditional approval to the NSW Department of Education's application for a new two storey teaching wing within the grounds of the Bangalow Primary School. The main building will also be repurposed to an administration block. This application has been in the pipeline for some time and

has been on public exhibition. Council has sought and considered submissions from the school community, local residents and heritage consultants.

An application has been submitted for a tourist facility in Lawlers Lane – twelve cabins and a recreational building with a view to tourist accommodation. Weddings and events would be the subject of a future DA. The rural land is on a ridge line and the development if approved would be visible from the Bangalow village. The DA was on public exhibition in March 2022. It will now be considered by Council staff alongside submissions from the community and interested parties.

A subdivision DA at 54 Parrot Tree Place proposes two rows of four small residential lots separated by an entry road. Community Title has been requested on a segment of RU1 land behind this subdivision. This DA closed for submissions in early March and will now be considered by Council staff alongside submissions from the community and interested parties.

A planning proposal for a four hectare land parcel at Rankin Drive has been submitted to NSW Planning for consideration. The proposal contains a preliminary concept plan for a 25 large lot subdivision, with an additional 14 lot strata subdivision allocated to affordable housing.

In March Council refused a development application for a tourist facility at 75 Rifle Range Rd. Reasons for refusal included the scale of the development, scenic impact, and tourist accommodation limits being exceeded.

**Jenny Bird and Ian Holmes**

Thank you  
*Byron Shire*



We are so grateful to all the community organisations, businesses and every member of the Byron Shire community who has stepped up to offer their skills, their help and their kindness during the flood emergency and the recovery.

We are proud to be part of this generous and compassionate community.



**BYRON  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL**



## Business News

### 20 Years Young

Last month GNF Real Estate celebrated 20 years in business in Bangalow. Licensee, Chris Hayward, set up the office in the main street in competition with two other agents, The Professionals and Reg Miller. In that year, 2002, the old Draper house in the main street (where Sparrow Coffee is now) sold (not by GNF) for \$855,000 which, according The Daily Telegraph in 2009, "marked a tipping point for the town, formerly known as 'Banga-hole', setting its real estate market on a steep upward trajectory." These days Chris' team is comprised of Alli Page, Christine Maher-Bull, Lorelei Potter and Darren Perkins. The original GNF – George & Furhmann – was opened in Casino in 1976 as a stock and station agency by Thomas George, Arch Northam and Paul Furhmann. Residential and rural real estate came later as did the branding of GNF.



### Harmony Early Learning Centre

On March 21 a new facility opened on Ballina Road catering for up to 60 children from six months to five years of age. Harmony is a family-owned business with more than 10 childcare centres on the East Coast, and many more in the pipeline.

The impressive new building features separate areas for babies and older children, and an imaginative outdoor play area allowing a holistic approach to early learning and development. A pre-school program is offered to the older children. Operation Manager, Amber Tipene, has recruited a staff of 20 qualified educators and is still seeking more staff. The centre will provide meals for the children from its organic whole food kitchen and will operate from 6.30am to 6.30pm.

### Queen Mab's Flooded



We are sad to report that the devastating Lismore flood has taken Queen Mab's boutique. Susan Dasya relocated to Lismore from Bangalow last year, setting up Queen Mab's in the Strand Arcade in Molesworth Street. She will be hosting a 'Flooded with Love' flood survivor sale over the Easter Weekend at Bugam Place in the Bangalow Industrial Estate, including her neighbouring artisans Bangalow Shoemaking,

Peracles Footwear and Peace by Piece. Please consider supporting these businesses as they attempt to recover from the flood devastation.

**Murray Hand**

*Looking to list?*



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# After the rain

Herald photographer and archivist **Judy Baker** captured scenes of the deluge around the streets of Bangalow.



Bangalow Showgrounds Frank Scarrabelotti Arena underwater



Deacon Street  
looking east



Deacon Street Bangalow



Bangalow Community Childcare  
Centre on Rattons Road  
Photo Isaac Brandon





**Bangalow Guest House**



**Snow's Bridge view from Bangalow Guest House**



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| Community                                   |                    |              |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| AA (5.30pm Tues)                            | Karen Mc           | 0403 735 678 |
| 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 |



