

# HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE | March 2023

# Let the sunshine in!



**Resilience and rebuilding**  
The floods, one year on

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**HAIR the musical**  
In hippy heaven

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# HERALD

The Bangalow

## From the Editor

If you're a regular reader of this column, you'll know that I'm fond of divining a connection between the stories in this magazine, even though some are submitted quite randomly and without prompting. The theme is rarely planned, but somewhat serendipitous. And it gives me a certain satisfaction while piecing the edition together to see those common threads that connect our diverse experiences.

This month, I kept returning to the idea of persistence (and in many ways, its cousin, resilience). In this edition, we read about the persistence of the Bangalow Theatre Company, a key player in our local arts community, and their commitment to bring joy to the community through theatre. You can also read about one local woman's persistence to achieve a personal goal despite physical and mental obstacles, a lesson in determination and self-belief for all of us (and some stunning scenery along the way!). And, of course, as we acknowledge, grieve, and process the anniversary of those devastating floods of 2022, we also read about those individuals and community collaborators who are still in full flight, attending to the emotional wellbeing and business of living of those still recovering from the devastation. There is information on free, family-oriented nature camps for the flood-affected, advice on rebuilding homes to withstand future weather events, and an offer for locals interested in free training in disaster preparedness to assist the community.

I am delighted with the variety of contributions sent in by our community for the March edition. From musical theatre to luxury bathhouses, from poultry auctions to action plans, there is surely something for everyone in these pages!

If not, let me know if there's a story you'd like to tell...

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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# YOUR VOTE IS POWERFUL

## OUR PLAN

### PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

- △ Abolish the public sector wage cap and give healthcare workers and teachers a real pay rise above inflation
- △ Invest in regional health and make free healthcare options available to everyone
- △ Deliver 100% of the School Resourcing Standard to public schools across NSW

### VIBRANT AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- △ Stop the destruction of mature trees and the sale of public green spaces for development
- △ Boost regional public transport by making services free, interconnected and regular

### REAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECT BIODIVERSITY

- △ Phase out coal and gas by 2030 and transition NSW to 100% renewable energy
- △ Protect biodiversity and end native forest logging in NSW
- △ Boost community led flood recovery efforts to help regions better withstand the climate crisis

### OVERHAUL THE PROPERTY SECTOR TO SUPPORT SECURE HOUSING FOR ALL

- △ Resource local councils and communities to regulate Short-Term Rental Accommodation
- △ Immediately end unfair no grounds evictions and get rents back under control
- △ Commit to a massive investment in public, social and affordable housing to end homelessness in NSW.

VOTE **1**



**TAMARA SMITH MP**

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Since I was elected in 2015 we have seen a massive investment in infrastructure across the Ballina electorate. After the devastating floods, I worked closely with the community to help secure hundreds of millions in flood relief and recovery.

My Greens colleagues and I have worked hard to keep the extinction crises in focus, boost renters rights, deliver investment in renewables, and set the agenda on gambling and drug law reform. We secured greater reproductive rights and dying with dignity legislation in NSW.

**MORE AT**  
[greens.org.au/nsw/  
policyplatform2023](https://greens.org.au/nsw/policyplatform2023)



**THE  
GREENS**



## HAIR comes to the home of the hippies

**Bangalow Theatre Company's upcoming production of *Hair* has been a labour of love, writes Angela Saurine.**

When Kate Foster joined the Bangalow Theatre Company committee in 2016, she had one clear goal in mind. She had long wanted to direct the musical *Hair*, and with its strong hippy culture, she knew the Byron Bay region was the perfect place to do it. After previously directing *Calamity Jane* and *Little Shop of Horrors* and acting as assistant director on *RENT* for the community theatre company, she is finally getting her wish, with the show premiering at Byron Theatre on March 23.

"I have wanted to do *HAIR* for 30 years and I was trying to find a vehicle to make that happen," Kate says. "I kept directing shows and waiting for the right time. Byron is the town for *HAIR*. It has to happen here. All the old hippies are falling over themselves to get

tickets. So many people who live here were drawn to this musical when it came out. The 40-plus generation are the *HAIR* fans and a lot of them have left the city to come and live here. The demographic is right for the quintessential hippie musical to finally arrive. So many older women in particular, are telling me they saw the original show 40 years ago and they know all the words. They love it."

The American tribal love-rock musical tells the story of a group of politically active, long-haired young people living a bohemian life in New York City and fighting against conscription into the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

Kate – a mum of four who also owns Mrs Birdy Café at South Golden Beach and works as an interior designer – says many of the

themes covered in *HAIR* are just as relevant today as when the musical was written. "We're seeing conscription in the war in Ukraine," she says. "The war on drugs is still happening, government control, gender equality... This is why art is so important. I believe the role of theatre is to hold a mirror up to society. You sit there, and you think about your own life and what's happening in the world."

Kate says her mission is to make the show as authentic as possible and transport the audience back in time. "The '60s movement was incredible," she says. "It was a magical time that brought together politics and war and love and equality. That counterculture revolution made an impact on the world, which is why we're still learning from it. *HAIR* is this



The cast of *HAIR*, letting their hair down, and the sunshine in Photos Peter Derrett

wonderful capsule of time. These guys were writing this as it was unfolding.”

With the help of three costumiers, the cast of 16 actors has been raiding their wardrobes, asking friends, scouring op shops and searching online for their outfits. They have also had support from Mr Vintage clothing store in Byron Bay.

Rehearsals have been taking place at the old Scout Hall in Bangalow Showground since October in preparation for the Byron Theatre season March 23 to April 1. It will be the first time the not-for-profit organisation has performed a show outside the A&I Hall. “Converting a hall into a theatre is incredibly costly and acoustically challenging,” Kate explains. “We’re moving to a space that’s built for theatre with sound, chairs and lights, and takes care of your ticket sales to streamline the process.” It is also the first production since *RENT* in July 2021, when Bangalow Theatre Company was the only creative body in NSW (possibly the world) to be putting on a live production.

“After *RENT* we all needed a break,” Kate says. “It was a fabulous show, but COVID made it stressful with capacity limits and budget blowouts.” But there is much excitement about the upcoming production. “What you see on stage is the culmination of passionate creatives coming together to create something because they love it and they want to give back to the community,” Kate says. “We get a lot of love back for it, which you don’t get in the city. There nobody knows or cares, but here people stop us in the street.”

## Home is where the heart is

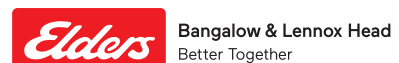


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*HAIR* is on at Byron Theatre from March 23 to April 1.  
 Tickets from \$44.50      [bangalowtheatre.com.au](http://bangalowtheatre.com.au)





Josh Rippingale has carved out a career as a luthier  
Photo Lyn McCarthy - Niche Pictures

## All work and all play

**Digby Hildreth tunes in with Josh Rippingale of Federal Strings to learn more about crafting and caring for stringed musical instruments.**

Josh Rippingale became obsessed with guitars around the age of eight, growing up in Federal and being “force-fed” early North American folk, country and blues music by his father.

That kind of finger-picking still excites him, he says, and guitars are now the focus of his working life as a luthier – someone who builds and repairs fretted instruments. That’s mainly acoustic guitars in Josh’s case, but also banjos, ukes, basses and the occasional harp or dulcimer,

though so far no lutes – the instrument that gave his craft its name.

“Guitars are the only thing I’ve encountered in my life that I’m incapable of being bored by,” he says. “Everything else that I’ve had an interest in, I’ve moved on from.”

Aged 17, Josh went to Brisbane to study journalism, then worked for the ABC for 12 years. He spent all his spare time as a “hired gun” for other artists and playing with various “scrappy pub rock or blues bands – none worth naming”.

He started doing his own repair work, then his bandmates’, then took to buying “clapped out” old guitars to disassemble and put back together, honing his technical skills and amassing “a two-car garage full”

of specialist tools and equipment.

Wanting to fabricate his own guitar but after half-a-dozen attempts realising he had no idea what he was doing, he went south to study with revered guitar builder Gerard Gilet. It was an “incredible experience”, Josh says, both from the perspective of seeing a master of the craft at work and coming to understand the commercial realities.

Studying with Gilet made him see that what had been a side-hustle was something needing his full-time attention. It also gave him a holistic sense of what was required to combine the two qualities of building an instrument: the aesthetic and the mechanical.

First, you need the woodworking chops to bend the timber, do the inlay, have it all look as neat and tidy and as aesthetic as you can, he says.

“At another level, the guitar is a machine that is required to function within a very specific and finite set of parameters in order to work as a viable high-grade musical instrument.”

The precision geometry needed is insanely precise, but without this the guitar cannot fulfil its primary purpose – to be functional.

Learning how the aesthetics and the mechanics work hand in hand was what took things to the next level, he says.

When he believed he could offer a professional level of service, he returned to his birthplace and set up Federal Strings, in a workshop within sight of the shed where he and a mate had practised as teenagers.

Maintenance work as a luthier is multi-faceted: Josh repairs traumatic injuries, restores old instruments with failed joints, “fettles” worn fretwork, nuts and saddles.

But the word “repair” is a misnomer, he says. “It’s more about keeping guitars healthy and playing well – including how their owner wants them to sound.

“One of the most enjoyable parts of the job is meeting people, hearing their story – and the instrument’s story – and going to work and getting the guitar in as good a condition as it can be for that particular player.”

Sometimes he is tasked to restore an instrument that has sentimental value only, and some guitars have an emotional resonance for him, too.

“They have periods of life; they age, need care and attention, and in many cases don’t last forever. Steel string guitars, especially, tend to have a finite lifetime. And that’s bitter-sweet.”

Every guitar is unique, he says. “Even if the timber used is from the same tree, there will be differences. I guess that is part of their mystery ... and what attracts me to them.”

While he really likes a lot of Australian timbers for guitar-making he is also acutely aware of the environmental context, and committed to ethical sourcing.

