

# HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE | May 2024

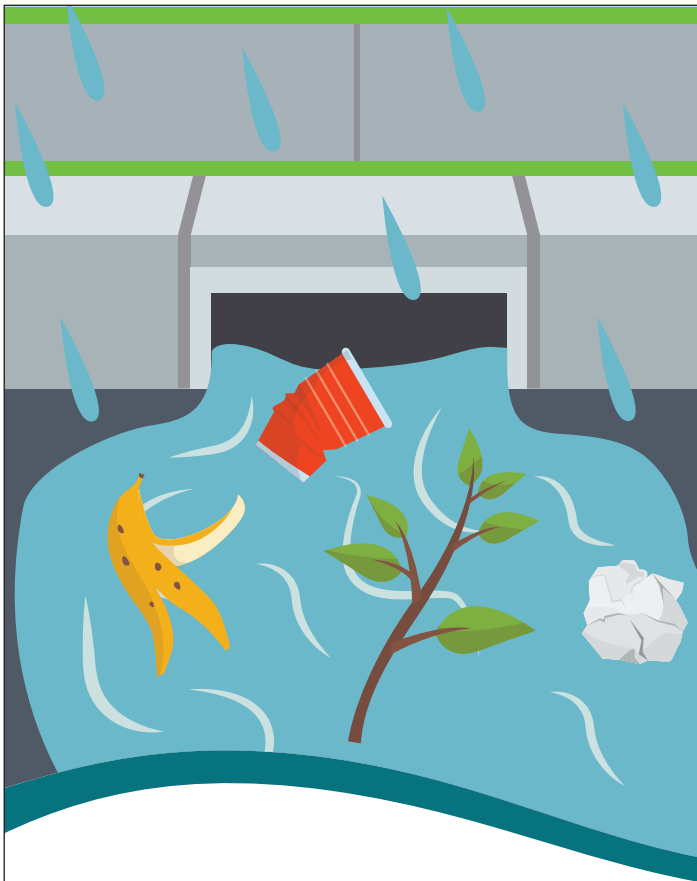
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# Flash flooding reminders

Last month, heavy rains caused flash flooding in 2479 and surrounds. Flash flooding can happen any time there is a storm, and can be made worse by blocked drains or when coupled with a king tide.

People affected by flooding or storms should contact the State Emergency Service (SES) on 132 500 for help.

The SES advises people should:

- Move vehicles under cover or away from trees.
- Secure or put away loose items around your house, yard and balcony.
- Keep at least eight metres away from fallen power lines or objects that may be energised, such as fences.
- Trees that have been damaged by fire are likely to be more unstable and more likely to fall.
- Don't drive, ride or walk through flood water.
- Keep clear of creeks and storm drains.
- If you are trapped by flash flooding, seek refuge in the highest available place and ring 000 if you need rescue.
- Heavy rain and the loss of foliage can make the ground soft and heavy, leading to a greater chance of landslides.
- Stay vigilant and monitor conditions.

For problems on roads, including flooding and trees and other obstacles please contact Council on 02 6626 7000. If reports need to be made after hours the emergency number is 02 6622 7022.

Visit the Byron Shire Emergency Dashboard for all the latest updates from the following agencies [emergency.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://emergency.byron.nsw.gov.au)

For current warnings and advice, download the NSW Government's Hazards Near Me app for your smart phone.

Latest flood and weather warnings, rainfall, river level information and forecasts [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)

For help and information about storm and rain events go to [ses.nsw.gov.au](http://ses.nsw.gov.au) or call 132 500.

For information on road closures go to [livetraffic.com](http://livetraffic.com)

# HERALD

The Bangalow

## From the Editor

This month's *Herald* is a mixed bag of stories that showcase many different perspectives on life in our community. From prize-winning Aussie Idol, Dylan Wright, to new kids on the block, the Gumboots, and a host of arts events, there is so much creative talent right here in our own backyards.

Billycarts and teddy bears give us reason to smile despite a wider world that seems out of control. But there has been trouble in paradise here too, both inside and outside the home. The vexed issue of poor phone reception and internet connectivity highlights our reliance on telecommunications and technology, and the consequences of unreliable services in a regional area.

Outdoors, our lawns are being invaded and destroyed by pests, while a series of petty crimes has shaken our sleepy village into vigilance. Respective experts tell us that both are natural occurrences whose effects are, thankfully, diminishing. Both need care in order to preserve what we cherish—whether that is a manicured lawn, a beloved pet, or the knowledge that we are safe in our own homes.

As a community, we need to know who we can count on when we are not doing OK. Check in on the elderly. Look out for recently arrived neighbours, new parents, the newly diagnosed, the lately bereaved.

For some, like the Singh family, this kind of support is an innate part of life; close familial ties and shared meals nourish and provide strength. For those in 2479 without family close by, we can build our own bonds with neighbours, community groups, and organisations around us. See page 26 for our new section Gather, which offers invitations for everyone to join different social and support groups.