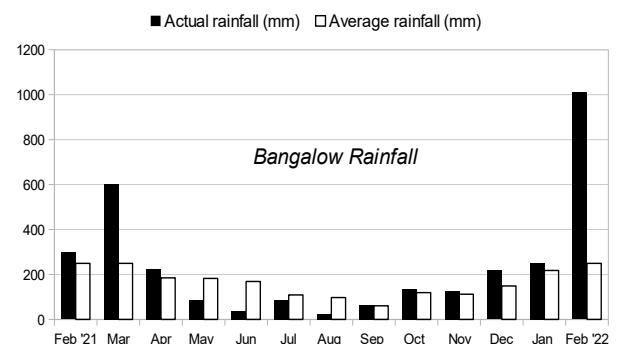
## Singh's stall

You have probably driven past the Singh's stall on the Hinterland Way many times. This treasure chest is always a source of fresh local produce. Famous for its bananas, they are not the only item available at the moment. At the time of my visit, the stall held boxes full of all types of fruit and vegetables. I spoke to Kashmir, who was tending the stall, which held huge pumpkins, large tomatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, pineapples, red cabbage, avocados, eggplants large and small, mangoes, plums, zucchini and lemons just to name quite a few.

Some produce comes from her son's farm in Murwillumbah, but a lot is grown next to the lush green acres her family occupies in Bangalow. Some of the fruits, such as plums and pears, come from Stanthorpe, swapped with local farmers for different produce. Prices are always reasonable. With the baby eggplants I will make a burnt eggplant and tomato dip, fresh chilli and lime slaw with the beautiful red cabbage and perhaps an indulgent pavlova with a banana and passionfruit topping. Freshly grown and picked, all available on our doorstep.

*Lyn Hand*

### Bangalow Rainfall



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# Grevillea 'Golden Lyre'

**Please consider planting more bee and bird attracting gardens, they will love you for it!**

This beautiful grevillea, a member of the huge Proteaceae family, was created at Fernhill Native Nursery in Yandina on the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane.

The nursery was a trailblazer, growing native plants that revolutionised garden design in Queensland from the late 1980s. Well regarded not only for their range and quality but their creation of a large number of hybrids and crosses that combined form, flowering and adaptability.

When I was a horticulture student, I was lucky enough to do work experience with them in the 90s, and the standards of excellence I observed there set a very high bar for my future expectations.

'Golden Lyre' is a cross between *Grevillea formosa*, which was originally only found in Kakadu and the popular Queensland hybrid, *Grevillea 'Honey Gem'*.

An amazing, bright clear yellow, the flower spikes are large and abundant and flowering starts in spring and continues right into autumn. The fine, silvery green foliage is really beautiful in its own right. The form is cascading, and the plant can grow quite large so it needs space!

Pruning after flowering will keep it relatively compact, and as these grevilleas make excellent cut flowers, unlike many others, cutting is part of the pruning management.

They can be used as specimen plants or hedged, and are quick growing and adaptable, growing well in half shade or full sun.

Mulching is always beneficial and annual feeding with a slow-release native (low phosphorus) fertiliser is recommended.

The wonderfully diverse and beautiful grevillea family was named for Charles Francis Greville (1749-1809) who was a founder of



**Grevillea 'Golden Lyre' Photos: Carole Gamble**

the Australian Horticulture Society. The name 'Golden Lyre' reflects the shape of the plant, resembling as it does, the musical instrument, the lyre.

There is another grevillea, also unfortunately named similarly, the *Grevillea Poorinda* 'Golden Lyre' which is very different and not suitable for our subtropical conditions, nor nearly as spectacular. Unfortunately, it was named before Fairhill's grevillea so it retains official naming rights, but as always, buy from reputable nurseries and read the label and ask for confirmation if the label seems in any way not representative.

Like all grevilleas, this beauty attracts nectar feeders, large and small; has no pests or diseases; copes with a range of soils and climate variations and is also usually frost resistant.

It is also one of the best of a relatively small number of clear, bright yellows and is a bright addition to gardens, contrasting beautifully with other bright colours.

I'm pretty sure that Stephanie from the Miss Tree Nursery at The Channon, who last year was guest speaker at the Bangalow Garden Club should have it in stock.

**Carole Gamble**

## HERALD

The Bangalow



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## Bangalow's Letterboxes

**Do you ever think about your letterbox? Is it big enough? Is it easy for the postie to get at? Does it keep out the rain?**

You may think that this is trivial but have a word or two with our postie, Naomi Jenkins, and you might think differently.

You may also think that letterboxes are almost redundant with bills no longer being posted and personal letters being something quaint from the olden days. But you'd be wrong. Naomi is very busy zooming around town on her red bike, dreadlocks flying.

