

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE | February 2023

Writers Fest moves to Bangalow



Rail vs Trail
On the right track?

Roadtesting EVs
Charging to Canberra

In the swim of things
Pool Trust update

HERALD

The Bangalow

Remember when you were a kid and the days and years seemed to go on forever, and how now it seems like you blink, and another month has passed? Time doesn't speed up but our busyness does distract us from the wonders that occupied all those endless, idle childhood hours. School holidays are now over, and in this edition, one Bangalow family shares their memories of an incredible trip off the beaten track enjoying bushwalking, birdwatching and boardgames.

You'll also read an important update on that other 'track' with a look at the ongoing rail versus trail discussion and plans. Still on the theme of moving, this month you can find out all about one intrepid *Herald* writer who is leading the charge for sustainable transport options, as she road-tests her electric vehicle's capabilities on a 2000km adventure.

There has also been 'movement at the station' or rather, the Bangalow Pool Trust, with an innovative plan to utilise funds raised to build a pool to benefit the community now set in motion. And perhaps the most exciting news we share in this month's edition is that this year, the iconic Byron Writers Festival is making the move from Byron Bay to Bangalow! The 2023 event will be held in our very own picturesque Bangalow Showgrounds and surrounding venues. This is an absolute coup for our community and the *Herald* is delighted to be sharing news of the forthcoming festival with you over the coming months.

Best wishes to all our scholars, young and older, who are heading back to the books this month. And for those wondering what to do with the little pockets of free time they have suddenly discovered, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved mentioned in these pages.

Time waits for no one. Keep on moving!

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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Blast from the past



Big plans are afoot for the grand re-opening of the Bangalow Historical Society's Heritage House, in Deacon Street, on Saturday, 25 February 10-12 noon. The major drawcards to attract interest that day will be the launch of Terry Bleakley's new book, *New Growth in Old Paddocks*, as well as an exhibition of the life and times of Bangalow old-timer, Harry Fowler (1904-1988).

New Growth in Old Paddocks showcases elements of Bangalow's history in an innovative way. "The book, primarily pictorial, balances the abstract and reality, using historical images of Bangalow," Terry said. "It will be a wonderful keepsake for anyone interested in how much the district has changed over the decades." All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Bangalow Historical Society.

The Harry Fowler exhibition utilises images dating back the early 1900s, when early Bangalow settlers Thomas and Selina Fowler purchased their 113-acre property from the Garvan Estate, in the lane now named after them. As well as rare images copied from the photo albums of Fowler family members, the exhibition traces happenings on the farmland, originally called Spring Grove. In the 1970s and 1980s, well-loved local identity Harry allowed Byron Shire's earliest pop concerts to be held around the dance hall that he and his brothers built in the 1950s, with early appearances from INXS, Rose Tattoo, Midnight Oil, and even Slim Dusty's daughter, Anne Kirkpatrick. Today, the land is home to 12 households in a community title property called Jindibah.



Harry Fowler and his ute circa 1940s

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Bundjalung Bushfoods

Pearces Creek Talks recently hosted the event Bundjalung Bushfoods with Delta Kay of Explore Byron Bay, Mindy Woods award-winning chef/owner of Karkalla in Byron Bay and Rebecca Barnes creator/owner of Playing with Fire Native Foods. Delta talked about connection to her country and culture and the importance of educating people about indigenous language, local bush tucker and natural medicines.

Mindy shared her passion for creating cuisine from native indigenous ingredients and spoke of continuing to honour her family's tradition of gathering people to share food and to yarn together. Rebecca sources her bushfoods from local growers in the region. She is committed to creating opportunities to educate Australians on the flavours and nutritional benefits of our native natural foods while supporting organic regenerative farming practices. The event was catered by Mindy Woods, with delicious grazing platters, including warrigal greens pesto, roast wattle seed and bush honey butter and Nimbin Valley cheese served with a Davidson plum caramel and mini damper rolls. The evening was a great success with \$1500 raised and donated to the Bangalow Parklands.

Pearces Creek Talks runs an event every few months at Pearces Creek Hall.

Jennifer Winfield and Susan Dyer, Pearces Creek Talks

Find out more
@pearcescreektalks on Instagram and Facebook.



Bundjalung Bushfoods – a fascinating and delicious event hosted by Pearces Creek Talks

Camping and trampling

Sadly, re-opening the bridge over Byron Creek has resulted in vandalism on adjoining private property. After crossing the bridge, there is a spit of land surrounded by the meandering creek. At the south end is a barbed wire fence, with signs declaring it to be private property. Just the same, unknown parties got the idea that the fenced-off area was available to anyone, for any purpose at all. A bush camp was found there last month: native trees have been roughly hacked down and wooden pallets, fishing rods and tools, were found scattered around it. The trees were planted over many years by Bangalow Land and Rivercare, to protect and enhance the riparian zone (along the creek).

The owner of the land has been advised and will be removing all this rubbish. Check your garage to see if your fishing rod or dad's favourite mallet and saw have gone missing. A similar thing happened a few years back. Some of those responsible owned up, then attended several Landcare working bees, and experienced the time, labour and love required to create our welcoming park.

Christobel Munson

If you have young people interested in learning bushcraft and survival skills, find out more
brunsbushschool.com.au
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The makeshift kids camp has damaged newly planted trees on private property Photo Christobel Munson

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Connecting Generations and Communities becomes incorporated

A local organisation that links young families with older people has voted to become incorporated, allowing it to apply for government grants for future events. The Australian Red Cross, which has been active in the flood recovery in the area, is helping Connecting Generations and Communities with the move. It is hoped that the organisation will receive funding to pay for activities such as face painting and art and craft supplies for its seasonal events, which are now being held at Bangalow Bowlo. It also plans to host a free 'Connecting Communities' lunch for isolated people annually.

Connecting Generations and Communities was formed around five years ago by a group of community members known as Possum Creek Conscious Elders. Inspired by the book *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*, the group's aim was for older people to have conversations about their spiritual, emotional, physical, mental and moral lived experience.

The next Connecting Generations event will be at Bangalow Bowlo from 2pm to 4pm on February 12. The theme is Galloping Galaxies, with children able to meet Freckles the Pony and build spacecraft.

Angela Saurine

The organisation now also has a Facebook page @ConnectingGenerationsBangalow that members of the community can follow for updates.



Connecting Generations fun for all ages Photo supplied

Big hearted Lions say Thank You

Bangalow Lions Club would like to say a very big thank you to all of our Bangalow community volunteers who helped us with our three major 2022 village events – Bangalow BillyCart Derby, Bangalow Show and Bangalow Christmas Eve Carnival – and express our deep gratitude to everyone who pitched in. Special mentions must go to Bangalow Men's Shed, Bangalow Rugby Club, Bangalow Public School P&C, Bangalow CWA, Bangalow Park Trust Committee, Bangalow Show Society and all of our sponsors and supporters especially Summerland Credit Union, GNF Real Estate and The Cellar. You were all fabulous with your time and hard work. We couldn't have done it without you and we're very proud of the strong village support we enjoy. It's not taken for granted, not at all. We'd like to assure everyone that every dollar raised was returned to our Northern Rivers community with special attention given to flood victims across the wider region. So, many thanks again to everyone involved. Bangalow Lions are looking forward to this year's activities and we're hoping for your continued strong support.