We'd love to hear more stories about you and your interests, successes, and challenges, so don't be shy to get in touch on the details below.

*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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# Bangalow dad wins Australian Idol

Bangalow singer Dylan Wright performing on Australia Idol Photo Seven Network

**Dylan Wright has gone from painting houses to a recording contract with Sony Music after his Australian Idol win, writes Angela Saurine.**

During his time as a contestant on Australian Idol, Dylan Wright felt a bit like he was living in a bubble. It wasn't until he returned home briefly and went to Bluesfest that he realised just how popular this season's show was. "We didn't know if anyone was watching, or if anyone liked us," he says. "It was nice for people to come up and say hello and congratulations and ask for photos."

Life has changed dramatically for the 31-year-old Bangalow dad, who previously made a living painting houses, since winning the TV talent show — and a recording contract with Sony Music Entertainment Australia. "It's been crazy," he says. "It's non-stop." After a quick trip home, where he caught up with friends and neighbours, Dylan returned to Sydney with his wife Georgia and daughters Piper, four, and one-year-old Rivi for meetings, interviews and to prepare for the next steps. "We were in Sydney for two-and-a-half months during the show and my wife and kids were living with my mother-in-law," Dylan says. "It was a juggle trying to spend time with them. It was a good learning curve for what's going to come next with touring. I need to

get the girls into music so we can have a family band."

Originally from the Sutherland Shire, Dylan and Georgia — who met at school — have always loved the Northern Rivers region, and even honeymooned in Byron Bay. They decided to move to Bangalow in 2022 after Dylan's sister moved to Pottsville in the Tweed region, and other friends moved to the area. "It's been such a family-oriented place to have our girls," Dylan says. "I love the community... the billycart derby, the Bangalow Show. It feels like such a nice community to be part of. There's nowhere else that I've lived or been a part of that's like Bangalow. It's such a nice little town."

While he's only just become a household name, Dylan has been plugging away in the music industry for years. As well as performing at local venues such as the Bangalow Hotel and the Beach Hotel Byron Bay, he's supported artists such as Diesel, Ian Moss and Dragon on tour. He's also hit the stage at the Gympie, Mackay and Tamworth country music festivals with his band, Sons of Atticus, and would love to perform at Bluesfest. "It's a massive dream," he says.

During the Australian Idol grand final, Dylan performed a duet with original Idol runner-up Shannon Noll and a full band version of his audition song, Crowded House's *Better Be Home Soon*. Judges Kyle Sandilands, Marcia Hines and Amy Shark acknowledged

Dylan's star power from his first audition. He made shock jock Kyle cry twice during filming. Dylan was full-time carer for his mum, who suffered from MS and leukemia, from age 16 until she passed away when he was 21. "I had to grow up very quickly," he says. "It was tough and it's taken 10 years to be able to talk about it, but music was such a big part of my life and it helped me to journal and release my feelings. I think it's helped people who are in similar situations. Some people have started playing instruments because of it and started writing songs of their own."

Dylan was overwhelmed by the support he received from the local community during his time on the show, with the Bangalow Bowlo screening the final two episodes on a big screen. "The General Store has been a massive supporter, and the runners club, which my wife is in," he says. He's hoping to thank the community properly when time permits. "We might try to put on a show or something," he says.

As part of his win, Dylan received \$100,000 prize money, which he plans to put to good use. "The first thing I'm going to do is to take the girls on a trip away and have some family time and focus on doing music and recording," he says. "The hard work begins now. I just love writing and performing music so the more I get to do it the happier I will be." Dylan's winner's single, *Paper Heart*, is out now.



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# Bangalow Billycarts: The old inspiring the new

One popular item featured at the Heritage House Museum in the weeks leading up to the May Billycart Derby is a traditional wooden billycart made by the late Bill Jenner, also known as 'Bangalow Bill'. It was well used by many little kids at the Teddy Bear's Picnic, held at the Museum in mid-April.

In 1974, Bill Jenner moved to Bangalow with his wife of 64 years, Freda. At that time, he and Freda operated the Mobile service station on Granuaille Road. He built this billycart to participate in the very first Billycart Derby held in Bangalow in 1994.

He participated in many more derbies after that date with his old-school cart. "I wanted to build it to look like a kid's billycart, you know, with the original box design," he said in a 2006 interview, in which he claimed his cart could go at 47 km per hour. Winning, and the speed he reached, was of little importance to Bill. "I just do it for the fun of it," he said.

Bill built his first billycart in 1936 at the age of eight, at the Tally Ho Boys Home in Melbourne, where he lived from the age of two. He'd been placed there as a ward of the state, one of 14 children in the family. There, underfed and ill-treated, Bill and his mates made their own toys with whatever they could find, including that first billycart. He taught himself to read and



Seen here in Bill Jenner's 1994 billycart, Lotte and Hamish Hannah, with a doll and teddy from the Teddy Bear and Doll exhibition.

write in order to gain his first apprenticeship in post-Depression Australia.