If you look at most letterboxes bought from the hardware store, they are hopeless for accepting large objects or even A4 items, such as *The Bangalow Herald*. The fancy ones with

a slot built into a pillar are often too shallow causing anything bigger than a small letter to spring back when attempting entry.

Naomi has plenty to say about our letterboxes. "They are hard work. Some are on the ground, others in places I can't get to without getting off my bike which makes my job longer. It's not just the boxes either, one of the biggest problems is people sticking their rubbish bins in front of them. This happens out of town too where Michael does his deliveries. I often have to reverse out of hard to get at places. My bike doesn't have reverse gear. My legs are my reverse gear."

When the president of the Bangalow Men's Shed, David Noakes, was made aware of our inadequate letterbox situation, he decided it was the perfect woodworking project for the Men's Shed, which has plenty of suitable



Photos: Murray Hand

timber. They will make bespoke boxes to your specifications. Call David on 0403 899 225.

\*Expletives deleted.

Murray Hand

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# Follow the sun



Photo supplied

**One local family has harnessed the power of the ample Northern Rivers sun to create a stylish, energy efficient home in Bangalow, utilising timber, straw, glass and more in their modern build.**

When we moved out of the city, we wanted to build a house that was going to be more self-sufficient than our apartment in Sydney which had been a furnace in summer and a freezer in winter. It was brand new, off plan and totally unsustainable. This time, we wanted to build a house that freed us from those bills while reducing our footprint as a family. We recognise that being able to build our own home is a privilege, so we wanted to create something worthy of the effort. Our budget was modest, comparable to a mid-size project home. It took a bit of research, but we landed on some design principals that ticked all the boxes.

Passive Solar design is the practice of orienting a building to the sun's path. Using the sun's energy to keep the house warm in winter and excluding it in the summer to keep it cool. It's a simple formula: orientation, thermal mass, insulation.

One side of the house is heavily glazed and faces north, allowing the sun, which is low in the sky during winter, to fall upon the thermal mass of a concrete slab where energy is stored as heat. Once the temperature in the house drops, the heat is slowly released, and insulation prevents it from escaping. In summer the sun sits higher in the sky; two metre eaves keep the concrete in shadow all day. The slab which is in contact with the ground sits at a steady 18-20°C, so it absorbs any heat build-up in the house.

In addition to this, casement windows in the bedrooms along the shady south side of the house, catch the cool prevailing breeze and push heat upwards to the ceiling then out of the clerestory windows tucked under the eaves on the north side. This creates a cross

flow ventilation that literally sucks cool air in and blows warm air out in a chimney effect.

There are 440 straw bales packed in plywood cassettes – structural insulated tilt up panels (SITUPs) – that stand around the concrete slab. Bolted to the floor and screwed together they provide the structure and insulation in one. The roof is also heavily insulated. Structural insulated roof panels (SIRPs) give a 12-metre span that affords us a cavernous internal space.

There's a Japanese technique called Shou Sugi Ban that uses charred cedar to clad buildings; we loved the look and the longevity, but the vast amount of work and cost pushed us to look for an alternative. We found an award-winning homegrown sheet product and stained that black instead. You'd be forgiven for thinking that the black finish would make the house like an oven, but all that insulation really pays off. Even on the hottest day the house keeps its cool, and in winter we never have to wish for a heater again.

**Toby Perry**



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# Trading jerseys for Gernis

Members of the Fijian army currently in Australia for training, joined with the Australian Defence Force to help bail out Lismore, with some soldiers also working in Huonbrook, Upper Wilson's and Main Arm. At the end of a long and dirty day, the personnel return to their temporary home, a camp at the Cavanbah Centre.

In an effort to boost morale, and knowing full well the Fijian passion for rugby, Cr Mark Swivel put the call out to Bangalow Rebels rugby club president Neil Moran to see what could be done. "They're all just sleeping in swags under awning at the Cavanbah Centre. It's all pretty basic. By day they're literally shovelling shit," says Neil.

In just 24 hours, the pair had rustled up a huge crowd of supporters for two touch rugby 'friendlies' in Byron, with mixed teams of men, women and kids, comprised of Fijians, the ADF, and local Bangalow players.

"Bangalow Rugby and a whole bunch of community folk made it a great fun end to a

challenging week. Lovely to see Cr Cate Coorey there and Matt Keogh from the police. Huge thanks to Major Ben Turner from the ADF and to all the Fijians who finished the game with a song that capped a top event," says Mark Swivel.