Hardwood is required for the back and sides, while the top – or soundboard – is traditionally a soft wood. He favours Queensland maple for necks because “it carves beautifully and is incredibly stable” and he can source it from a sustainable plantation.

For the top he mainly uses spruce, especially ethically harvested storm-downed trees.



**Tools of the trade**  
Photo Lyn McCarthy - Niche Pictures

Recently he has made backs and sides out of camphor laurel: “It’s plentiful and often removed as a pest. But it’s an incredible wood and is totally viable.”

The days of gigging are long gone, Josh says, but after a long day in the workshop and an evening with his young children, he still sits down every night to play, rejoicing in producing the music he heard at his own father’s knee – Big Bill Broonzy, the Reverend Gary Davis and the like.

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Trauma Teddies rescued from the Lismore flood waters Photo Isaac Brandon

## The floods, one year on

Essential updates on community organisations working to increase preparedness, resilience, rebuilding and recovery from the devastating floods of 2022.

### The Younger Heroes supporting flood-affected families in NSW

Bangalow's Damien Schofield is the founder and director of The Younger Heroes, who, with the financial support of the NSW State Government, will be running and supporting three programs for flood-affected families, focusing on individual and collective resilience and trauma recovery following on from natural disasters.

"Thanks to NSW State Government, our

sponsors and donors there will be no cost to this program for the registered participants," says Damien.

Each of the three programs will cater for 10 families (parents and children) from three local government areas in our region. The programs are suitable for individuals who have been on the front line supporting the recovery efforts and/or individuals who have been directly involved/impacted by the floods.

The Younger Heroes Team will consist of facilitators, support staff and health professionals with extensive experience in

supporting individuals and families, through delivering high-quality, experiential, and interactive/fun programs.

**Richmond Valley Shire -**  
24-26 March

**Byron Bay Shire -**  
27-29 March

**Lismore Shire -**  
30 March - 1 April

“The programs will be conducted in an outdoors/nature-based environment whilst minimising technology interruptions and unnecessary distractions. All accommodation and meals will be included. Participants will only need to get themselves to and from the meeting point near Uki,” says Damien.

This children and young people wellbeing project is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and the NSW Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Find out more at [theyoungerheroes.org/our-camps/flood-relief-program](http://theyoungerheroes.org/our-camps/flood-relief-program)

## Resilient Byron now Plan C

Founded in 2019, Resilient Byron recently announced a change of name to Plan C, and are on a mission to increase disaster preparedness in the Northern Rivers Region.

“The ‘C’ refers to community, connection, caring, cohesion, and collaboration. The ‘Plan’ refers to resilience, readiness and response, as well as our intent to steer our region to be more regenerative. And of course, the name also makes a quirky reference to ‘Plan B’, which refers to an alternative strategy,” says founder Dr Jean Renouf.

Dr Renouf is an academic at Southern Cross University, a local firefighter, and a former international aid worker with 15 years of experience working in war and disaster zones.

The organisation aims to build the resilience and regenerative capacities of Northern Rivers communities in the face of future disasters and crises.

Plan C is offering 170 free training places for any local resident interested in joining the Northern Rivers Community Carers and Responders Network (CCR) [ccrnetwork.org](http://ccrnetwork.org)

This project aims to support greater crisis

prevention, preparedness, response and recovery at the community level. It seeks to achieve this by setting up a network of 300+ volunteer CCRs across the Ballina, Byron, Tweed, Kyogle, Lismore and Richmond Valley LGAs who form a trained, connected and empowered network of community leaders dedicated to improving community cohesion and disaster resilience. CCRs learn about disaster resilience and community well-being, plus food, water, energy and housing security and also receive free training in first aid and psychological first aid.

Dr Renouf explains “The change underlines our desire to ensure that our name reflects our renewed focus. We continue building resilience, but we focus equally on fostering community connections and regeneration. We continue working in the Byron Shire, where we originally started, but have expanded to five other local government areas of the Northern Rivers, namely Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed. And yes, we’re looking into the Clarence Valley, but we’re just not ready yet.”

Learn more about becoming Community Carer and Responder with Plan C at [planc.org.au](http://planc.org.au)

**Sally Schofield**

## Mullum Cares

Across the region, many flood-affected homes are being rebuilt as they were. ‘Building back better’ should be everyone’s priority. It is a policy benefit for Suncorp building policyholders, and must surely become the new normal and fast.

Replacing floors, walls, kitchens and bathrooms with the same materials guarantees the residents in these homes will experience the same trauma and loss when the next

major flood hits. How is this being allowed to happen?

Mullum Cares and Zero Emissions Byron have been sharing flood-resilient retrofitting and design guideline information from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority since March last year. Mullum Cares Rebuild Flood Resilient team has met with over 60 homeowners, some of their insurer’s assessors and some of their builders.

The barriers that make it difficult for insurers and their builders to work with homeowners to build back better aren’t insignificant, but they can, and should, be overcome.

While we are focused on finding willing homeowners and tradespeople who have embarked on rebuilding flood resilient to share their stories, there’s no point getting other homeowners excited about the proven strategies they should consider if the builder their insurer has appointed refuses to consider any deviations. And this is happening to local people right now. Builders are refusing. Homeowners are being told they must choose between accepting a standard like-for-like rebuild or taking a cash settlement and to sort the rebuild out themselves.

One year on, we must amplify this situation because we owe it to the residents who will be living in these homes to help them avoid the predictable repeat of trauma and loss the next time our region experiences catastrophic flooding. I’ve realised it’s not just about avoiding the trauma of a future flood but significantly increasing peace of mind every time there is heavy rainfall. We can’t sit back and just let this happen.

Find out more [mullumcares.com.au/rebuild-flood-resilient](http://mullumcares.com.au/rebuild-flood-resilient)

**Sasha Mainsbridge**

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# The young folk



2021 Census data confirms there are more children in our community than the national average Photo Nathan Dumlao

Census data collected on 10 August 2021 helps tell us who we are and how we have changed. During 2023, *The Herald* will run a series of Census-based articles on significant changes in Bangalow and 2479. This first snapshot coincides with the start of the school year, and highlights a few noteworthy facts relating to children and young people and their education from early childhood through to tertiary study.

Firstly, we didn't see a big change between 2016 and 2021 in the proportion of 0-19 year olds living in Bangalow village. But whilst our figures rose slightly from 28.1% to 28.7% they are 4-5% higher than for both NSW and Australia. In comparison to the whole 2479 postcode there is marginally higher concentration of children and young people in the village itself.

The Census collects data on attendance at educational institutions, starting at early childhood and going through to university. There are a few changes worth commenting on for Bangalow and 2479.

Perhaps the most intriguing change in this cluster is the number of children residing in Bangalow village attending early childhood services. This figure jumped from 7% to 11.3% between 2016 and 2021. Remarkably, the 11.3% is far above both NSW (6.8%) and Australian (6.3%) figures. When you look at 2479 postcode as a whole the figures are not so startling, again suggesting that the big increase is from children residing in the village.

The jump cannot be explained by Bangalow's two new early childhood centres as they opened in 2022 after the Census. Nor is it the case that there are lots more 0-4 year olds.

Local early childhood centre directors think that the jump might be because more parents are keeping their children longer in early childhood services. Kerry Valensteen from Bangalow Community Children's Centre says, "In the past some children started school from four-and-a-half-years old, but now are more likely to start from five to nearly six years." Nicole Savino from Harmony Early Learning is definitely seeing this trend play out, "the research shows that children do better if they start school when they are emotionally ready and more resilient."

What is harder to explain is why this same trend is not reflected in the NSW or national data. One theory is that it may be a trend occurring in pockets of Australia like Bangalow,

with higher than average socioeconomic status, parents with higher education status and/or higher ratios of professionals.

Turning to primary schools, in 2016, 34.6% of people in the Bangalow village attended a primary school of any type. By 2021 that figure had dropped to 28.8% but remained slightly higher than both NSW and Australia. Bangalow Public School's enrolment numbers had decreased from 291 students in 2016, to 250 in the 2021 Census data. "The reason for the decline in enrolments [at Bangalow Public School] was due to a modified catchment area, and an updated Enrolment Policy which meant that we were no longer able to take students from outside of our catchment area, as we are above our centrally identified cap number," says principal Carol Antoun. "Once our school capital works are complete, our cap will increase. In the interim, we are currently sitting on approximately 260 students."

Coorabell showed a similar pattern with an overall fall in enrolments from 131 in 2016 to 115 in 2021. Newrybar, on the other hand, grew from 29 students in 2016 to 42 in 2021.

Again, this is hard to explain, given the relatively stable population figures for children in all age groups.

One contributing factor might be slight shifts in preference away from government schools towards non-government schools other than Catholic ones. In 2021 we sent fewer of our children to government primary schools and slightly more to non-government schools (for example Steiner and Christian schools other than Catholic schools). The attendance rates for Catholic schools remained relatively stable.

Looking at secondary schools, in 2016 18.3% of people in Bangalow attended a secondary school. By 2021 that figure had increased to 19.9%, slightly below both NSW and Australia. Between 2016 and 2021, the proportion of children attending government secondary schools remained relatively stable, as it did for Catholic schools. Similar to primary schools there was an increase in attendance at non-government schools other than Catholic schools (from 1.6% to 4.6%).

When our children leave school, a small proportion of them stay in the area and go to TAFE (4.6% in 2016 and 6.2% in 2021). These rates are slightly below state and national figures but are not noteworthy.

Another small group leave school, stay in the area and go to university (8.6% in 2016 rising to 14.7% in 2021). These rates are noteworthy as they are well below state and national figures. For example, compare

14.7% in 2021 against 23.8% for NSW, and 23.3% for Australia. This data points to what we might already know – not that our young people are not attending university, but that so many of them leave home and move elsewhere to study.

The Census data confirms that we have more children in our community than average. It points to a need to continue to put the educational, social and physical needs of our children and young people front and centre in our community work and our discussions with Council and the NSW Government regarding services and infrastructure.