Greg Nash

If you're interested in joining Bangalow Lions, wish to volunteer or would like to know more about our 2023 plans and activities, please contact Nashy, Lions Club President on 0418 440545 or email alfred.lodge@bigpond.com



Baby Santa enjoying the festivities at the Bangalow Xmas Eve Carnival Photo Lyn McCarthy Niche Pictures

VOTE 1



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Authorised by A. Locker for The Greens NSW. 2/112 Dalley St, Mullumbimby NSW 2482



Bangalow Historical Society – re-creating a community hub



One of the many curated exhibitions previously housed at the Museum
Photo Sally Schofield

Bangalow Historical Society is keen to meet with interested volunteers who'd like to help run the museum once again.

"Our role is caretaking Bangalow's history, and this is your chance to get involved," says Historical Society President, Trisha Bleakley. On Saturday 18 February, from 9am to 10.30am the team will be fielding enquiries to fill a range of volunteer museum positions. "We need help from people with all kinds of skills, from preparing and setting up exhibitions, to acting as exhibition guides, to cataloguing and even researching family and business histories."

As well, help is needed to set up and dismantle upcoming exhibitions to be held on the verandah, as well as storing museum items between exhibitions. On the administration front, they are very keen to find people with social media, audio visual and public relations skills, to help promote exhibitions. Others are needed to produce a regular newsletter, while entrepreneurial fund-raising skills are always in demand for small volunteer community groups such as this. "We've got the vision – we just need the people."

Once again, the Heritage House building will now be available to rent as a meeting place for local organisations, as it was so successfully in the past. "We see this building as a community hub and meeting place, even without the café operating," Trisha adds. While the kitchen will not be operated as a tea rooms, it can be rented for specific functions. Alternately, groups are welcome to bring their own lunch or light refreshments, urn provided.

There has already been interest expressed in holding art and craft exhibitions, which will start happening after the official re-launch on 25 February. One local group is keen to set the building up to demonstrate sustainable building practices.

Contact Trisha at 0429 882 525
Bangalow Historical Society

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The Tsang Dynasty

It was the end of an era, or dynasty, as Michael Spiteri quipped, when Bangalow dining institution Tsang's Chinese Restaurant closed its doors in January. A closing night feast with live music and all the usual suspects was a fitting send off. Proprietor Paul Tsang has been rocking the wok for 28 years, and his signature Spicy Duck will be forever craved by dedicated diners.

The Herald's attempts to prise the recipe from Paul for publication were fruitless. "Paul and his spicy duck will never be forgotten!" declared Scott Vidler, one of the many residents who are lamenting the loss of the popular menu item.

"What is a country town without a Chinese restaurant!" bemoaned Renee Flattery on the Bangalow Community Facebook page. Karena Wynn-Moylan didn't miss a beat: "Bangalow is no longer a 'country town', you will have to be content with the Thai."

Or Mexican as the case may be.

At the closing night celebration, many tales were shared about memorable meals.

Paul recalls meeting many of the young people present when they were just newborns with their parents coming to the restaurant for the first time.

"Paul and his restaurant have been one of the constants in an ever-changing Bangalow," says Terry Bleakley. "Our family loved his place."

Tsang's also holds a special place in Andrea Smyth's heart, as it was the last place she shared a meal together with her parents, both of whom have now sadly passed away.

Paul thanked the community for their support and friendship over 28 years. He hopes to stay in Bangalow, retire and take it easy. "No plan is a good plan," he says.



Above: The original Mr Tsang himself, Paul Tsang
Below: Duck aficionado and loyal customer, Michael Spiteri
Photos Brett Stephens



WHATS ON AT WOODS BANGALOW

Woods Bangalow DINNERS are BACK!! Thursday/Friday's

Woods Bangalow CATERING - now offering offsite packages, enquire today for your at-home, film shoot, birthday or cocktail event.

Keep an eye on our socials. Chef Sam & Team Woods bespoke curated menu.

Woods' is ALSO now serving Wine & Beer alongside our daily changing Lunch Menu

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The Cacthaus, a collaboration between local botanical stylist, Andrew, and The Clay Barn Ceramicist, Zani is open a few doors down from Woods Cafe.

Stocking a collection of rare and unique houseplants, artisanal handmade ceramics and a unique greenhouse setting available for hire for private meetings or dining in partnership with the team from Woods.

Keep an eye out for upcoming Clay, Pinot and Platter experiences along with other workshops coming soon.

For private venue hire, contact via bookings@woodsbangalow.com.au



Council Matters

Rifle Range Road intersection

At its last meeting for 2022 Council resolved to award the tender for the upgrade of the Rifle Range Road/Lismore Road intersection to Gold Coast-based engineering company Durack Civil. Council increased the budget for this project to \$2,920,778 following its September 2022 Quarterly review. The project includes the following:

1. Widening Lismore Road to allow for a right turning lane into Rifle Range Road.
2. Drainage upgrades, including a new major culvert under Lismore Road to reduce flooding and improve access on Rifle Range Road.
3. A new bus bay and shelter for the north-bound bus on Lismore Road.
4. A new bus bay and shelter for the south-bound bus on Rifle Range Road.
5. Shared paths connecting the bus bays to Tristania Street
6. Signage, safety barriers and line marking.

Work will commence in 2023, and it is anticipated that the project will take five to six months to complete.

Piccabeen Park – Renaming Bangalow Weir

Council is proposing to name the park formerly known as Bangalow Weir/Bangalow Pool Park to Piccabeen Park. Piccabeen is a Bundjalung word used to describe the Bangalow Palm or a carrier made from its leaf sheaf. The park no longer has a weir or a pool, so the name is no longer appropriate. The volunteer group who care for the park asked for it to be renamed, initially suggesting Bangalow Parklands. But as the showground is officially named Bangalow Park it was felt to be confusing. The Geographic Names Board prefers to use local Aboriginal names where possible. Board members of Arakwal Corp have consented to Council's application to the Geographic Names Board for formal Gazettal as Piccabeen Park. Use the online form at byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice/Naming-of-Bangalow-Weir-Park-to-Piccabeen-Park to provide your feedback. Closes 10 February 2023.



Bangalow off-lead companion animals exercise areas as designated by council

Dogs in Public Spaces

Anyone with a dog needs to be aware that Council adopted a new Dogs in Public Space Strategy and Guide to Dog Areas in the Byron Shire at its December 2022 meeting. The area in Bangalow designated for off-lead exercise is now Bangalow Parklands – bonded by Ashton Street, Deacon Street and Byron Creek. The Bangalow Showground is no longer an approved area for exercising dogs off-lead.