Everyone was a winner on the day, with no one keeping score, and some welcome relief from the backbreaking, heartbreaking work done in the field of the flood affected areas. "We had a big thank you at the end with some traditional Fijian songs and then a barbecue," says Neil.

"We're still managing a disaster and the ADF presence with their Fijian army colleagues are making a huge difference," says Mark. "We have so much work to do, and that needs to be taken far more seriously at every level of government. This is a long haul. So, the day was fun but really a welcome and an expression of thanks because there is simply so much that needs to be done and it will take a fair bit of time."

**Sally Schofield**



Photo Maurizio Viani



## Smashing news for Ba

Bangalow Tennis Club is thrilled to announce that they have been successful in recently obtaining two Government Grants. \$10,000 was received from the Powering Communities Grant and over \$85,000 from Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 4. Letters of support were received from several groups and businesses in the Bangalow Community along with Pat Rafter, Tennis NSW, Ben Franklin, Tamara Smith and Justine Elliot

The first project the club intends to start is the upgrade of the lighting to LED lights and installing a new entry system. This will

## Mature and on the move

A community exercise group for women over 55 is welcoming new participants.

They meet at the Moller Pavilion Tuesday and Thursday 9-10am for fitness and a few laughs. Cost is \$10 class if paid monthly in advance or \$15 casual to pay for the trainer plus \$2 per class contribution to cover the cost of the hall hire. Contact phone 0417 469 972 to find out more.

# DON'T IGNORE YOUR SNORE

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## Bangalow Tennis Club

be followed by upgrading the club house by adding a fresh coat of paint, adding a kitchen, new toilets and vanities, and creating a paved and shade covered fenced area.

It's the clubs aim to encourage families to bring young children along whilst they play tennis knowing they are in a clean, safe environment. It is hoped everyone will embrace these upgrades and start playing tennis, maybe for the first time. So, keep your eye out for what's happening down at the courts.

**Deborah Hayward,**  
**Bangalow Tennis Club**

## Pony club back in the saddle and celebrating 60 years!

The Bangalow Pony Club, a non-profit youth organisation, operating out of the Bangalow Showgrounds, has seen something of a resurgence in membership during these uncertain pandemic years. "I think that during the COVID, riding was definitely a sport where people could practice social distancing," says club president Heather Fenn, noting that numbers had increased from just 14 to over 40 riding members in recent times.

Of course, the demographics and property sizes of 2479 residents also helps boost participation, with many local young people discovering the joys of equine pursuits.

The club is always open to new local members and for the past 60 years has fulfilled an essential role in the active and social lives of young people aged from three to 25-years-old our district.

"We do hacking, jumping, dressage, polo cross, and camp drafting," says Heather, adding that members benefit from exposure to many equestrian sports through their membership. "In fact, we're actually looking at doing a weekend of archery on horseback."

There's no doubt that horse riding is an expensive but delightfully consuming hobby.

While the Pony Club is aimed at riders who already own their own horse, members may also bring a loaned or leased horse in order to join. "I actually was 11 when I learned to ride," says Heather who grew up in Central London. "My first love of horses was the rag and bone man's horse coming clippity-clop down the street. Then I went to a school fete and I had a little pony ride and I just thought 'well this is it'," says Heather, who, as one of eight children, took on babysitting jobs to earn enough to pay for her own riding lessons.

"With horses, there's lots to learn. It's a fabulous sport. And it offers kids so much more than just learning about riding. They learn a lot about resilience, about having to sometimes fall off, pick themselves up and get back in the saddle, which is like life really, isn't it?"

Current and past members are invited to celebrate the Bangalow Pony Club's 60th birthday Saturday 23 April at the new Lions Kiosk in the Bangalow Showgrounds. A BBQ, band and bar will be available, and guests are invited to contribute a photo to a collage showcase the life of the club. Tickets are \$10 and available from The Bangalow Cellar.