**Jenny Bird**



Preschool and early childhood education continues to be popular in 2479 | Photo Sally Schofield

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**Iconic Bangalow Bill (RIP) loved the Billy Cart Derby** Photo Judy Baker

**Billy Cart Derby new date announced**

Some exciting news for our community: this year, the Bangalow Billy Cart Derby will return to its customary month of May, being held in the main street on Sunday 21 May 2023. It makes a lot of sense to move the Derby back to May for many reasons. The weather is a little more predictable at that time of year, and COVID restrictions have been eased, and in addition there's a lot happening in August in Bangalow with the Byron Writers Festival coming to town. We've got the much-loved Bangalow Show in November and the annual Bangalow Christmas Eve Carnival in December, all held at the Bangalow Showground.

Past attendees will know that the Billy Cart Derby also coincides with the Bangalow Public School major fundraiser, with the P&C Association hosting their family-fun filled 'The Pit Stop' fair day as usual in collaboration with the Bangalow Lions Club. Stay tuned for more updates as we move into autumn.

**Greg Nash**



**Flu season is fast approaching, be prepared** Photo Kelly Sikkema

**2023 Flu vax time!**

Typically, Australia's influenza cases peak in August, however last year it was in late May and early June 2022. Annual influenza vaccination is recommended before the influenza season starts. Protection is expected to last for the whole season, but optimal protection is within the first 3-4 months after vaccination. Children aged 6 months to 9 years who are receiving their first lifetime dose should receive the vaccine as soon as possible after it becomes available. This helps to ensure enough time to receive a second dose (recommended ≥4 weeks later) before the influenza season starts.

A free influenza vaccine is available for everyone over 65 years, individuals with specific immunocompromised conditions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from 6 months, pregnant woman and children 6 months to 5 years.

At Bangalow Medical Centre, we will be running our influenza clinics on Thursdays from 23 March. Our clinics will run with a doctor and nurse for a 10-minute appointment.

Private Influenza vaccines can also be booked with one of our nursing staff at a cost of \$25.

Contact Bangalow Medical Centre 6687 1079 or Visit Hotdocs for your next appointment.

**Practice Manager**



**Bangalow Tennis Club juniors are a smashing success** Photo Ben Hershey

**Top shots from rising tennis stars the Field twins!**

Last month, Junior Bangalow Tennis Club members Ollie and Miles Field competed as the top four in their age group in the Upper North East (Tweed to Grafton) team against the Lower North East team at Coffs Harbour. The team narrowly lost, but it was great experience for Ollie and Miles. The players had on-court coaching during their games, as the competition was about developing and encouraging the players' potential. Brandon Rowe and his team commenced junior coaching at the Bangalow Tennis Club in the first week of school term. Contact Brandon on 0400 403 323 for more details. Club membership renewals are now due, and new members are always welcome. Find out more [bangalowntennisclub.com.au](http://bangalowntennisclub.com.au)

The club committee has been busy improving the clubhouse. Members and casual users will notice the new kitchen, bathrooms and coat of paint that has freshened up the interior. These improvements were made possible with a grant from the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

**Annie Abbink, Honorary Secretary**

**Flood Anniversary Events**

The Byron Shire community is invited to come together to mark one year on from the 2022 floods that devastated the region.

Come along to any of the following events. Further details are at [byron.nsw.gov.au/flood-anniversary-events](http://byron.nsw.gov.au/flood-anniversary-events). All welcome!

**Farmers and Friends – Seedling Connection one year on**

**Friday 24 March**

1pm to 4pm. The Paddock Project, 64 Argyle St, Mullumbimby.

RSVP by Friday 17 March: [seedlingconnection.eventbrite.com.au](http://seedlingconnection.eventbrite.com.au)

**Reflect and Connect Days – supporting each other**

**Sunday 5 March**

10am to 2pm. Stan Robinson Park, Mullumbimby (next to Council building).

**Art Therapy Sessions**

**Saturday 11 March**

12.30 to 3.30pm. Marvell Hall, Byron Bay.

**Wednesday 15 March**

10.30am to 1.30pm. Durrumbul Hall, 16 Mud Brick Lane, Main Arm.

**Wednesday 22 March**

10.30am to 1.30pm. Suffolk Park Hall. Sessions limited to 15 so please book, go to [humanitix.com](http://humanitix.com) and use Byron Shire in the search.

**After Disaster Project Documentary and Performance**

A short documentary featuring local songwriters who worked with The Pocket and Main Arm Schools to produce nice songs about the floods, natural disasters and climate change.

**Monday 27 March**

11.30am: Doco screening at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.

5.30pm: Doc screening plus performance by the Big Voice Community Choir.

**Tuesday 28 March**

11.30am: Doco screening at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.

5.30pm: Performance including the combined choir from Main Arm and The Pocket Schools.

## Don't stop and drop! Kiss and ride

Warwick Maguire, the school crossing supervisor at Bangalow Public School, has an urgent message to local parents who are stopping in the No Stopping Zone out the front of the school. "I spoke to a parent who recently received a fine in the mail for dropping her child off in the No Stopping zone across the road from the school," he says.

"About two weeks ago I noticed an unmarked police car parked opposite the school, and I thought he was targeting speeding through the school zone, but it seems he was targeting drivers who stop in the School Bus Zone and the No Stopping zones to drop their children off for school."

The School Bus Zone extends from the corner of Station Lane near Bang Burger Bar all the way to the marked pedestrian crossing at the school entrance. No Stopping zones are also enforced opposite the school from Yogalates to the Fire Station.

Parents are encouraged to turn into Market Street (also a No Stopping zone) and continue around to the left where there is a designated Kiss and Ride zone.

"Please be aware, if you are booked by a parking patrol you will find a ticket on your windscreen, if you are booked by a police officer, you won't know about it until around two weeks later. The fines are huge (\$362 revealed one parent) and there could also be a loss of points off your licence," he says. The No Stopping and Bus Zone hours are 8.00am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4.00pm Monday to Friday during school term and excluding public holidays.

**Sally Schofield**



Some of the fine feathered friends you may find at the Bangalow Poultry Club auction  
Photo supplied

## Poultry Auction back in action

Floods and COVID prevented the Bangalow Poultry Club from having an auction for the last three years. But this year we are back.

If you need laying chickens for the back yard or pets for the family or chickens for any other reason, come to the Bangalow Showground Sunday 16 April.

The auction will start at 10am sharp, but you can view the birds from 8.30am.

A catalogue will be available, and several stewards will be in the poultry pavilion for your convenience, please seek their advice on anything you need to know.

EFTPOS will be available on the day or just bring your cash, and a box to take your birds home. You must register at the office and have a bidder's number if you are buying.

Brian Kennedy, the Club's auctioneer, has a wealth of knowledge on poultry as he breeds, exhibits and judges all over the nation and has over 40 years' experience in auctioneering. Breakfast, morning tea and lunch is available along with coffee, tea and cold drinks. This is a family fun day out, so bring the children, bring Nana, bring a box, and bring your card or cash, and experience the thrill of a poultry auction in Bangalow.

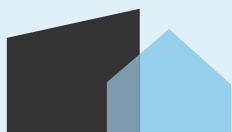
**Glenda McKenzie, Bangalow Poultry Club**

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# Sharing and repairing: radical acts

Lukas Mickus is the Library's newest fortnightly active member. He is in need of an assistant.  
All photos Christobel Munson

**Christobel Munson explores the convenient treasures of The Library of Stuff, where borrowing beats buying and creates an awareness of our excessive spending and unnecessary waste.**



Scenario 1. You're planning an important event – a 21st birthday party, a wedding or a wake. You'll be needing plates, cutlery, cups, napkins, tablecloths, even the marquee and chairs. You can buy them but then there's the cost and what do with these items after the event. Lots of this ends up in landfill.

Scenario 2. You'd love to blitz that special area of your garden one weekend. But the tools you'd need make the job easier are expensive to buy, and you'd only need them once or twice a year. So maybe you'll buy a cheaper version, even though you know they're not built to last. Landfill again.

Around the world and around Australia, a community-driven grassroots movement has been initiating a new way of accessing infrequently used items: via libraries of things. Around 40 libraries exist around Australia, mostly in large cities. The first one to cover the Byron Shire - the Library of Stuff, established in 2017 - is based in Mullumbimby.

Co-founder Sasha Mainsbridge was

inspired by the documentary *The Story of Stuff*, by San Francisco's Annie Leonard. As Sasha explains: "The Story of Stuff details the detrimental effects of increasing consumption of low-quality consumer goods. With cheap, less durable options available, more expensive, longer-lasting goods are being purchased less and less, and the impact is evident in the increasing volume of waste our communities are producing, and climate change. The majority of emissions generated are directly related to the extraction, distribution and disposal of goods for human consumption."

As she puts it: "Sharing and repairing are decidedly radical acts these days. Why? They directly oppose the capitalist purpose of modern society."

You may – or may not – see yourself as a radical opposing the capitalist purpose of modern society. But you may well be considering the cost – both financial, and to the environment - of your upcoming family event or your proposed DIY garden make-over, for example.



**Jude Alcorn, Celina Massa and Sasha Mainsbridge**

A volunteer team of 10 operates the Library of Stuff, a community asset and a project of Mullum Cares Inc. It is filled “with good quality items that are shared amongst its members and provides affordable access to items for the Byron Shire community”. To use any of the 1,247 items in its inventory, you become a member paying \$50 for an annual subscription, and you contribute what you can to the running of the operation. Since it began, the Library has loaned out 12,301 items. Located in a brick shed south of Mullumbimby Community Hall, it is open for two hours, three days a week. Repairs on inventory items are performed by two of the team.

Among the most frequently borrowed items are a pole saw, quoits (there are heaps of kids’ games available), hedge trimmer, orbital sander, sewing machine, a Gerni and a trailer. The inventory includes sporting equipment, games, camping equipment and hobbies and crafts.