Under the Local Government Act 1993, dogs are also not allowed within 10m of playgrounds, food preparation and eating areas. You can find all the off-lead exercise areas in the Shire at byron.nsw.gov.au/Community/Pets/Dog-exercise-areas

Heritage amendments

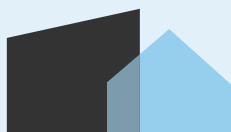
The December Planning Committee saw three requests for properties in 2479 to be individually listed as heritage items in the Byron Local Environment Plan 2014. The properties are 7 Leslie Street Bangalow, 221 Coolamon Scenic Drive Coorabell and the Robinson Subdivision, and group of cottages on Lismore Road Bangalow. Council postponed the item until the new year. Each property/group has had a heritage assessment and has landowner support. Readers interested in the heritage of Bangalow and 2479 will enjoy the heritage assessment reports, found in the Council minutes, Item 13.6. byron.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/12/PLAN_08122022_AGN_1490_WEB.htm

Jenny Bird

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Visible Mending – a jumper's story

Di Campbell from the Bangalow CWA shares the threads of an incredible story of a jumper knitted with love in Bosnia and mended with care in Bangalow.

There was a time when holes in clothing were embarrassing or shameful; a sign of impoverishment. Isn't it always the way that the jumper we wear and love most is the one that gets moth-eaten? These are the jumpers with stories and memories attached to them. They are appreciated beyond their colour and design. This was the case with a very colourful striped woollen jumper that was brought into the CWA rooms late last year, in need of mending.

The owner explained the jumper was cherished and had significant sentimental value. As a young man in his 20s, he had spent time working as a volunteer in a camp for Bosnian refugees during the 1990s. During his time there, the babushkas (older women), had some yarn donated and worked together to knit him a jumper, all knitting a different stripe in the adhoc pattern, imbuing the garment with great sentimental value.

At the CWA, we very rarely take on mending work as it would become a full-time role if we started. However, the members rostered on that day were so moved by the owner's story that they decided to take the project on. The holes in the jumper were too large and too many to attempt invisible mending, so the team decided to combine the textile skills they possessed in a creative way and practise "visible mending".

Visible mending is an ornamental way of mending. Rather than mask the damaged area, it highlights the imperfections in a creative, eye-catching way. Not only does mending add to the life of the garment, but it also adds to a garment's story.

We have given new life to the treasured work of the older women from the Bosnian refugee camp, and the jumper is now entwined with stories the CWA women's story as well.

If you'd like ideas for visibly mending your own garments, come along to the CWA Help Centre in the rooms on Wednesdays. Developing your own colourful mending style is a conscious way to fight consumerism by extending the life of your garments and live more sustainably.



The cherished jumper, created by Bosnian refugees, and mended, with love by the Bangalow CWA

Photos Di Campbell

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Pilgrimage via Pilliga



Renae Baker packed up her family and headed west to explore the largest native forest west of the Great Dividing Range enjoying an unplugged holiday filled with birdwatching, bushwalking, boardgames and Yowie spotting.

At least once a year, we (me, the husband, two kids, and two dogs) make a 12-hour pilgrimage west to Condobolin (think Shannon Noll?) to visit my husband's family (think fishing, swimming, yabbies, motorbikes, flies).

Five years ago, I was looking for a pet-friendly stopover on our annual adventure when I discovered the beautiful Pilliga Pottery and Barkala Farmstay. Located off the Newell Highway, between Narrabri and Coonabarabran (about a 7-hour drive from Bangalow), this eclectic place is a wonder in the scrub: 12,000 acres of Pilliga bush and working farm run by Maria (the original founder), her family, and travellers and helpers from around the world. This amazing farmstay has become our 'go to' to wind down and chill out after our Condo trips. Solar-powered and mindful of the conservation of natural resources, staying in one

of the beautiful accommodations is relaxing, and replenishing. Pottery, board games, reading, swimming, birdwatching. And pet friendly!

There are over 60 kilometres of bushwalking tracks, with opportunities to do as little or as much as you like. In Maria's own words: "Our dream is to see this place as an enduring inspiration to others for many generations to come. People have lost something in this modern world and we see our place as a monument to the fact that life doesn't have to be all about money, material things or wearing the right clothes. This place is about caring, working for the love of it, expressing yourself through creativity and working with nature rather than against it." The place is in stark contrast to the ongoing battle to exploit the gas resources of the Pilliga... but that's another story.





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Top left image: A spectacular sunset view of the Pilliga from the fire tower at the Salt Caves (Timmallallie National Park)

Top right: Bronze sculpture of father and son by Wongarbon Artist Brett Garling - Sculptures in the Scrub installation.

Bottom photo: One of the beautiful mudbrick buildings at the Barkala Farmstay

Photos Renae Baker



Pilliga is the traditional Country of the Gamilaraay people. The forest itself is 500,000 hectares of semi-arid woodland, comprising the largest remaining area of native forest west of the Great Dividing Range. The Pilliga is renowned as a bird-watching area, which you can learn about at the Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre in Baradine. With 2,700 km of dirt tracks criss-crossing the forest, it is no place to venture unprepared, especially during summer. Mind that we did not see another car the entire time we were travelling the forest! So take lots of water, a topographic map (not Google Maps as there is no service in the forest) and give someone a copy of your itinerary. Tracks in the forest are signposted but easy to miss, especially in the dark.

On our recent foray, we headed into the forest to visit the Salt Caves – an important traditional site for the Gamilaraay people. The Salt Caves fire tower gives you the most spectacular view of the Pilliga. It is here that you gain a real understanding of the vastness of the forest. We were awe-struck. We visited the Salt Caves at

sunset to beat the heat and to try and catch sight of the Glossy Black-cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) coming to drink at the nearby dam. However, as the sun began to set, the idea of becoming lost in the forest at night, along with the Pilliga Monster/ Yowie stories (Google it), well we hightailed it out of there! We did get to see a pair of Spotted Nightjars (*Eurostopodus argus*) on the way home. The following day we headed out early for a walk to see Sculptures in the Scrub – five beautiful sculptures, telling stories of local clans.

Another amazing place to visit while you are out there is the Sandstone Caves, which is not signposted on the highway at the request of traditional owners, but is easy enough to find.

The Pilliga is diverse, it is vast, it is a slice of the quintessential Australian bush, it is the largest remaining area of native forest west of the Range – and it is home to the Pilliga Yowie.

What more reason do you need to get out there?



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Amalgamation signals brighter future for Bangalow Bowlo



Bangalow Bowlo ready to be upgraded as part of Norths amalgamation deal Photo Saul Goodwin

The Bangalow community witnessed a nail-biting cliff-hanger moment worthy of any Australian TV drama towards the end of last year, when a 'yes' vote among members paved the way for a life-saving amalgamation between our much loved, financially challenged Bangalow Bowlo, and soon to be new parent club group, Norths Collective.

"Anyone who doubted how desperate our situation had become should know about the assistance Norths has already given us

just to stay afloat in the short time since post-vote formalities," said Atosha Clancy, Bangalow Bowlo board president.

"Once our members told us they were in favour of amalgamation, a Deed of Service was implemented through which Norths were legally able to give us immediate help, in advance of the formal amalgamation process. And if it wasn't for that help, we would have had to call in the administrators and close the doors by now."