## Are you thinking of selling?

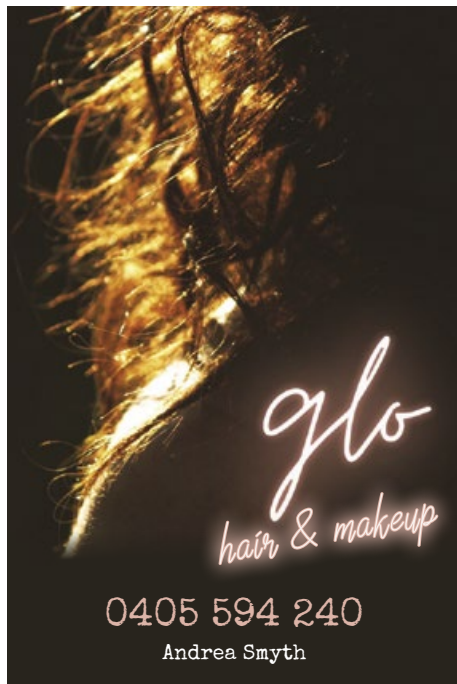
With decades of selling and living in the Byron Hinterland, Greg is perfectly placed to assist both sellers in the preparation and sale of their property and buyers to find their ideal hinterland lifestyle property.

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## WHAT'S ON

Plenty of distractions on offer to take your mind off the devastation of our surrounding communities, as well as some great opportunities to celebrate the amazing creativity of our region.

### Flickerfest

**When** Thurs 31 March-Sat 2 April

**Where** A&I Hall, Bangalow

**Information/tickets** [www.iQ.org.au](http://www.iQ.org.au)

Flickerfest returns to Bangalow with its 31st International Short Film Festival 2022. The program runs international, Australian and home grown Byron short films. For a good laugh the closing night on Saturday 2 April is a program of Short Laughs Comedy.

### Bangalow Garden Club

**When** Wed 6 April, 1.30pm

**Where** Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showgrounds

**Contact/information/tickets** Diana 0418 288428 or [dianaharden@bigpond.com](mailto:dianaharden@bigpond.com)

Robyn Armstrong, a club member, artist and art teacher, will be giving a talk and demonstrating dyeing using natural plant based dyes. Please bring along a mug for afternoon tea. Information about the April Saturday garden visit will be provided at the meeting. New members are welcome and can sign up on the day. Yearly membership \$15.

### Shire Choir returns to Bangalow

**When** Thurs 7 April, 7pm

**Where** Bangalow Bowl

**Information** [facebook.com/theshirechoir](https://www.facebook.com/theshirechoir)

**Tickets** \$20/\$12 via [eventbrite.com.au/shirechoir](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/shirechoir)

Now more than ever, we need the collective power of singing together with our community to uplift us. Join dynamic choir mistress Mella Naughton for a spine-tingling rendition of a classic pop song in three-part harmony. No experience required. All voices welcome. Yes, even yours.

### ART FAIR Launch

**When** Sun 10 April

**Where** Stokers Siding Dunbible Hall

**Contact** [artfairatstokers.com](http://artfairatstokers.com)

Local artists Karena Wynn-Moylan, Victoria Keesing and Sigrid Patterson join many others at The ART FAIR – an accessible platform for local artists to show and sell their work in a beautiful country setting. The art will be complemented by delicious food available – homemade pizza, nachos and buddha bowls, coffee and smoothies, and homemade cakes, slices and biscuits. There will be music and a silent auction with all proceeds donated to flood recovery.

### CRT (Community-led Resilience Teams) Workshop

**When** Mon 11 April 9.00am – 12pm

**Where** Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showgrounds

**Information** Tammy Jones 0417 690 511 or [jonescalvert@redcross.org.au](mailto:jonescalvert@redcross.org.au)

Developed by the Red Cross, CRT is a free workshop that shows how community members and emergency agencies can work together to strengthen local resilience in the event of disasters. CRT is led by residents for residents and works like a communications tree within your community with focus on providing emergency preparedness and information.

### Bangalow Film Festival

**When** Fri 8 – Thurs 14 April

**Where** A&I Hall, Bangalow and Showgrounds

**Information/tickets** [bangalowfilmfestival.com.au](http://bangalowfilmfestival.com.au)

The Bangalow Film Festival presents curated selections of exclusive film premieres along with film concerts, panels, art exhibitions and special guests, all enjoyed with the finest locally sourced food and beverages. There is also a kids' activity and film program taking place during the day at the A&I Hall.

### Ceramic Market at Newrybar Hall

**When** Sat 16 and Sun 17 April, 9am-3pm

**Where** Newrybar Hall, Newrybar

**Contact** Robyn Porritt 0409 785 138

North Coast Ceramics is best known for its annual Mud Trail and has built on its success with markets at Newrybar and Federal. NCC is a group of local professional potters so you can expect quality and a great variety of work. A wonderful opportunity to support local artisans. The Bangalow CWA will be serving Devonshire Teas between 9.30am-12.30pm.