Co-founder Celine Massa puts it like this. “We’re not just a cheap hire service. We’re a community non-profit organisation composed

of like-minded people. Members get involved with the Library operation and can get to know others living in their community, while being able to give back to a cause they really believe in.”

Active members are welcome. “We’re a movement,” Celine explains. “In participating, our members become

part of that movement. They’re saying: ‘This is the kind of world I want to be part of, that I want to create’. They’re saying: ‘I want to reduce the amount of stuff I own and decrease my impact on the environment’.”

Feedback from users is universally positive. “The library is a place full of hope for us as a community. It is a practical answer to issues relating to reducing our individual consumption, stepping away from a monetary-only exchange. And the conversations and community have helped me personally, enormously.” Sarah.

“The Library of Stuff is the answer to becoming more ecologically friendly and financially savvy. Every town should have a Library of Stuff. It’s essential, and I can’t imagine myself going without a membership,” says Anna.

“I love the Library of Stuff because it allows us to borrow things instead of buying them... I think the library demonstrates that there is another path. We can share and repair. Kids these days are desperate for hope for the



**Sasha Mainsbridge offering Makita tools for loan**

future of their planet and the Library of Stuff provides that hope. It illustrates a practical way that we all, as members, can make a difference in the world,” says Dominique.

Visit [libraryofstuff.org.au](http://libraryofstuff.org.au)

**“Sharing and repairing are decidedly radical acts these days. Why? They directly oppose the capitalist purpose of modern society.”**

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# Over the Overland Track



Barn Bluff with *Richea scoparia* flowers  
All photos Joanna Wilkinson

**Newrybar's Joanna Wilkinson shares her journey of challenging herself physically and mentally to achieve a long-held goal of trekking solo on one of Australia's most picturesque tracks.**

**“It sounds cliched, but nothing could have prepared me more than beginning to believe in myself and my physical ability.”**

My family visited Cradle Mountain World Heritage National Park in January last year. Amongst the wombats, on the button grass plains at Ronny Creek, I saw the sign for beginning of the Overland Track. This is a multi-day hike that takes you through the World Heritage listed Tasmanian wilderness from Ronny Creek near Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair. This area has been carved out by glaciers, millions of years ago. Along the hike you walk through ancient rainforests, past

fragrant eucalypts and wildflowers, moorlands, and stunning alpine meadows. There's also the opportunity to summit Mt Ossa, Tasmania's highest peak and swim in alpine fresh waterfalls, lakes, and tarns.

Hikers can stay in designated huts at predetermined places along the track, however, depending on space, all hikers must carry a three-to-four season-rated tent and be prepared to 'camp out' if the need arises. You must also carry a mandatory personal locator beacon (as there is no mobile reception), wet weather gear, thermal clothing, water and all your food and daily requirements. You can opt to go with a third-party tour operator that organises all this, but for me, where's the fun in that?

After a failed hike to the summit at Hartz Mountain, in Southern Tasmania, a week later,

my goal of attempting The Overland Track started to take seed.

For years, I'd put up with an ongoing knee injury. I decided to have an MRI, and the results threw me into action. Not only did I have no cartilage left, and a few bone spurs, but my kneecap was also displaced. My doctor recommended that I see an Exercise Physiologist and get to work trying to repair the damage.

After several months of knee rehab, and after returning to CrossFit in Ballina, the owner and Coach, Ehren asked me if I'd be interested in going with a group to tackle The Overland Track. Initially, I doubted myself. But after giving myself a good talking to, and with my husband Craig's support, I agreed to join them on my first ever multi-day hike.

Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife



Day 3: The longest and prettiest section, a 16.3km hike across to Pelion



Kia Ora to Burt Nichols walking through eucalypt forests



Cradle Mountain with advice Lake on the foreground.

release tickets every July, and they also limit the number of daily hikers on the track to 34 people. Since I wasn't using a third party to complete the hike, I had to book my own ticket online. After booking my place, the website was subsequently shutdown due to technical errors. As a result, my group of friends didn't get a place on the track. I was to either cancel my ticket or tackle the hike alone.

Thankfully, I didn't cancel my ticket. However, I knew that I'd have to put in a lot of effort to be able to complete this hike solo. My training included weighted pack walks around Newrybar, tackling the Cape Byron Lighthouse walk, and walks along the coastal trail from Lennox Head to Ballina.

In January 2023, I completed the Overland Track. It took me seven days to complete the hike, as I walked the entire track instead of catching the ferry from Narcissus Hut (which is an option to reduce your time trekking). It was an incredible experience, and one that was blessed by the weather. It's spurred me on to complete further hikes in the future, and I've certainly learned that I need to pack much lighter than I did. It sounds cliched, but nothing could have prepared me more than beginning to believe in myself and my physical ability.

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<p>21 Byron Bay Rd, Bangalow   6687 2741   <a href="http://www.bangalowbowlo.com.au">www.bangalowbowlo.com.au</a>   <a href="#">f</a> bangalowbowlo   <a href="#">@thebowlo</a></p>		



Photos Chris Parry

The Sanctuary is home to more than 100 animals, including kangaroos, rabbits, guinea pigs, snakes, a crocodile and family favourites, wombat Manda and Arni the koala. It has a daily program of keeper talks and interactive activities, as well as an 18-hole mini golf course, a water park, toddler playground, café and gift shop selling predominantly locally-produced and sustainable products. The special Ballina-Byron edition of Monopoly, on which the attraction features, is also available for purchase.

The Sanctuary has also introduced a weekly Puggles Playgroup at 10am on Wednesdays, with storytelling, craft, games and other activities. The newly developed Wild Jarjum Nature Play Program, for children aged three to six year olds, will begin in term two. It also offers school holiday programs, including Wildlife Guardians for children aged eight to 12 and Keeper for a Day for 12 to 18-year-olds. The Sanctuary also often hosts live music, as well as private and corporate events.

The changes come after the attraction was bought by not-for-profit organisation Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, which operates from within a custom-built semi-trailer, affectionately known as Matilda, on the site. The mobile hospital was previously parked at Ewingsdale, hence the name Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital. Open seven days a week, it has two full-time veterinarians, two vet nurses, five administration staff and a CEO, with state-of-the-art equipment to provide care for sick, injured and orphaned native animals. It can be transported to the scene of a natural disaster such as a bushfire, flood, mass stranding or oil spill affecting wildlife on a large scale. Members of the public and licensed wildlife carers can take sick, injured and orphaned animals to the Hospital for treatment and care, free of charge. You can buy Wildlife Car Rescue Kits to keep in your vehicle in case you come across an injured animal. It costs the Hospital, which is funded by donations, an average of \$555 per patient for an initial consult, anaesthesia, X-rays, pain relief, fluid therapy and hospitalisation. This does not include the cost of medicines or surgery.

Every dollar spent at Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is reinvested in the conservation, rehabilitation and future of Australian wildlife. A Go Fund Me page has also been set up to help raise money for the improvements.

**Angela Saurine**

## Macadamia Castle reborn as Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary

The attraction formerly known as Macadamia Castle has started a new chapter as the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, with big changes expected at the Knockrow site over the next two years. They include plans for structural and aesthetic upgrades and habitat improvements for resident wildlife, including the rebuilding of the reptile house, nocturnal house and free flight aviary. The profit-for-purpose business will have a strong focus on conservation, education, Indigenous engagement and ecotourism initiatives.

As part of the upgrade, the six-metre-high knight that has stood guard at the attraction since 1985 has been relocated to Coffs Harbour Butterfly House. The knight was created by Ken McDonald, who previously operated a nursery there, with the help of surfboard shaper Bob McTavish. There are plans to replace it with a giant sculpture of the Dirawong, a spiritual creature also known as the goanna spirit that is significant to Bundjalung people.



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# Local Business Guide - By Local Pegs



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- 10 Towers Drive, Mullumbimby
- 0424 488 784
- [hempcollective.com.au](http://hempcollective.com.au)
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## Heaps Good

Heaps Good Food Store, Formerly named The Nook, is located in Mullumbimby and offers delicious fresh food. They serve up humble food, coffee, broths, groceries & more. You know, stuff that's heaps good.

- 65 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
- [the-nook-in-mullumbimby.business.site](http://the-nook-in-mullumbimby.business.site)
- 10% Off with Pegs App



## NO BONES

No Bones opened its doors in April 2018 with a mission to change the way people think about vegan food. With each new seasonal menu their Executive Chef, Ben Streater, takes time and care to ensure they source as many local products as possible, both to support incredible farmers, and to guarantee that they are serving the freshest, most nutritious food that they can.

NO BONES now has two locations! One in Byron and one in Ocean Shores.

- 11 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
- 82 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores
- 0481 148 007
- [nobonesbyronbay.com.au](http://nobonesbyronbay.com.au)
- 25% Off with Pegs App





## The Olive Place

The Olive Place is a café deli inspired by Southern France, and operated by the Byron Bay Olive Co team. Byron Bay Olive Co believes in giving their customers the highest quality products with the most amazing flavours.

Their Organic Olives are grown using organic principles. The Olives are naturally ripened on the tree, hand picked and then pickled in a salt brine for 15 months. This process retains the olives' health benefits and enhances their natural flavours. Visit their café deli, situated in Byron Bay's Arts & Industry Estate, for some delicious Mediterranean inspired cuisine.

-  3/29 Brigantine St, Byron Bay
-  0431 842 340
-  [byronbayoliveco.com](http://byronbayoliveco.com)
-  20% Off with Pegs App



## MASA

MASA is an artisan craft bakehouse located in the Industrial Estate of Byron Bay. They offer a range of delicious sweet treats including croissants, scrolls, danishes, cruffins and more. Get your sweet fix at MASA!