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

Parties seeking the return of items from David Collins Jeweller, Lismore Road should contact

collinsparties@gmail.com

with a description of their items. Some items, owner unknown, are available for return to documented owners.

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Norths have started the wheels turning towards a much brighter future for the Bowlo, with the application to NSW Liquor & Gaming already underway and the following service enhancements and infrastructure redevelopments already scheduled.

January to March 2023 • Deliver financial and operational assistance to the Bowlo within a Deed of Service. • Begin engagement with suppliers and review insurance policy improvement options. • Upgrade soft drink post mix delivery system at the bar. • Begin focus on nurturing kitchen expertise and team building. • Continue engagement with sports teams, confirm two year green maintenance program.
April 2023 • Estimated approval of application by NSW Liquor & Gaming. • Begin transferring Bowlo staff employment into the Norths family. • Continue engagement with sports teams.
May 2023 • Upgrade food and beverage point of sale computer system. • Install electronic 'bump screens' in bar and kitchen to enable enhanced real-time service.
June 2023 • Installation of new CCTV system, plus other safety & security enhancements. • Rollout Norths group Loyalty and Community Points programs to Bowlo members. • Introduce new ClevaQ table ordering system.
July 2023 • Launch Bowlo smartphone app. • Upgrade Bowlo website. • Introduce Seven Rooms reservation system. • Introduce Ivy event management system.
August to October 2023 Begin initial maintenance works in multiple areas of the Bowlo (always remaining open).
November to December 2023 Focus on making sure party season goes off with a bang in Bangalow.
Late 2023 / Early 2024 Lodge Development Application for major Master Planning work and renovation.

The Bowlo and Norths management welcome all enquiries – email Bowlo board president, Atosha Clancy: atosha@bangalowbowlo.com.au

Justin Coombs

GARDENING

Hibiscus syriacus 'Purple Hibiscus'



The Purple Hibiscus signifies freedom and individuality Photos Carole Gamble

Our book group recently read *The Purple Hibiscus*, a wonderful novel by Nigerian writer, Chimamanda Ngozi Adi, and by coincidence, my purple hibiscus was in full bloom. In the story, the purple hibiscus signifies freedom and individuality, and whilst this seems irrelevant to my column, it's been on my mind ever since, the way that some plants have great meaning to most of us.

This hibiscus, one of the large *Malvaceae* family, is the only one I grow.

It's deciduous and has none of the issues with hibiscus beetle and other insects that the big blowsy hybrids suffer, and it flowers profusely all through late spring and summer.

The foliage is a lovely light green, and the leaves resemble oak leaves- serrated deeply and very attractive.

It originated in East Asia (how did it get to Nigeria?) and is very adaptable.

For maximum flowering, full sun or light shade is preferable, and mine have prevailed throughout our droughts and flooding rain in quite heavy soil with no help at all and just a very light trim in spring. They can be cut back to a third if you want it to hedge or don't have room for it to reach its maximum height of two metres.

This particular hibiscus is a 'Double Plum', sometimes referred to as a 'Double Red/Blue' in catalogues and is quite rare but grows easily from semi-hardwood cuttings.

Cuttings placed in a jar of water will quickly develop roots and do best in either dark containers or pop the jar in a brown paper bag. (I have no idea why this is so, but a gardening mate advised me!)

Like most hibiscus, the flowers are edible and have been used in teas (as they are high in magnesium) and also in jams and salads.

Hibiscus flowers are non-toxic but can make dogs quite unwell if eaten in large quantities.

The flowers have both male and female parts, so they self-pollinate with the assistance of bees. The pistil is long and tubular whilst the five 'hairy' spots at the top of the pistil are where the pollen is collected.

Sometimes called 'Rose of Sharon', this is somewhat misleading as it can be applied to most of the *Malvaceae* family.

There is a similar open single variety, *Alyogyne huegel*, which is a native of the south west of Western Australia, that is a fast-growing evergreen but difficult to grow here, whilst the *syriacus* is easy and rewarding. And I keep thinking of the book...

Carole Gamble

Charging ahead

Christobel Munson reports on challenges faced on her first long distance trip in an EV.



Since April 2019, when we bought an electric vehicle (EV), in terms of charging, I had it really easy. Its range is 450kms, meaning a drive to Brisbane and back after charging it at home was not a problem, and my driving habits were primarily local.

Using “green” power generated from our 10kW ground-mounted solar system, I’d either plug it in overnight at the off-peak rate using the ‘granny charger’ (essentially, a cord plugged into a 2.2kW power point on the garage wall), which would give me a couple of hundred kilometres of driving range. Alternatively, I could use the faster home method of charging it using the Zappi, a wall-mounted device in the garage, which gives me more driving range in a shorter time. (The Zappi can also be set to charge only when the solar would otherwise be exporting to the grid, a fantastic feature.) Either way, essentially, the car is charged for free.

If it’s been overcast and gloomy weather for weeks on end – meaning the solar system here hasn’t provided enough available solar power – I can always nip down to The Farm and use its NRMA charging station, currently at no cost.

Anyway, until this trip, everything to do with charging and driving my EV had been hunky-dory.

With some of my family currently living in Canberra and about to move overseas for three years, it seemed the right time to see what it was like to take the EV – a Hyundai Kona Highlander – on a long road trip. To drive to Canberra, via Sydney, and back, would be more than 2,000kms – far longer than any trip I’ve taken to date. So I’d have to find out how to charge the EV other than at convenient local charge stations.

To prepare for the long-distance trip, I called on my buddy Seb Crangle, a home energy consultant, who’d had a heap of experience with EVs while working for the Good Car Company, which sells



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cheaper imported second-hand EVs. His advice? To get directions to the next charging station, download Google Maps or use the inbuilt GPS system, along with the PlugShare and ABRP (A Better Route Planner) Apps, plus Charge Fox and Evie to pay for charging – then get familiar with how they all work – fast!

PlugShare is an absolutely vital resource. Describing itself as a “community-based tool”, it “guides users to public charging locations around the world”. What’s really good about it is that users provide feedback on every charging station. In this early phase, charging stations can be available, or already occupied, or not in working order. PlugShare users can share notes and advice with others, such as photos of the charging stations they’ve used, comments on how long they’ll be using one, if there’s a queue, if there’s a convenient place nearby to eat and drink while charging, accessible amenities, or anything else relevant to other users. In that way, people can plan ahead whether to stop at a particular station or choose another instead.