### Bangalow Pony Club Anniversary

**When** Sat 23 April, 5pm

**Where** Lions Club Kiosk, Bangalow Showgrounds

**Contact** Heather Fenn 0432 292 592

The Bangalow Pony Club is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and would like to celebrate the club's long-standing history within the local Bangalow community. There'll be a



BBQ and bar and a band to entertain. All past and present members welcome. Bring a photo to create a collage of 60 years of BPC riders.

## Anzac Day

**When** Mon 25 April, meet at 10.20am

**Where** Outside Bangalow Hotel

**Contact** Col Draper 0408 440 243

There will not be a Dawn Service in Bangalow this year. The morning Anzac March will commence at 10.45am and march down Byron Street into Station Street to the RSL Hall. There will be a short formal service outside the Hall followed by light refreshments – a time for reunions and for new friendships. Later the Hotel and the Bowlo will respectively host their annual two-up game and bowls. The March includes veterans, local sports and community groups, and schools. All are welcome to participate.

The Clunes Village service will begin at 9am so that people can participate in both important services.

## Newrybar Eats & Produce Market

**When** Wednesdays 3-7pm

**Where** Newrybar Hall

**Contact** Chloe 0487 289 914

Enjoy a great family atmosphere and some of the freshest farm produce in the district. There's a range of hot food options which make for an easy and tasty dinner, as well as home baked goodies, eggs, honey and more!

## Bangalow Bowlo Big Anniversary Bash

**When** Sun 1 May, 1-5pm

**Where** Bangalow Bowlo



**Lest we Forget. Photo supplied by Bangalow RSL.**

**Information** For information, or to book a table call The Bowlo on 02 6687 2741

It's 10 years ago almost to the day since the Bangalow community came together to save The Bowlo from permanent closure, so we're celebrating with a big party. Expect fantastic food, fun, funky live music & family friendly vibes – the whole town is invited, no ticket required

## ADFAS Byron

**When** Mon 2 May, 6pm

**Where** A & I Hall, Bangalow

**Contact** [byronbay@adf.org.au](mailto:byronbay@adf.org.au) or [adf.org.au](http://adf.org.au)

Tickets \$25 cash at the door for non-members  
Working from Life: Puppets: Lay Figures and Strange Studios

Until quite recently it was commonplace for artists to populate their working spaces with odd studio puppets called 'lay figures'. These disconcerting figures were beautiful pieces of ingenuity and craftsmanship. They enabled artists to pose and study the body when bodies were otherwise unavailable or inconvenient. Dr Bill Platz uses his artwork and research into studio puppets to shine light into this obscure corner of art practice and its continuing relevance in contemporary art.



**Glass Puppets by Bill Platz. Photo supplied**

## March/April 2022

**31 March – 2 April Flickerfest**

**6 Bangalow Garden Club**

**7 Shire Choir Bangalow**

**10 Art Fair Launch**

**11 Red Cross CRT Workshop**

**11-14 Bangalow Film Festival**

**16-17 Ceramic Market  
Newrybar**

**23 Bangalow Pony Club 60th**

**24 Bangalow Markets**

**25 ANZAC Day**

## May

**1 Bangalow Bowlo Big  
Anniversary Bash**

**2 ADFAS**

## May 2022 Deadlines

**What's On 13 April**

**Advertising 14 April**

**Copy 14 April**



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The beloved Bowlo  
Photo: Justin Coombs

## 10 years since Bowlo saved from the brink

Many newer arrivals to the Bangalow community won't know that our much-loved Bowlo went into liquidation and had to close the doors almost 10 years ago to the day. But in a stunning show of community spirit, generosity and genuine love for the venue, a large number of residents donated many thousands of dollars and countless hours of their free time to re-open The Bowlo doors and ensure it remained a pivotal part of Bangalow life.

The rescuing of The Bowlo from permanent closure thanks to the kindness of the community is a heart-warming story, but as former club President, Gerry Swain, tells us, the months and years following the re-opening wasn't a walk in the park.

"We went to hell and back. The funds we raised from the local community totalled around

\$170k, which was fantastic, it was enough to pay off the liquidators and refurbish the club ready to re-open. But then that money was gone, and we faced the challenge of finding a formula which brought customers to the club while ensuring it was run professionally. We had some terrible experiences with poor staff and an under-performing kitchen, and what many people don't know is that after that initial fundraiser, even more community kindness was needed to keep the club open," explains Gerry.