-  8/18 Centennial Cct, Byron Bay
-  0450 161 700
-  [order.platform.hungryhungry.com/masabyronbay/](http://order.platform.hungryhungry.com/masabyronbay/) menu
-  10% Off with Pegs App



## North Byron Hotel

Embracing our Byron Bay climate, the North Byron Hotel is a space for eating, drinking and relaxing amongst the gardens alongside friends and family.

By night they transform into an idyllic, fairy light-lit hub of good vibes, live music & Byron Bay buzz. Serving up recognisable & nostalgic food with a twist, encompassing everything from share plates and snacks to main meals and mouth-tantalising desserts. Their unique cocktails are made with local faves like Brookies Gin, XII Apostles Gin and Stone & Wood.

-  61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
-  (02) 6685 6500
-  [northbyronhotel.com.au](http://northbyronhotel.com.au)
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# Local Business Guide - By Local Pegs




## Casa Luna


Casa Luna is a cultural venue providing an all round dining experience with the most exciting food, signature cocktails and local & international music.


Casa Luna offers tapas and shared Mediterranean food that's both delicious and elegant. The seasonal menu and cocktails are imbued with influence and character from all areas of Latin heritage and culture.

Casa Luna aims to provide the most exciting food, drink and dance experience in Byron Bay.

 9 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay

 0423 271 772

 [casalunabyronbay.com](http://casalunabyronbay.com)


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Casa Luna


## Bangalow Aesthetic

Bangalow Aesthetic is a locally owned, Doctor led clinic committed to providing customised beauty, skin rejuvenation therapy and cosmetic injectables. They offer a range of treatments all of which which can be tailored to your personal skin needs.

 Suite 5/20 Byron St, Bangalow

 0422 639 013

 [bangalowaesthetic.com](http://bangalowaesthetic.com)

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Bangalow Aesthetic


## Locavore


Locavore is a farmers market aggregator based in Byron Bay, that combines the first dedicated butchery for Brooklet Springs Farm, with an all-new retail destination.

Locavore Byron curates and sells locally grown and made groceries from the region. Their store sells a variety of local produce including prepared meals, wild game meat, bone broth and more. Their store is located in the heart of Byron Bay and is open 7 days a week. They also offer home delivery options for their produce.

 Shop 6+7/90 Jonson St, Byron Bay

 0400 119 312

 [locavorebyron.com](http://locavorebyron.com)

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Locavore





## Gaia Soul Designs


Gaia Soul Designs was born in Byron Bay in 2014 by Natalia Sanchez, director and designer. are a sustainable footwear brand, creating unique designs that combine both style and comfort.

Since the beginning, Natalia has been designing beautiful leather sandals with a bohemian and contemporary vibe. Her creative designs are made with the finest natural leather, ergonomic soles and beautiful earth toned colours. Gaia Soul Designs was created on four strong foundations: sustainability, fair trade, hand made and high-end quality.

 7/10 Station St, Bangalow

 0402 515 624

 [gaisoul designs.com](http://gaisoul designs.com)


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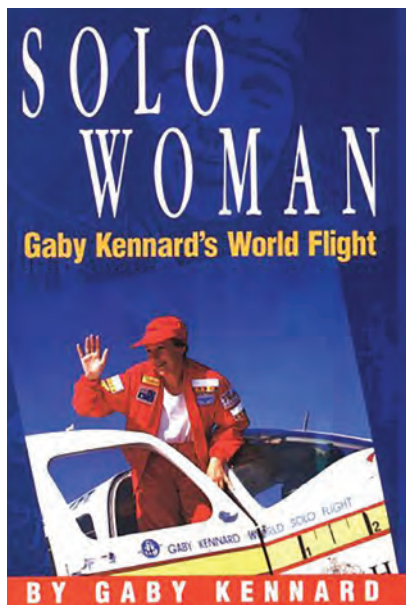
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Mullum Cares, with support from the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC), is working to support and provide guidance to homeowners, communities and industry about Resilient Retrofitting as part of the NRRC's Resilient Homes Program.



# Solo Woman

by Gaby Kennard



So many memorable things happened in 1989; the Tiananmen Square student protest, the dismantling of the wall between East and West Berlin, the Exxon Valdez disaster, the first written proposal for the world wide web, and, ten days after the birth of my first born, Gaby Kennard took to the skies to be the first Australian woman to circumnavigate the world by plane.

Offering to read a memoir is thwart with difficulty for me; what if it is boring and I can't finish it? Thankfully that was not the case; this was a very enjoyable memoir. From the easily understood technical aspects of the gadgets involved in flying a plane, the complicated installation of several auxiliary fuel tanks, the paperwork, the near disasters, the paperwork, the emotional toll of leaving family behind and being all alone and, did I mention the paperwork?

Inspired by Amelia Earhart's world flight, Gaby follows the same flight path where possible and visits significant memorials to Earhart along her 99-day journey.

Gaby writes so well that descriptions of her plane plummeting because of auxiliary fuel tank failure and being tossed around like a cork in the ocean in storms were terrifying. And the frustration of dealing with the paperwork on entry to a new country, not to mention the absolute appalling treatment she received in some countries because of her gender.

Although this book specifically covers the 99 days of this trip, Gaby does not hold back on her personal background. The many hours of solitude spent in the air give her an opportunity to explore the impact of childhood trauma and her imminent divorce from her second husband – I really loved that she was unafraid to be honest about those challenging and very personal aspects of her life.

As she neared the end of her journey I felt very emotional about her arrival at the Australian cities of Darwin, Alice Springs and finally, Sydney where she was overwhelmed by the skies buzzing with helicopters and light planes escorting her home. You don't need to be interested in flying to enjoy this very commendable book.

Gaby Kennard is a former resident of the Bangalow Hinterland, and her book can be purchased at Bookworms & Papermites a.k.a. Bangalow Newsagency.

**Carolyn Adams**

# Vollies on Writers Fest frontline



The 2023 Byron Writers Festival may have an exciting new home in Bangalow, but its success depends on something as old as the festival itself: a small army of volunteers.

During the festival, their number can swell to more than 150, many of them returning year after year.

Their experience and local knowledge are invaluable, says Shien Chee, former volunteer co-ordinator and now Festival general manager.

"We receive amazing feedback about them, and the festival would not be possible without them," she says.

"Apart from the venue roles (managers, author liaison, sponsor liaison, accessibility) we also have incredibly important bump-in/bump-out crews, parking, gates/ticketing, info, media, and pre-festival admin roles. We are very grateful for every one of them."

The vollie army is made up of people of all ages who come with a great diversity of experience, and a wide range of reasons for signing on.

of something wonderful,” Shien says. Federal’s Marin Simpson is a librarian, a big reader and a veteran vollie. She describes herself as a massive fan of most of the authors at the festival.

One powerful memory is of seeing Burringbar writer Jessie Cole after reading her book *Staying: A Memoir*, about surviving the suicide of loved ones.

“Often a theme emerges throughout the festival, and that year it was grief. I had had a big year of grief with the loss of my mum and a best friend, so it was an emotional weekend. A lot of authors talked about grief – about getting through it and changing as a result. Seeing Jessie was very healing.”

Highlights are often unexpected: “I’ve never been a big Cold Chisel or Barnsey fan but Jimmy Barnes was so lovely. He asked me my name, thanked me ... just a really nice guy. And I got a selfie with him!”

Another time she chanced upon local journalist Mick O’Regan interviewing ex-Sydney Swans star Michael O’Loughlin.

“I couldn’t be less interested in football but I went along with a footy fan friend and it was just mesmerising; witnessing Mick’s genius as an interviewer and hearing Michael’s life story was fascinating.

“In some of the panels, I haven’t had a clue who some of the people were and I’ve come away thinking ‘I could read each and every one of their books.’

And will she be volunteering again for this August’s event?

“Absolutely!” she says.



A vollie’s life is a lot of fun but it’s not all reading in the pool!  
Photo Lyn McCarthy - Niche Pictures



Marin takes great delight in snapping selfies with some of her favourite authors and panelists, seen here with Kerry O’Brien, Leigh Sales, and Krissy Kneen.

Her preferred role is in author liaison, which gives her the chance to meet her literary heroes.

Some are avid readers; others aspiring writers; some seek a sense of community and connection with others; friendships are formed; partners often volunteer together. “The demographic also includes many retired people who see it as an opportunity to be part

“I love seeing authors whose books I’ve read, and finding out more about them,” she says. “I’m always looking for that thread of connection. The thing I might have in common with the writer or performer. Then I feel more connected to their work.”

The Byron Writers Festival runs from August 11-13.

Festival Volunteer applications open in May.

**Digby Hildreth**

### Byron Writers Festival at Bangalow

Showgrounds August 11-13.  
Discounted 3-Day passes on sale from 29 March - 5 April.

For updates on festival tickets, program and volunteer opportunities, subscribe to Byron Writers Festival’s eNews [viabyronwritersfestival.com/subscribe](http://viabyronwritersfestival.com/subscribe)

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## Bluedogs encourage diversity in lead up to Women's FIFA World Cup

**Bangalow Bluedogs is invested in women's skills and passion for soccer Photos Maralyn Hanigan**

In a show of inclusivity and solidarity, this year, the Bangalow Bluedogs soccer club is committed to making it a year celebrating women in soccer.

Back in 1991 the first Women's World cup kicked off in China, and in July this year the 9th FIFA Women's World Cup will be hosted in Australia and New Zealand in what is sure to be one of the year's biggest and most electric sporting event showcasing some of the worlds most talented players.

Meanwhile in 2479, our much-loved Bluedogs are committed to increasing gender equality, inclusiveness and opportunity for females from juniors through to seniors. There has never been a better time for girls of all ages to give the 'beautiful game' a go. The club is introducing more connection between female junior and senior teams, lunches, gala days and more. When the FIFA Women's World cup hits Australia in July, the excitement and interest towards soccer will be at a fever pitch. This year is the perfect time to be part of the story.