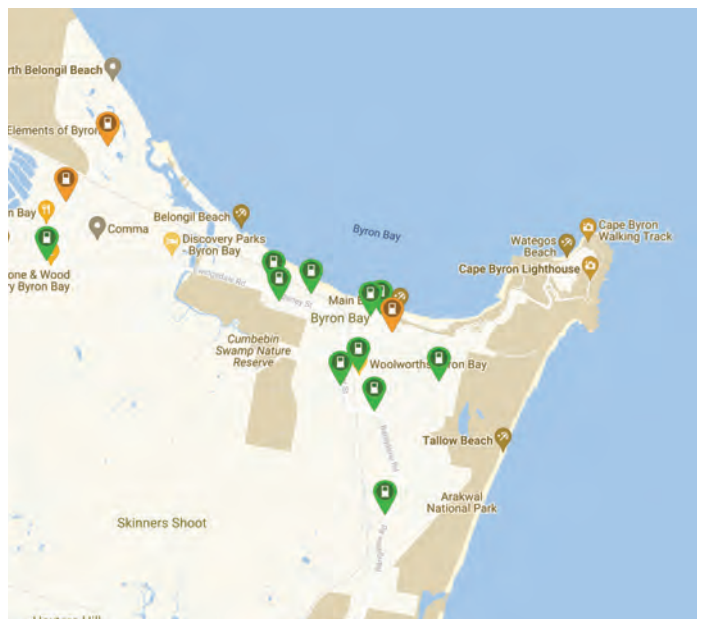
Duly loaded with Apps galore, off I set. With Seb’s help, I had planned to break the journey into “bite-size chunks”, driving only about four or five hours a day, staying overnight halfway to Sydney, again in Sydney, then straight through to Canberra.

The first part of the trip went swimmingly, despite some nervous moments as I tried out the charging station at Macksville. After some fumbling around, I finally got the Evie charger to work, so with a huge sigh of relief, I had lunch at the convenient adjoining Ampol petrol station. (Petrol stations like Ampol allow the charging companies to rent space for their charge stations on the periphery, anticipating the imminent upcoming changes to come in EV usage.)

I’d booked a motel room in Taree, roughly halfway to Sydney, discovering that on Booking.com there’s a filter very usefully advising which motels allow people to charge their EVs overnight. Happily, the Alabaster had that facility and helpfully connected me to their AC charger, giving me an extra 100km overnight.

The next morning, to be safe, I decided to top up at the NRMA DC Fast charger at Nabiac, ideally located next to a park with swimming pool, toilets and shade. At 7am on a Sunday morning, it was available. From there, it was only 278kms to my next overnight destination in Sydney, which I could easily do on a single charge.

It was in Sydney that my worst fears were realised. With only 130kms available, I needed to charge before the 300km drive to Canberra. Arriving at an NRMA DC Fast charging station, it was in use. And would be for the next 90 minutes. Over several hours, I tried various hotels and even a Hyundai dealer, but they offered only overnight slow charging. I’d overlooked Seb’s clear instruction to only search Plugshare for fast-charging stations! Finally, I called the NRMA, where a kindly voice – obviously well experienced in dealing with panicked drivers – directed me the 6km to the nearest available fast-charging station.



In Canberra, it was easy to use Google search or one of the apps to find a nearby fast-charging station at a big hotel, which I used again before leaving town for the return trip. Back in Sydney, I found a local Council had operational charging stations not five minutes from where I stayed, and on the return trip up the coast, I retraced my steps. Total cost for charging for the 2000+km drive? \$89.88.

Lessons learned? Do your homework. Learn how the Apps work. Research the options. Don’t count on the first charging station being available when you get there. Have a Plan B and even a Plan C up your sleeve. Then enjoy the tremendous drive in your fantastic vehicle.

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Back in the swim of things

The Bangalow Pool Trust will fund swimming lessons for locals
Photo Jeff Dunham

Sally Schofield spoke to **Jo Millar**, president of the Bangalow Pool Trust committee, about new plans to get 2479 back in the swim of things.

In January 1997, a volunteer committee was formed with the purpose of raising funds to build a public swimming pool in Bangalow. Over the years, some \$290,000 has been raised and a DA was ultimately approved. Over the years the various pool trust committees worked tirelessly to see the idea of a pool for Bangalow come to fruition.

A new committee was formed at the end of 2018 with high hopes of getting the pool plans back on track. "At this time I became president at the pool trust, we had a DA that was active. And we still thought that a pool was in fact a reality and could happen," says Jo. But after many meetings with council, and considerable discussion with other

community pool managers all over Australia, the new committee were faced with a stark reality. "The bottom line was, we weren't going to get a construction certificate from council and without that we couldn't apply for government grants to enable a pool to be built.

Jo explains: "To build a pool in a community, we needed a construction certificate (they call it being 'shovel ready') in order to apply for additional funding, and the only people that can give you that is council. So even though we had a DA to develop the land and build the pool, we could not get a construction certificate until we proved the financial viability of the pool. board president.

So down but not defeated, the new committee went back to the drawing board. The first step was reviewing the original objects that govern the operation of the Bangalow Pool Trust association, these objects essentially dictate how the funds raised can be spent and for what purpose.

"The objects of the association are to build a pool in Bangalow, and to promote the benefits of swimming. Those were the objectives, so whatever we did with the money had to fit with that." With the construction of the pool off the table, the team explored multiple options and opportunities to utilise the monies raised.

"We came up with the idea that if the object was to promote the benefit of

swimming, then maybe we could create a scheme that supports the learning to swim for children in the Bangalow community? There are many families in this community that have more than one child, and might have two or even three children at a time participating in a Learn to Swim class and it's expensive. No-one can argue that teaching non swimmers survival water safety and how to swim isn't a crucial life skill and not just for children".

The Pool Trust Committee has committed to pay for swimming lessons for those learning to swim who reside in the 2479 postcode. Their swimming lessons will be paid for out of the Pool Trust money.

"We approached local learn to swim provider Bangalow Swim School and asked if they would help us as the first provider to be accredited into the program," says Jo. Money that would have come from mum and dad's pockets (or lessons that were not in the family budget previously) will now be covered by the funds from the Pool Trust pool of money. Swimming lessons will also be available for older residents and those with a disability, promoting the health benefits of swimming and water safety to all.

Of course, news of the much longed for pool not eventuating will be very disappointing to many. "I'm aware of how hard so many who came before me/us worked to make a pool viable. The reality is we have money sitting in an account for a project that is never going to come to fruition, we need to be realistic and put that money to good use," she says.

According to the Royal Life Saving National Drowning Report 2022, 339 people lost their lives to drowning and an estimated 686 people experienced a non-fatal drowning incident requiring

hospitalisation. This is a devastating 24% increase on the 10-year average of previous reports.

"If only one child was saved from drowning because they've had swimming lessons as a result of this scheme, then it will be worth it."

Keep updated @bangalowpool on Facebook



Water safety and learning to swim are essential life skills for all Photo Raj Rana



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Rail vs trail



Bangalow residents will be able to ride e-bikes to Byron Bay in just 20 minutes when the Northern Rivers Rail Trail is complete, but passionate rail enthusiasts are campaigning to bring the 'surf train' back, writes **Angela Saurine.**



Above: An artist impression of Murwillumbah Station in the Northern Rivers Rail Trail
Photo Tweed Shire Council

Left: The Byron Solar Train
Photo James Chuang

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After more than a decade advocating for the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, Marie Lawton is feeling excited. With the first section of the proposed 132km-long walking and cycling path set to open in the Tweed in March – weather permitting – momentum is building for her long-held dream to finally come to fruition. Marie became interested in the idea of turning the old train track between Casino and Murwillumbah into a rail trail in 2012, when she was concerned about alcohol-fuelled violence in Byron Bay. “I’d ridden a few rail trails and thought we have a disused train line, why don’t we have a rail trail?” she says. “I thought it would attract the right kind of tourist.” Along with other interested individuals, she formed a community group, now known as the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Supporters, in 2013.