"But then, a few years after we re-opened, we struck gold. We had the idea of combining two management roles into one general manager position, which gave us the salary we needed to attract club managers at the top of their game. And once in place, the new general manager sourced an excellent kitchen operator

and business boomed."

Gerry left The Bowlo board in 2019, with the books in great shape, all benefactors paid back who wanted paying back (some refused repayment, calling it a donation), and leaving the club with a great reputation that reached as far away as Brisbane. We ask what motivated him and the volunteer board to spend so much of their free time with so many "stressful sleepless nights"?

"We just wanted somewhere in town to bowl," he says modestly with a smile. And with that, Gerry is off back to the bowling green, reminding us as he leaves not to miss the big anniversary bash: Sunday 1st May between 1pm and 5pm. The party promises 'fantastic food, fun, funky live music and family friendly vibes' – and everyone in town is invited.

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Bangalow Men's Shed is a not for profit organisation. All proceeds go to improving the health and wellbeing of the local community.



# A personal tribute to Peter Powditch

By Christian Morrow

VALE Peter Powditch AM, loving husband, father and grandfather, national treasure, seminal Australian painter and, as Martin Sharpe put it, “The most underrated artist in Australia.”

Peter was also my neighbour here in Bangalow and my former painting teacher at Sydney College of the Arts from 1976-78.

Mentored and taught by luminaries such as John Olsen and John Brack and producing works alongside contemporaries Brett Whitely, Martin Sharpe and Robert Klippel, Peter helped define the visual language we use to depict Australia.

His son, James, another highly regarded Australian artist, said it best: “Nobody paints summer like my father. From the landscapes, the still-lives and those rude nude girls – you can hear the cicadas, smell that salt and feel that old rough verandah. He’s a genius at capturing that bleached-out essence.”

Peter was best known for the series of paintings he created commencing in the late 60’s showing the female form covered in flatly painted bikinis. In 1969 the late Craig Macgregor wrote “Powditch’s paintings, in fact, operate on two levels: the popular reality which he paints, and the abstract qualities of shape, line and edge which he uses. Together all these created a big part of the visual vocabulary we use to describe the Australian coastal landscape to ourselves.”

Peter was at the height of his power when he became my teacher at Sydney College of the Arts. He was patient and kind to all the students, encouraging each to flourish in their own right. Not merely to become ‘mini Peter Powditchs’.

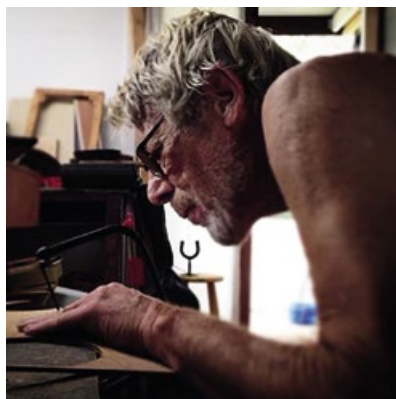
In 2006 our family moved to Bangalow, and Peter and I met again when my son and his grandson were classmates at Bangalow Public School. Over the following years we met at gallery openings, community events and sometimes in his studio and home.

It was a privilege to speak with an artist as experienced as Peter – someone who contributed so much to the Australian art scene himself and was connected to so many other iconic Australian artists.