I got the opportunity to chat with one of the rising stars of Bangalow women's Premiership team, Hayli Shiels, to find out how she got into soccer. "I was around 10 years old and spent hours on the sidelines watching my brother play, thinking why can't I play soccer? So one

day I gave it a go and loved it, 10 years later, I am still hooked."

Hayli had a great coach who spotted potential and nurtured her skills and confidence. "It was amazing to have someone who believes in you, and pushes you to be the best you can be".

Hayli joined the Bangalow Bluedogs last year, "I contacted the club and got such a lovely email inviting me to join a social training. Everyone in the club was so welcoming. I quickly connected with the team and signed up". Last season was tough on all clubs with the floods and wet weather postponing training and games, but according to Hayli, the team camaraderie remained fantastic. "I love playing soccer as you bond as a team and work hard together to achieve. In the tough times, you have each other's back, and when we score, there is such a great feeling, I love being part of the Bluedogs. They are such a great group."

Hayli started playing as a defender but has since moved into an attacking role on the wing. "I enjoy the space on the wing and running the ball past the opposition to set up goals."

When asked her thoughts about the FIFA World Cup being hosted in Australia, Hayli's excitement was clear. "It will be amazing having such a massive competition here and seeing our Matildas perform on home soil.

"Football World Cups create such a buzz in the host nation, and I can't wait for our community to experience this atmosphere and watch these incredible players."

Hayli shared how playing for the Bluedogs is progressing her soccer and connecting her to the local community. "You don't need to have played before to give it a go. It's such a supportive and fun group of people".

There are opportunities right across the club to join all girl teams, from the Women's teams, through to Under 16s to Under 11s girls.

Keen to know more or join an informal kick around? Contact Tara, the Bluedogs Female Liaison Honcho on 0427 895 700 or info@bangalowbluedogs.com.au

Boys? Feeling left out? The Bluedogs are looking to build on last year's success where the Men's Championship team and the Boys U15 both secured wins in the Minor and Major comps, and the U12 Boys and U12 girls were runners up. There are spots available across the Miniroos, Competitive Junior and Men's teams.

All players can register now at [playfootball.com.au](http://playfootball.com.au)

**Simon Field**

# Strength in numbers - Bangalow and Byron Rugby unite

The beautiful Bangalow sports fields are beginning to buzz with our winter codes' pre-season, and there's extra excitement building around the new joint venture between the Bangalow and Byron Bay rugby clubs. Both clubs have enjoyed a rich history and a healthy local on-field rivalry for many years and are now combining to represent this area as the Byron Shire Rebels.

Both Bangalow and Byron have faced ongoing challenges in recruiting players and volunteers at the level required to be consistently competitive against the bigger rugby clubs in an increasingly competitive Far North Coast competition. So the hard-working committees, players and supporters from both clubs have embraced the decision to combine forces.

The joint venture builds on the significant growth of junior player numbers over the last few years. It will also allow the new Byron Shire Rebels to field more than 10 teams from under 7's through to Under 16's and provide a direct pathway through to representative and senior rugby. Our partnership with the Mullumbimby/



Byron Shire Rebels Junior players, left to right, Harley Horin, Reuben Eastwell, Ted Garbett, Zac Schofield, Alfie Whitaker and Xavier Dann. Photo Dave Eastwell

Brunswick Billy Goats Junior Rugby Club will also continue and support junior rugby in the Shire.

Following the Bangalow Rebels' most successful first-grade season last year after making the grand final, and with the injection of players from the joint venture, there is real hope that the Byron Shire Rebels could add a first-grade premiership cup to the trophy cabinet in 2023. There are also plans for strong teams in the reserve grade and women's rugby competitions.

This is an exciting year for the sport with the Rugby World Cup hosted by France in September and a grassroots injection from Rugby Australia, so this is a great time to get involved with our wonderful game. Rugby Union is a sport that is not just inclusive but embraces all sizes and body shapes within a healthy team environment. Girls aged 14 and under can play in mixed-gender teams, and women's rugby for 15-year-olds through to seniors is an exciting area of growth in the region.

The majority of junior training and home games will be at Bangalow, and the senior home games will be split between Byron and Bangalow home grounds. Junior games are played Friday night and Senior games are Saturday afternoon. Junior training will be on Tuesdays or Wednesdays depending on the age group.

If you want to get a taste of some great community sport, get to a home game and cheer on the Byron Shire Rebels in 2023! If you want you or your child to be involved in rugby, then get in touch. Pre-season fitness and touch footy has already started on Tuesdays from 4-5pm at the Bangalow Sports Fields.

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# The Western Australian Flowering Gum

Eucalypts still constitute a very large proportion of the Australian vegetation, despite widespread large-scale clearing. It has been estimated that about 90% of remnant and regrowth forests are Eucalyptus dominant.

The number of species and varieties which botanists recognise varies but there are over 450 more or less distinct forms, and they are found literally in every corner of our continent.

The characteristics used to distinguish these species include the form of the tree, its bark, foliage, flowers, fruit and seeds. This can be difficult as many are closely related so where they are growing must be another marker.

Western Australian eucalypts (*Eucalyptus ficifolia*) are generally more colourful than those elsewhere, and for this reason, many have been adapted by different horticultural means to be planted far from their natural habitat.

Hybridisation and grafting onto sturdy rootstock are the most usual, and most Western Australian Flowering Gums in our region will be on rootstock selected for its ability to thrive in heavy soils with high summer rainfall and humidity.

This is totally different from their natural range in dry sandy soils with winter rainfall and hot, dry summers.

Interestingly, Eucalypts are almost impossible to propagate from cuttings so cultivars are few.

The International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature attempt to standardise common names but, with such an enormous number, apart from the reclassification of some previously known as 'gums' as *Corymbia*, it is an ongoing process.

*Eucalyptus ficifolia* can produce red,



The Western Australian Flowering Gum in bloom Photos Carole Gamble

pink or even white flowers within the same classification, but they all exhibit the same smallish, stubby form. Rarely growing higher than four to five metres, they can make spectacular street trees and the gumnuts are large and distinctive.

I grew up in Perth and gumnut fights were part of childhood in nearby suburban bush, where boys and girls engaged in regular peltings, protecting cubby houses from the enemy. They really hurt when they connected!

When selecting a planting site, *Eucalyptus ficifolia* must have the best possible drainage and full sun for the best flowering. They set

large sprays of buds in November each year that will gradually open until late February or March. Native bees and butterflies swarm from dawn to dusk and attract nectar-feeding birds that return each year, including many that we never usually see. They can take several years to flower and require no feeding because they naturally do best in poor soils.

As a small to medium-sized tree, they can be planted more widely as they give a wonderful display and make spectacular street trees.

Carole Gamble




# Yellowstone, clay and more to get you through March

**Irreverent** (Netflix) is a quirky comedy/drama, about an American mafia negotiator, on the run from villains in the US, who, through a series of unexpected events and on the run, ends up in a remote North Queensland community with no Internet access, disguised as the replacement priest. The community takes him at face value, and a tangled storyline involving drugs, young love, faith and other confusions follow. There are mix-ups, and other misunderstandings which make for a funny, very likeable drama. In these changeable times, a little light entertainment is much needed. Lord knows we need a laugh.



**Summer Love** (ABC iView) is a series of eight stories about different sets of people staying in a holiday house on the Victorian coastline. This show is quality, homegrown drama. Each episode deals with topics such as love, racism, relationships and more in a quirky and relatable way. There is wonderful ensemble acting from a great Australian cast. Written and produced by Robyn Butler and Wayne Hope (**Upper Middle Bogan, The Librarians**), again, in a complicated world, this makes for enjoyable viewing. I suggest you give yourself a break from the relentless grind of terrible news and watch this.

If it's total escapism you seek, then switch to Stan and watch **Yellowstone**. This five-series show is immensely popular, loved for its cowboys, dramatic scenery, horses, and the intricacies of savage political and familial power struggles. The Dutton family, who own the Yellowstone ranch, must fight developers,

negotiate relationships with the people of the nearby Indian reservation, the creep of State power and its associated interference and sometimes each other. It's brutal and often violent. There are plenty of guns in this compelling family saga. John Dutton (Kevin Costner) at his handsome, husky best, and his children are ruthless in their battle to protect the land. Beth Dutton (John's clever and complicated daughter) and Rip Wheeler (chief hand, tricky history) play out a compelling love story - among other storylines. Taylor Sheridan, the writer, has captured the spirit of the cowboy. It pulls no punches. I got hooked and binged it.

After I had calmed down from my time with the cowboys in Montana, I chose gentler viewing fare, and began watching three delightful shows on Foxtel: **The Great British Bake Off, The Great British Throw Down** and **The Great British Sewing Bee**. In

each of these shows, contestants are given challenges: for example, bake a sponge cake, make a special clay pot, sew a certain kind of outfit. They are given all the equipment and a deadline, and then the lovely judges appraise their efforts. This is charming viewing. Not harsh words or cowboy drama here. Not a single shot is fired. This is people struggling with a ceramic pot with a crack in it, or a flopped cake or wrinkled seam. The expert judges are great. They teach us all about their craft in their feedback to the contestants. It's informative and fascinating. I have learned a lot about clay and stitching. Special mention goes to Keith Brymer Jones in the **Throwdown** who actually cries when he sees works he loves. For those interested in following him, check out his rendition of Adele song, *Rolling in the Deep*, where he dresses in drag and sings *Rolling in the Clay*. Touching and marvellous.

Dr Airdre Grant

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# Stamp of approval



Outgoing operators, Karen and Dave Elder Photos Murray Hand

After six and a half years of working at the business hub of Bangalow, Karen and Dave Elder have sold the Bangalow Post Office business. The new owner/operators are mother and daughter team, Joan Leeds and Kristy Nelder.