The line between Casino and Murwillumbah has been dormant since 2004, when the last XPT service operated. In 2020, legislation that protected the railway tracks for the Casino to Bentley and Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek sections was removed so that a rail trail could be built. Jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments, the 24km-long Tweed section will eventually connect the region with the Byron Shire, Lismore and Casino.

Lismore City Council has secured funding for the 16km South Lismore to Bentley section, and work is underway to secure funds for the 15km section between Eltham and South Lismore. The 13km stretch between Casino and Bentley in the Richmond Valley is also fully funded and construction is underway.

Byron Shire Council has secured state government funding to design a shared path along Lismore Road from Rifle Range Road to Bangalow Sports Fields, but the grant for the design is for beside the road, not along the rail line.

Byron Shire Councillor and Bangalow resident Asren Pugh convinced council to support extending the proposal to the industrial estate and Binna Burra. “Staff are currently working with the NSW Government departments to change the funding requirements so that the grant money can be spent on design of the project within the rail corridor and not only along Lismore Road,” he said. Throughout community consultation for the Bangalow Village Plan, this project was the most popular idea. Once the design has been completed, Council will apply for grants to fund construction.

Marie, who won the Leadership (volunteers) category at the 2022 Australian Cycling Luminaries Awards, believes the rail trail will provide much-needed infrastructure for locals. When complete, she estimates it would take 20 minutes to ride an e-bike from Bangalow to Byron Bay, eliminating the need to battle for prized car parking spots in summer. It will also provide eco-tourism opportunities. For example, the old Bangalow railway station could be restored, with opportunities for a business such as a café or bike shop. People with disabilities and the elderly will also benefit, with charity Cycling Without Age Australia set to offer trishaw rides piloted by volunteers in the Tweed.

But another community group, Northern Rivers Rail, is hoping to get trains back on the tracks and cars off the road to help combat climate change. “We have so many people living here and moving here that we

really need good rail transport,” founding member Lydia Kindred says. More than 300,000 people are estimated to live in the Northern Rivers region, and pre-COVID more than two million international and domestic tourists visited Byron Bay each year.

“A lot of people who grew up here talk about what they used to call the surf train that ran from Casino to Byron and back again,” Lydia says. “Kids could get on there and go for a surf during the day, then it came back at three o’clock in the afternoon.” She is hoping for up to 16 services a day, running from 7am to 11pm. “It would be great for people who want to go out and have a drink,” she says. “This region has one of the highest incidences of drink driving.”

While opponents say it will cost around a billion dollars to bring trains back, Lydia says it only cost \$300,000 per kilometre five years ago to restore the track between the North Beach precinct and the Byron Bay town centre. But the total project – funded by the owners of Elements of Byron Resort – cost \$4 million, including replacing the Belongil Creek Bridge, restoring the 1949-era two-carriage train, converting it from diesel to solar, and building North Beach train station and platform. Lydia says a rail company is currently working on costings, and it is possible to have both rail services and a bike trail running together within the rail corridor. But those in favour of the rail trail don’t believe it is suitable for multi-use due to narrow corridors, bridges, tunnels and steep drop offs. Marie says the Byron section was straight and in much better condition than in other places, and it isn’t practical or financially viable to bring trains back as the population isn’t large enough. “It’s a loss to the community, but we’re bringing a new service,” she says. “We hope Byron Shire councillors – who have been split on the issue – will look at the experience in the Tweed and see how great it will be for locals. We will just keep working until we get the whole thing.”

For more information visit
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Hilary Wise and Marie Lawton from the Northern Rivers Rail Trail Supporters beside the old station in Bangalow
 Photo supplied





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Murder, she watched

If you're looking for indulgent, compulsive viewing this summer, **Dr Airdre Grant's** picks are just what the doctor ordered...

Summer is an excellent time to sink into a long, lazy binge-watch. When it is too hot, too busy, and too hectic to venture into the world, when the rules are relaxed, the roads are choked, family obligations are over, and the fridge, if you're lucky, still has enticing leftovers. Friends, here are recommendations to assist you with some serious bingeing.

The White Lotus (Foxtel) is written and directed by the supremely clever Mike White (fun fact: He played Ned Schneebly in *School of Rock*, sidekick to Jack Black). It is a satire and murder mystery, about the entitled, awful rich and the people employed to serve them at The White Lotus hotel in Hawaii (Season 1). We watch (mostly) white people, dressed expensively, behaving badly in a gorgeous setting. This could be an obvious set-up, with loads of cheap shots, but here we have a very skilful story. The acting and music are superb, and the layered script exposes the dynamics of class, power, race, and money in a way that does not preach or hit you over the head. It allows these ugly people to reveal their venal natures and corrupt expectations so cleverly that viewer loyalty shifts and changes.

Jennifer Coolidge is marvellous as Tanya, a rich, self-centred alcoholic who befriends her black masseuse (Season 1), asking for her to help dispose of her mother's ashes. Murray Bartlett is superb (my favourite) as Armond, the Australian head of the hotel staff, whose permanent smile is a rictus as he serves people he despises. Season 2 takes place in Sicily and is again a murder mystery in a gorgeous setting. Here we have sexual politics playing out amongst the line-up of staff and sex workers, and the repellent, overprivileged guests. Jennifer Coolidge is back, both monstrous and pitiable. The



The White Lotus, layered and irresistible
Photo supplied

guests at the hotel bring their perverse agendas, including the Di Grasso family (grandfather, father, and son) who act out the moral confusion of cross-generational sexual politics. Plus, there's a murder. It's great viewing for summer.

Dead to Me is "a funny, highly engaging series which has more twists and turns than a packet of pretzels."

Emmy award-winning murder/comedy/drama **Dead to Me** (Netflix) is a three-season cracker of a series. It stars Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini, as two widows who meet at a grief group and whose lives become entwined through an ongoing series of misadventures and deaths. Each episode ends in an unexpected place. Will Ferrell is an executive director, and

this might explain a little about this funny, highly engaging series which has more twists and turns than a packet of pretzels.

ABC iView offers a much cooler take on murder with Season 6 of **Shetland**, written by Ann Cleeves. Set in the cold, starkly beautiful Shetland Islands, north of Scotland, there is no glamour or humour in this complex and tricky crime drama. Detective Inspector Jimmy Perez (Douglas Henshall) heads up a murder investigation with his regular team: Tosh, Sandy, and Billy. Housemate and co-parent Duncan plays a key role again. In the mix are a murder, a dying woman whose presence upsets the locals, social issues including ageing, Alzheimer's (Jimmy's dad) and the question of assisted dying. The theme music is as evocative as the bleak landscape. *Shetland* fans will be pleased with this satisfyingly gripping season.

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My Dream Time

by Ash Barty



In the final pages of her 2022 memoir, Ash Barty says, “I’ve achieved my dreams, not many people in their life get to live out all their dreams.”