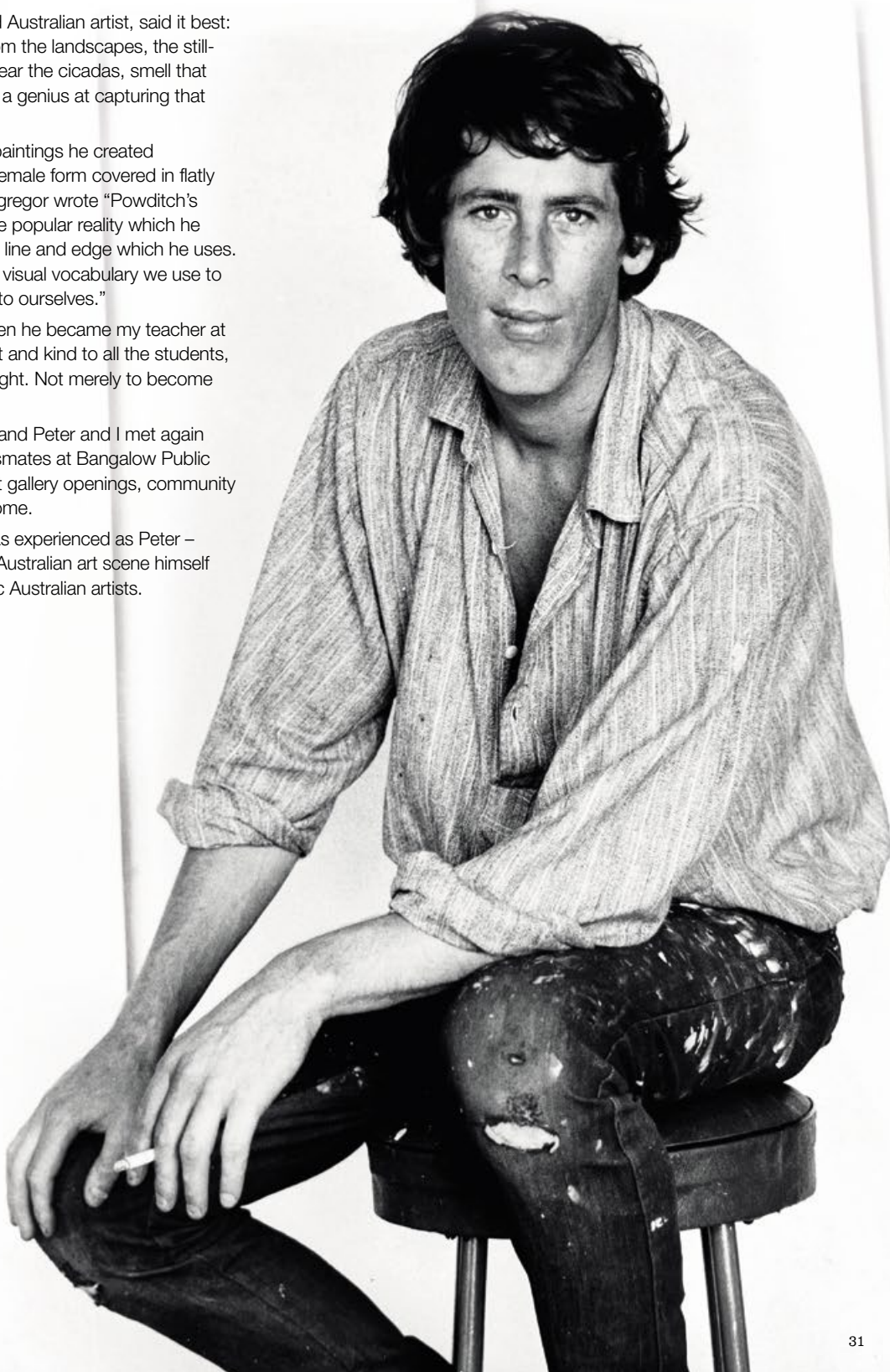
During our conversations he passed on theoretical ideas about art and art making as well as practical insights into the working lives of these artists and how they made their work. I learned something new every time we spoke and valued his opinion, insights and wicked sense of humour.

Peter Powditch was an important presence for me and many others in the arts community. When he was able, he always supported me at my exhibitions and for that I will always be truly grateful. He was a local legend, a national treasure and a great teacher. He will be sadly missed.

Christian is the co-director of Pack Gallery Studio, Bangalow



Peter Powditch Photos supplied





# " THANK YOU LOCALS! "

*Our Mirabelle team would love to share our deepest appreciation for all the local businesses and individuals who played a role in bringing our Early Learning Centre to life.*

*We are so thankful for the vote of confidence that our wonderful families have given us as a new business, by choosing us to do what we love and care for their beautiful children every day.*

Sending gratitude to:

Bart Elias | The team at New Age Electrical | Ben from BWC  
Emma from Children of the Tribe | Mark from Bally Plumbing  
Andrew O'Maley Building | Graham & Family from Packham  
Electrical | Luke from Larc Collective | Charlie Hewitt Engineering  
Leigh from Nelson Property Maintenance | The Late Paul De Fina  
David Mitchell | Tony & Lucy from Southern Cross Hygiene  
Dan & Claire from Assembly Label | Ben from Brave Folk  
Gary from Ambience Audio Services | John from Bookroom Byron  
Paul from Blind Design | David from SPF Shade & Sails  
Summerland Bank Bangalow | The Late Ruth Barker  
Damien from Signarama Northern Rivers  
Damon from Ocean Side Fencing | Naomi from Bobo & Boo  
Steve-Lee & Carol from The Ink Atelier | Cinzia Gaia Photography  
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