The nature of post offices has changed markedly over the past couple of decades. The biggest change Karen and Dave had seen in their time at the Post Office was the decline in 'snail mail' and the surge in delivery and despatch of parcels through Australia Post. The decrease in the number of letters posted has meant Australia Post's letter division posted a loss of \$190 million in the last half of 2022. It has been said that the decline in the business of sending letters was disrupted by technology in the same way cars made the horse and buggy redundant. On average,

we receive a little over one letter each week. That would be much less if it weren't for government regulations that require certain communications be sent by post.

However, people purchasing goods online and local businesses selling online has been a boon to Australia Post. This was boosted by COVID lockdowns and shutdowns, which further ramped up online purchasing.

Post offices are not businesses you can just agree to buy and start operating. Before a person can enter into an agreement to buy a Post Office, permission from Australia Post is required. A lengthy vetting process is involved, and then extensive training is mandatory. For new owners, Joan and Kristy, this is their first Post Office business but have previously owned courier businesses which gives them an advantage in understanding the modern



Incoming Post Mistresses, Joan Leeds and Kristy Nelder

postal service. Joan has also had experience owning newsagencies and other businesses. Kristy's background is in finance and software. Whilst they have worked together before, this is their first time as business partners.

Much work in a post office is done long before the doors open at 9am. The week starts at 2am Monday for Kristy and 5am other days, the receiving freight deliveries and sorting the parcels.

Joan says that she is looking forward to making changes to the business. "We plan a refit to speed up service and make it more convenient for customers. We want to ensure that the community knows all the available services available at the post office such as passport applications, ID verification, banking (depositing and withdrawals) and other financial services such as travel cards and foreign currency exchange. We also will have a social media presence soon."

With other changes such as restoring a front entry and landscaping, the old post office will be taking on a fresh face.

Murray Hand

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# Cauliflower Shawarma



**I often use this Middle Eastern Shawarma recipe for chicken, cooked on the BBQ. It's great to feed a crowd. It's also fantastic with cauliflower as the star. The florets take on the flavour of the marinade overnight, and char at the edges, just like the chicken. Make your own pita bread or use store-bought to wrap these spicy morsels. You could serve this with a fresh cucumber and carrot salad, and hot chips (anyone?) homemade in the oven, of course.**

## Ingredients

- 1 large cauliflower, remove leaves and core, then cut into florets
- 3/4 tsp ground sweet paprika
- 1/3 tsp ground turmeric plus 1/8 tsp extra
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp coriander
- 3 1/2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 large onion, cut into wedges
- 2 red chillis, whole
- 4 cloves crushed garlic
- 1 tsp tomato paste
- 1 1/2 tbsp cider vinegar
- 100 mls olive oil

## Method

1. To marinate the cauliflower, combine 4 tbsp of olive oil, all the spices and vinegar.
2. Add 1 tsp of salt and a grind of pepper to a large bowl.
3. Add the cauliflower and onion and mix until well-coated.
4. Refrigerate overnight or for at least 30 minutes, if you're short on time.
5. Preheat oven to 250°C fan forced or as high as your oven goes.
6. Put cauliflower into a roasting pan. Roast for 12 minutes, then stir, add chilli and 3 tbsp of water.
7. Roast for a further 15 minutes until charred and cooked through
8. Place cauliflower onto a platter. Add the remaining olive oil, garlic, tomato paste and extra turmeric to the roasting pan and place back into the hot oven.
9. Cook for 90 seconds until fragrant. Stir in the extra lemon juice then pour the sauce over the cauliflower.

*Lyn Hand*



# Rancho Lime and Rancho Mandarina

Recently, many new beverages have come onto the market, made from locally sourced produce. However, one product range that has been around for years is from the Rancho Relaxo farm at Numulgi at the back of Corndale, owned by Jane Boniface and Jose Falagan. Rancho Lime and Rancho Mandarina are cordials made on their farm, certified organic and pesticide-free.

In 2002 the couple bought a stonefruit farm. They pulled out the stonefruit trees and planted more citrus to add to the 300 lime trees already growing. Jane started making lime cordial for friends and neighbours, the challenge being to ensure it was not too sweet nor too bitter and to have it last more than a couple of weeks.

When the recipe was just right, the bottled Rancho Lime was launched commercially in 2006 and proved to be a winner with both consumers and show judges. It won awards at the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show and also at the Royal Hobart Fine Food Show. Jane later added Rancho Mandarina to fill a gap in the market. It also took out a gold medal at the Hobart show.

When added to still or sparkling water, these cordials make a great summer refresher or can also be used as a mixer in cocktails. A nice touch is the handwritten date on the label showing when the cordial was made. They are available directly from their website or at the Bangalow Farmers Market and Bangalow Cellars.

*Murray Hand*

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Photo Jeannine Smeaton

**New horizons for Bangalow but community engagement with planning and development proposals is key**

We are pleased to announce a significant association name change, with the registration of the Bangalow Community Association now confirmed, replacing the Bangalow Progress Association. Originally incorporated in 1999, the rationale for this change was the growing realisation that we are fundamentally a community-based organisation. All six of the original BPA Objectives referred to 'community', with just a single mention of the word 'progress'. Our primary aim is to facilitate community engagement regarding the development and management of our local 2479 area.

Our focus is to respect the special characteristics of Bangalow to encourage progress that is sensible and sustainable, and which provides long-term benefit to the community. BCA works to preserve, protect, and monitor the development of Bangalow for the common good of the community.

the Byron Shire Place Planning Collective, tasked with prioritising specific projects from the BVP for short-term implementation. Broad community engagement involves Community Working Groups with key stakeholders involved in all projects. This engagement framework is fully described in the Byron Shire Community Engagement Strategy - required reading for all proactive BCA members developing projects for community benefit.

Optimal outcomes are achieved from a collaboration of long-term villagers, creative workers and entrepreneurial business owners. The former group can provide deep historical knowledge while the latter brings an impressive range of business skills, a potent combination that guides better development and project outcomes. This open, inclusive approach is the antithesis of polarised communities and self-interest.

There is increasing recognition that the

# Community engagement key to 'progress' of Bangalow

**The Bangalow Progress Association relaunches as the Bangalow Community Association and aims to increase community engagement in 2479, writes Ian Holmes.**

Bangalow formed a Guidance Group in 2015 and subsequently completed the Bangalow Village Plan, an aspirational document that includes a broad range of potential projects for implementation throughout the central area of Bangalow. We now have three community representatives on

community can make an essential contribution to decisions affecting social amenity, rather than simply allowing powerful government and commercial forces to dominate. Federal Treasurer Dr Jim Chalmers recently expressed this view in an article in *The Monthly*. He explains how to build a more inclusive and resilient economy, "by strengthening our institutions and our capacity, with a focus on the intersection of prosperity and wellbeing, on place and community, on collaboration and co-operation."

Bangalow is clearly on the radar of powerful city-centric business interests that often have little empathy for regional community wellbeing. This was clearly demonstrated by the recent Bowlo experience. This takeover serves as a community wake-up call, as there are currently three commercial sites in Station Street, Bangalow, with development applications imminent. The most significant of these is a site at 6-10 Station St in the Bangalow Triangle, now with a DA lodged awaiting data, however the DA title invokes immediate unease by specifying hotel/motel accommodation on three levels with two levels of basement parking.

Bangalow needs to take community engagement to a new level to meet these challenges. The newly appointed BCA urgently needs a more diverse membership base to engage on these big issues adequately. If you're passionate about Bangalow and want to help protect its unique character, please consider becoming a member by sending an email to [ian.holmes1@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.holmes1@bigpond.com)

Find out more on Facebook @BangalowCommunityAssociation



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## Bangalow designer behind region's new bathhouse

**Sarah Tucker** spoke to Bangalow's Mardi Borrack about her work creating the decadent interiors of Mullum's new luxury wellness hotspot, **The Banya Bathhouse**.



One of the earliest known bathhouses was in the lost city of Mohenjo-daro, in present day Pakistan, dating back to 2500 BC. It was believed to be a temple because cleanliness was strongly connected with religion at the time.

From around 300 BC, the Romans used bathhouses for socialising, and the practice of public bathing has evolved to meet different cultural needs throughout the ages.

All around the world, they continue to provide communities with a space to gather as well as a destination to relax or conduct bathing ritual from the onsens of Japan to the hammams of Turkey. For the townsfolk of Mullumbimby and Northern Rivers visitors, public bathing is a regular affair thanks to the long-standing institution, Kiva Spa. Part of everyday life, many residents enjoy the practice of soaking, steaming and massage. However, the latest spa destination from local entrepreneur and businessman Brenden Lawless, has taken social wellness in the town to a whole new level.

Promising an immersive social, bathing and dining experience, The Banya Bathhouse is a modern, experiential twist on a traditional bathhouse, built upon the sun-baked bricks of the old 1929 ANZ



bank building on Burringbar Street. Inspired by the bathhouses of Europe, Brenden wanted an old-world style space but with facilities that would create a new type of social venue in Mullum. This exact brief led Bangalow resident, Mardi Borrack of the Style Agenda, to create a design concept inspired by the 1920s. “My number one priority was to honour the building’s history,” says Mardi. “One of the first things Brenden and I discussed was that the design needed to connect to the character of the 1920s – the original period of the space. This meant including lots of art deco features, curves, banquet seating, as well as a green and pink palette. Most importantly, however, it meant retaining as much of the original building as we could.”

Brenden, Swell Build, Brunswick Valley Historical Society, and the local council worked hard to keep all the original building fittings, including the walls, bank safes and brickwork. A plaque outside the building gives a nod to the building’s prior use and what was preserved.

“Once they established what would be retained, the next step was to look at finishes such as tiles, lighting, and flooring which represented the 20s, to keep with the decorative theme,” adds Mardi. “Every detail needed to fit the decade, right down to the fonts, and we interpreted the building’s history with materials like brass and vinyl as well as furniture like cane chairs.

“To ensure I got it right, I consulted my library of research, drew inspiration from our past, and then re-imagined it. It was lucky I had done a lot of design work in this era, which is one of the reasons Brenden reached out to me for the project.”