Wow! There’s an understatement if ever there was one – she forgot to add that not many people get to live out all their dreams before the age of 25.

I don’t often read memoirs, but this was one I was keen to have a look at, and when it was gifted to me at Christmas, I had no excuse.

Firstly, it was well-written and entertaining. If I were to criticise this book it would

only be to suggest that it could have been improved chronologically. The chapters do jump backwards and forwards through her life and it wasn’t always clear to me where she was on the touring circuit or where she was emotionally – but don’t let this stop you from reading this book.

Ash’s story focuses on her tennis journey, which began when she was almost five years old at West Brisbane Tennis Centre with a coach called Jim. At first, Jim told the family that he didn’t coach kids as young as five but when he saw her hit a few balls he told her she could come back the next week, which was the beginning of an enduring friendship. When you consider that tennis has been Ash’s life for 20 years, the news of her retirement makes a lot more sense. And the announcement of her pregnancy also consolidates this.

The journey to being World No.1 for 121 weeks is documented here with all the hard work, the loneliness of the travel, and the emotional highs and lows spelt out. But in typical Ash Barty demeanour, which spectators are familiar with, Ash shares her glory with the many supporting individuals who have taken her to the heights of her career.

How does one person end up with so much talent? Tennis, cricket, golf, author! Wow! Pretty sure that this young woman has got more dreams in her bag.

Carolyn Adams

Good Reads Rating ★★★★★

Published by Harper Collins

Queer Chameleon and Friends

by Amee Wilson



In this colourful, insightful book, writer and illustrator Amee Wilson, herself a gay twin, explores aspects of existing in a world that is not always accepting, comfortable or safe for the LGBTQIA+ community. It addresses those silly questions and awkward-but-sometimes accurate clichés, to the trials and tribulations of coming out (or choosing not to).

We still live in a world where LGBTQIA+ issues and life are often censored by social media platforms, or in education. In families and across generations, these topics can be taboo. This is why Amee feels it’s so important to create a book showing us that all experiences are valid, empowering us to accept and express our identities and those of others.

“I hope this book helps bridge gaps and create understanding both inside and outside our community. Because, above all, it is intended to make people feel seen, validated and loved. I have learned so much while creating this work – I hope we can continue to laugh and learn together!” says Amee.

The book is coming out on 14 February – perfect timing for Valentine’s Day, Mardi Gras and Sydney’s WorldPride extravaganza 17 February – 5 March and can be pre-ordered from your local bookstore.

Sally Schofield

Published by Penguin Random House Australia



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Banana Ketchup



Relish this quirky, fruity sauce on burgers, fried chicken and more
Illustration Lyn Hand

What to do about leftover bananas is always thought about in my house. At Christmas, I received a cookbook written by my favourite chef, Yotam Ottolenghi, and have adapted his recipe to make it vegan.

Turning bananas into a sauce is credited to food chemist Maria Orosa (1893-1945) in the Philippines. Visiting Americans introduced ketchup and canned goods to the nation, so she tried to make a similar condiment out of an abundant local ingredient: bananas, adding red dye to emulate the American version. Here, instead of dye, tomato paste is added. *Both together, you say?* It won't work. It does! You'll love this sweet and tangy sauce. Put it on top of eggs, rice, crispy chicken, burgers or haloumi. You might just forget that there is banana in there.

Ingredients

3tbs olive oil
1 onion, thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
2-3 mild chillies, roughly chopped
20g ginger, roughly chopped
90g tomato paste
11/2tsp ground allspice
5 large over ripe bananas, peeled and mashed
150mls rice wine vinegar
120g coconut sugar or 90g soft brown sugar
1tbs soy sauce or 2-3 tbs coconut aminos (vegan)
2tbs fish sauce (omit for vegan version)

Method

1. Preheat oil in large saucepan on medium/high heat.
2. Cook garlic, onions, chillies and ginger for 15 mins or until onions are soft and golden.
3. Add tomato paste and allspice for two minutes, then add banana, vinegar, sugar, soy and fish sauce (if using). Stir frequently.
4. Let it cook 15 minutes, stirring occasionally until it is bubbling.
5. Cool slightly, transfer to food processor and blitz until smooth.

Transfer to sterilised jar, lid off for about an hour. Seal and refrigerate. Will last up to three months in fridge.

Adapted from *Extra Good Things: Ottolenghi Test Kitchen*.

Lyn Hand



Locally made, non-alcoholic botanical drink sensation, the shrub! Photo supplied

Abundant shrubbery

I find it hard to keep up with new types of drinks. I seem to be always reading about some new trendy tippie that appears to come from somewhere out in the world which has no connection with anything I've experienced before. Lord knows how people working in bottle shops keep up.

The other day I was listening to a podcast about the Terracotta Warriors when the hosts went off-script talking about shrubs. I was really confused as to why they had suddenly gone onto a botanical rave then even more confused when they started discussing drinking shrubs. The next day, lo and behold, I saw bottles of shrub in the local bottle shop!

Shrubs are fermented fruit juice and herbs using a vinegar 'mother culture' to make a concentrate that is then added to water (sparkling or still) to make a cordial or used as a cocktail mixer. The word 'shrub' goes back to 15th century England when shrubs were brought from the Arabic world to make medicinal tonics. In prohibition-era America, they were popular as an alcohol alternative.

Locally, shrubs are made in Lismore at Pyewackets Shrub Factory, which makes a large variety such as Magnolia and Pear, Plum and Vanilla, Blood Orange Turmeric, and Cucumber Hibiscus. Their shrubs are low in sugar and use ingredients from local farmers around the Northern Rivers and have a particular fondness for "ugly fruit".

If you enjoy a cool, dry tippie at the end of a hot day, then try Cucumber Hibiscus served with gin. It has fresh cucumbers, raw organic apple cider vinegar and hibiscus flowers. Available locally at the Cellar and Herbal Wisdom.

Murray Hand

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WHAT'S THAT NUMBER?

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)	Lorraine	0417 705 439
Garden Club (1st Wed)	Diana	0418 288 428
George the snake man	George	0407 965 092
Historical Society/Museum		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 (Mon to Thurs 10am-2.00pm, 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 (Bluedogs)		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		coorabellhall@gmail.com
Heritage House		6687 2183
Moller Pavilion		6687 1035
Newrybar Hall	Blair	0404 880 382
RSL Hall	Charlotte	0418 107 448
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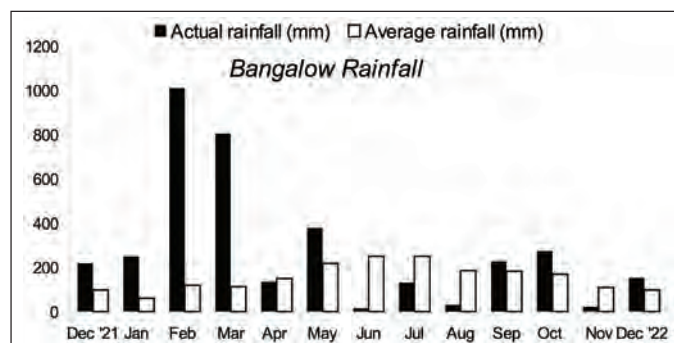
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WHAT'S ON

A tempting feast of cultural and community events to get you out and about in 2479 (and beyond) in February.

New Blood the musical

When New dates! Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 February, 7.30pm
Where Byron Theatre
Tickets byroncentre.com.au
Info Follow the New Blood journey on Instagram @newbloodthemusical

New Blood is a new Australian musical based on a small town just like ours. Written and created by five local musicians and performers, New Blood's premiere season at the Newrybar Hall last October sold out. The show now returns with two shows at the Byron Theatre. This bold new work has resonated with audiences and will tour Australia's largest international arts festival, Adelaide Fringe Festival later in the month.

Connecting Generations at Bangalow Bowlo

When Sunday 12 February, 2pm-4pm
Where Bangalow Bowling Club
Contact Ruth Winton-Brown 0413 261 011 or ruth@reclaimingjoy.com

Young families who don't have extended family in the area are invited to come along to the free Connecting Generations gathering at Bangalow Bowlo and enjoy activities such as art, craft and music with older members of the community. The theme of the event is Galloping Galaxies, and kids will get to meet Freckles the Pony and help build a giant spacecraft. They can also build their own smaller spacecraft to take home. There will be free face painting and neck massages for parents and carers.

CWA Cake and Produce Stall

When Saturday 25 February, 8am-12 noon
Where CWA Rooms, 31 Byron Street, Bangalow
Contact Di 0412 376 034

The first of our monthly stalls promises to be a good one. Come along and see what's on offer to tempt your taste buds.

Raise the Roof Choir

When Every Wednesday, 5-7pm
Where Bangalow Uniting Church
Contact Jessie 0417 277 211 or raisetheroofsinging.com

If big, beautiful harmonies sung with passion and prowess by a choir of ordinary local folk beaming joy are your thing, check out Raise the Roof Choir, directed by Jessie Vintila. Says Oceanic gospel singing guru Tony Backhouse: "Jessie creates a wonderful sound in her choirs".

Bangalow Quilters

When 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month
Where All Soul's Anglican Church, Ashton St Bangalow
Contact Karen 0413 621 224

We are a friendly group happy to share our skills and knowledge. Visitors and new members are welcome.

CWA Craft Help Centre

When Wednesdays 10.30am-12.30pm
Where CWA Rooms, 31 Byron St, Bangalow

Contact Rosemary roselong@ozemail.com.au

Do you have a knitting or crochet project unfinished because you don't understand the pattern? Would you like to learn how to knit 'top-down' or continental style?

Maybe just add a little embroidery? Or do some visible mending (see our story on page 9). CWA members may be able to advise and/or help so pop in and see us any Wednesday morning.

Bangalow Brackets

When Every Wednesday nights 7.30pm
Where Bangalow Bowlo

Contact facebook.com/bangalowbrackets
Catch Bangalow Brackets open mic night at its new venue and timeslot of Wednesdays at Bangalow Bowlo and witness an extraordinary night of creative music making. Open mic nights are a great way to gain experience, showcase your talent, meet other musicians, and build your local music community. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just starting out, this is the perfect opportunity to get in front of a warm, appreciative audience and share your music.

Bangalow Mens Shed Art Classes

When Wednesdays 2-4pm
Where The Mens Shed, Bangalow
Contact David 0403 899 225

Explore your artistic side with creative, hands-on art classes led by Caleb Reid. Beginners are most welcome, and these classes are open to all Mens Shed members, including women who may now join as an Associate Member.



New Blood Photo Hamish McCormick, Carnival Cinema



Raise the Roof at the Uniting Church Photo Lyn McCarthy Niche Pictures

March

Coorabell Flower Show

When Friday 3 March, food 6pm, LiQuidelics 7.30pm
Saturday 4 March: Flower Show 12-5pm; Dinner dance 6.30pm
Sunday 5 March, Flower Show, 10-5pm; Film Club food 6, film 7.30pm

Where Coorabell Hall, Coolaman Scenic Drive, Coorabell

Info Tickets coorabellhall.net

The Coorabell Hall Flower Show ran for over 50 years and, after a break, it's back! The event is a homage to flowers, especially dahlias. Local champion growers, Bruce and Stephen Wedd will provide their magnificent blooms. Local astrologer and hula dancer Lillith Rochas has her Hula troupe performing and will help you make a Tahitian flower crown. There will be a booth making crowns from the African Surmas of Southern Ethiopia combined with striking face paint. Jude from Seed Savers will demonstrate perfume-

making using flowers. Sausage sizzle, pizzas and coffee available all weekend. Flowers will be sold or distributed after the show. LiQuidelics – a vibrant live performance of dance and colourful light projections are booked for Friday night. A dinner dance and auction on Saturday night will raise funds for a new covered verandah for the Hall. Sunday night Film Club will screen *Jean de Florette*.



Coorabell Flower Show Lillith's Tahitian Flower Crown
Photo supplied

Diary

February 2023

1 Bangalow Garden Club

8-9 New Blood the musical

12 Connecting Generations

18 Bangalow Historical Society meeting

25 Re-opening of Heritage House

26 Bangalow Markets

March 2023

3-5 Coorabell Flower Show

3-5 Tsinskaro Georgian Vocal ensemble

March Deadlines

What's On 15 February

Advertising 15 February

Copy 15 February

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Byron Writers Fest comes to Bangalow



A bird’s eye view of the new festival site Photo Alex Hand

The famous Byron Writers Festival is coming to Bangalow. It is to be held this year at the Bangalow Showground and A&I Hall from 11-13 August.

The Festival has been running since 1997 when founded by Chris Hanley. It has attracted writers from all over Australia and brings thousands of audience participants.

For many years it has been held at the Elements resort site at Sunrise Beach. Due to Elements now being unavailable, the team at the Byron Writers Festival approached the Bangalow Park Trust, the operators of the Bangalow Showground, who readily agreed hosting the festival in Bangalow.

The festival’s Artistic Director, Zoe Pollock, says “We are excited to be presenting the 2023 festival at the Bangalow Showgrounds, a picturesque heritage site nestled in the heart of the township of Bangalow that is home to a vibrant and creative community. The festival will also be making use of several indoor venues within the precinct, including the Moller Pavilion and the iconic A&I Hall. The team and I are very much looking forward to bringing the site to life and creating a playground of literary delights for audiences, so stay tuned as we share more details over the coming months.”

Murray Hand



Byron Writers Festival Team, left to right, Zoe Pollock, CEO and Artistic Director; Shien Chee, General Manager; Emily Brugman, Program Manager; Aarna Hudson, Development Manager Photo Murray Hand

Key Dates

March 29	Extra Early Bird 3-Day Passes on sale
June 14	Early Bird 3-Day Passes on sale, first guest announcement
June 22	Sunday Locals’ Passes on sale
June 28	Full program announced – all tickets on sale
August 11–13	Festival Weekend

For more details visit byronwritersfestival.com