A set designer by trade, Mardi has worked in the film and television industry for over 20 years in Sydney and Melbourne. Her experience has led her to become an expert in period styling, although since moving to Bangalow nine years ago, she has predominantly worked in residential and boutique holiday accommodation.


Mardi’s contemporary design concept was centred around artwork, especially pieces

from local artists. “Art was super important, but finding the right pieces wasn’t easy, and I’m still not finished,” she says. “I was looking for works that would stand out and be interesting and compliment the amazing workmanship from the upholsterers and furniture makers.”

One unique challenge Mardi faced was creating a venue where the whole inside space would suit swimwear-wearing visitors.

“It was important that people felt comfortable sitting down in the restaurant in their togs to have a drink or some food,” she says. “The vision was to create a place where you could spend a whole day, and pop in and out of wet areas if you so desired. This resulted in us having to be particular about the fabrics we used, which was actually my favourite part.



“For me, it’s all about designing something that is being enjoyed, and that’s what I am most proud of with The Banya Bathhouse.”



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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/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 (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
Scout Hall	Shane	0475 732 551
St Kevin's Catholic Hall	Russell	0423 089 684

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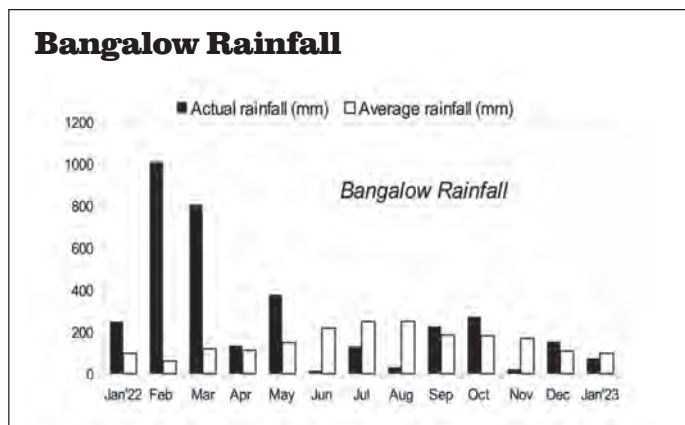
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**WHAT'S ON**

Plenty of local events and activities to keep you occupied as we head in to autumn.



Roundabout Theatre, The Slow Show with Helix the Snail. Photo by Nharyan Feldmann.

**Bangalow Garden Club**

**When** Wednesday 1 March at 1.30pm  
**Where:** Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground  
**Contact** Diana Harden 0418 288428 or email [bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com](mailto:bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com)

Linda Sparrow from Bangalow Koalas will be giving a talk on the work being done to meet their goal to establish a Koala Wildlife Corridor across the Northern Rivers of NSW.

**Bangalow Business Networking Breakfast**

**When** Thursday 2 March 7-9am  
**Where** Woods Café, Bangalow  
**Info** [byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au](http://byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au)

Davina Bambrick an award-winning local photographer and business mentor is presenting for us. Her topic this month is: "Leveraging your LinkedIn and how to improve your personal and business brand"

**Georgian Concert Supra with Tsinskaro**

**When** Friday 3 March from 7pm  
**Where** Bangalow A&I Hall  
**Information/Tickets**

\$40 including a Georgian themed vegetarian supper via [shirechoir.eventbrite.com](http://shirechoir.eventbrite.com)  
Join us for a unique concert supra experience with the mesmerising polyphonic vocals of Melbourne's superb Georgian vocal ensemble Tsinskaro. There will be singing, storytelling and customary toasts, and a delicious vegetarian supper, with guests joining in the classic, communal rituals of a Georgian supra - a meal accompanied by song, that honours loved ones, the bounty of our food and wine, and the beauty of the planet.

**Family Gathering at the Uniting Church**

**When** Sunday 5 March  
**Where** Uniting Church, Station Street, Bangalow

Our annual Harvest Festival followed by supper and auction. A time to give thanks, enjoy food with friendly people (all free!) and then buy locally grown and made produce at the auction. EVERYONE is welcome and no RSVP needed- just come. A wonderful way to 'try out' Bangalow Uniting on a fun evening. Contact Rev. Phil Dokmanovic [phild@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:phild@nswact.uca.org.au)

**Sidestep Kids Festival**

**When** 18-19 March from 10am-4pm  
**Where** Banner Park, Brunswick Heads  
**Information** Free entry, wheelchair accessible and AUSLAN interpreters available  
Join us for circus, music, dance, theatre, cabaret, storytelling, giant cubby building, interactive games, parades, choirs, joke telling, dress-ups, art workshops, cool craft and tonnes of kid-led mischief... Sidestep Kids Festival is presented by Roundabout Theatre. The festival was made possible with funding from the NSW Government Reconnecting Regional Communities Grant and is supported by Byron Shire Council.



Don't miss Tsinskaro, Melbourne's Georgian Vocal Ensemble, at the A&I Hall for a supper concert Photo supplied

## Sustainable House Day

**When** 19 March

**Where** Online, and events held around the country

**Information/tickets** [sustainablehouseday.com.au](https://sustainablehouseday.com.au)

The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation is supporting Mullum Cares and Zero Emissions Byron's efforts to inspire homeowners and tradespeople to rebuild flood resilient homes in our local flood-affected communities. These free online sessions provide insights and advice into appropriate building materials, energy efficiency, and sustainable design on a budget.

## Bangalow CWA Cake and Produce Stall

**When** Saturday 25 March 8am to 12pm

**Where** CWA Rooms, Byron St, Bangalow

**Contact** Di on 0412 376 034

If you've got a taste for homemade bickies, slices, jam, and cake, call in to the Bangalow CWA and pick up your weekend treats or to stash in the freezer for easy school lunch boxes!

## Tuesday Morning Meditation

**When** Tuesdays from 10am

**Where** All Souls Bangalow Anglican Church

This is a free, non-religious meditation session exploring visualisation, sound, imagery, and mindfulness in a peaceful, inclusive space.

## Bangalow Brackets

**When** Wednesday nights 7.30pm

**Where** Bangalow Bowlo

**Contact** [facebook.com/bangalowbrackets](https://facebook.com/bangalowbrackets)

Visit Bangalow Brackets open mic night on Wednesdays at Bangalow Bowlo to experience an exceptional evening of musical creativity. Open mic events are a fantastic way to network, acquire experience, show off your skills, connect with other artists, and develop your local music scene. This is the ideal chance for you to share your music with a warm, appreciative audience, regardless of your level of performance experience.

# Diary

## March 2023

- 1 Bangalow Garden Club
- 2 Bangalow Business Networking Breakfast
- 3 Georgian Concert Supra with Tsinskaro
- 5 Family Gathering at the Uniting Church
- 17 Snake Safety Awareness Seminar
- 18-19 Sidestep Kids Festival
- 19 Sustainable House Day
- 25 Bangalow CWA Cake and Produce Stall

## April deadlines

What's On 14 March

Copy 14 March

Advertising 14 March

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Coorabell Hall Photo Lyn McCarthy – Niche Pictures

## The belle of the hall

It is believed that the Coorabell Hall was built between 1906 and 1909. During this time, land in the Coorabell area was advertised for sale and purchased by the first trustees of the hall, Joseph Francis Akers, Thomas Albert Gray and Albert Ernest Swift. Established under a Trust Deed as the Coorabell School of Arts, it was intended as a focal gathering place for social and artistic events for the Coorabell community on the corner of Lofts Road and Coorabell Road. The first hall burnt to the ground leaving nothing but stumps. Although no hard evidence was discovered for the cause of the fire, one theory "...supposed that mice must have set alight a stray match" (as was speculated in a news story in published on 11 June 1915). Whether it was mice or not that caused the fire, a new hall was built on the existing site in 1920.

Early newspaper articles recount a variety of occasions held at the hall, including benefit concerts for those in need, in one case, for a family who had lost their home and possessions in a fire. Also held were farewells and welcome home celebrations for soldiers, church services of different denominations, marriages, funerals, witnessing eclipses, cribbage tournaments and possibly the most loved of events, balls and dances. One ball, the Spinsters' Social held in 1912, was reported as a resounding success, attended by 60 couples who (according to reports in the Mullumbimby Star 13 June 1912) danced until the early hours of the morning!

Many years have passed since these events, however, the passion and dedication committee members have for ensuring their hall remains the heart of the community



Bloomin' marvellous, don't miss the dahlias at the famous Coorabell Hall Flower Show  
Photo Lissa Coote

continues. Lissa Coote and Adele Smout took over the reins of the hall in 2022 from the much-loved, longstanding President, the late Billy Wrencher. Like other small halls, the volunteer base isn't huge, with seven members on the committee, but this team has big plans with a new agenda to revitalise the Hall.

Part of this revitalisation plan is the newly minted Coorabell Hall Film Club. After being awarded a Community Initiative Grant from Byron Council in 2022 to purchase a projector, audio equipment and lights, the committee has now successfully run three film club nights.

Planning is underway for a slight refurbishment, with a new deck and bi-fold doors, a coffee window off the kitchen and finally, some glass windows at the front of the hall to maximise the view of the ocean. When the hall was built 110 years ago, glass was an expensive luxury, and views were less prioritised than they are today. So fundraising to begin construction is well and truly on the agenda.

Upcoming hall events include the Flower Show (which was an annual event for 50 years!) on 4-5 March. This will be the first Flower Show in 11 years. It is open to the public, and will showcase local growers, including the show favourites Bruce and Steven Wedd whose Dahlia's were always the 'best in show' at past Hall Flower Shows and have just won the grand prize at the Stanthorpe Dahlia Show.

Other regular community events at the hall include pizza nights on Mondays, Japanese pop-up noodle shop on Thursdays and regular yoga classes on Monday and Thursday mornings. The coffee cart is also a regular fixture from Monday to Friday each week.

coorabellhall.net

Tanya Pearson and Marin Simpson