Over his long life (he died at the age of 90), Bill operated several service stations and a tow truck business, but he also taught ballroom dancing, played the piano accordion and harmonica, and bred pigeons. Known as a "true mentor to many young people,"

he bought a motorized go-cart in which local kids could learn to drive. He also insisted that the children learn basic car mechanics and how to change a tyre before they got behind the wheel.

Bill's Billycart took pride of place at the altar in the church at his 2017 funeral.

**Christobel Munson**

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# For the win!

Rob 'Hock' Hosking, 73, has been part of the Bangalow Billycart Derby since it first began back in 1994. "We were only mugs then," says Hock, "but we had a go at it, and bang – next thing you know, it's a yearly event!"

And what an event. Where else in Australia can a main street be closed off for an entire day for the running of a cart race? As you can imagine, preparing for such an event takes a lot of planning and the cooperation of a number of community groups, notably the Lions Club, naming-rights sponsor Summerland Bank, and a group of pub-based philanthropists called The Old Bastards. But more on them in another edition.

While the genesis of the now famous and hotly anticipated Summerland Bangalow Billycart Derby event is a distant memory, Hock recalls seeing young local kids riding go-karts down the street back then. "It was the Pacific Highway then, too," he adds. "And they didn't wear helmets." Kids also used to race down Deacon Street - one of the steepest streets in all the village - "from about halfway up, near the back of the Post Office."

Rob has only missed the annual race a few times, in addition to the events cancelled for flooding and pandemics. In that time, he's torn down the main street 'about 10 times' in a homemade billycart of some kind. "A few of us used to make carts just to hand around for others to ride. They were just a couple of bits of 3x2. No steering wheel, just a little bit of rope on the frontal axel, and down the street you go."

Today's event has strict safety protocols and all carts are scrutineered prior to racing.



**Woodworking women at the Bangalow Mens Shed with the 2024 Billycart Derby trophies**  
Photo supplied

"Wheels have got to be a certain diameter and height. Brakes are checked – really checked. Some of them have got foot brakes, some of them have old handbrakes," he says. All official business is conducted by Greg 'Nashy' Nash who's been calling the shots on the race since its inception (and has been a racer himself in about 80% of the years the Derby has been held).

The Billycart Derby is for everyone, kids, adults, old-timers, newcomers. "There's a Mum's race. Races for kids and the veterans," he says. Hock estimates about 90% of billycart riders have raced before, but there's nothing stopping newcomers having a turn.

"There are a few 'community carts' available to anyone who doesn't have their own cart to run down the hill, just make sure you arrive bright and early on the day to register for your race."

The main street, lined with haybales and bright crowds, is something to behold, the air filled with laughter, adrenaline, and a wonderful sense of being part of something that could only happen in Bangalow. "Knowing how to stop is pretty much the only requirement of entry," he says, "and I suggest you aim straight."

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

**Sally Schofield**

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All the Singh ladies: Back row: Shanti Singh, Mona Singh, Parveen Reiher.  
 Middle row: Jaspriya Johal, Baljinder Singh, Kamal Singh.  
 Front row: Neelam Singh, Rani Singh.  
 Photo Lyn McCarthy Niche Pictures

# We are family

Since the first member of the Singh family arrived in the Northern Rivers in 1890, five generations of the family have grown up in the region. Thoroughly immersed in the local community, this extended family has made an impact in Bangalow ever since, primarily in agriculture.

The late Manga Singh returned from the Northern Rivers to the Punjab in India in 1948 to marry his wife. They had a large family of six girls and four sons. Manga Singh bought land at St Helena in 1950, where he grew bananas and small crops. In 1960, he bought land at Talofa, and in 1969, another lot stretching from Coolamon Scenic Drive through to Fowlers Lane, and in the early 1980s, purchased more land on Coolamon Scenic Drive.

Three generations of this well-established Sikh family, descended from Manga Singh now live in Bangalow, primarily in Coorabell, just near McLeods Shoot Lookout. With Mother's Day coming up on Sunday 12 May, *The Bangalow Herald* arranged to meet three generations of the women of the Singh family at Coorabell Hall, while Kamal Singh prepared the food for her regular (and popular) Curry Night.

With the spicy aroma of curries and chai floating around the hall, we asked what particular dish every member of the family

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**The family is growing!**

loves, that's passed on from generation to generation. Answer? Unanimously, all those present agreed it was dahl, and that the best cooks of dahl in this family are Baljinder and Kamal Singh.

With Mother's Day in mind, we asked Parveen, Mona and Jaspriya, what was the best advice they'd ever received from their mothers. "To make sure you look after your family well. To be hospitable. To invite people into your home to eat and drink, with an open heart. To be respectful. To keep the traditions of the family. To be humble, and to treat your elders with respect."

Jaspriya, who is 16, says her mother is "very supportive and loving". Mona says her mother is very caring, while Parveen says her mother is "forgiving, with a big heart. She's kind and gentle".

They agreed that the older generations, their grandparents, tended to be more conservative than the younger ones. "Each generation is different from our parents," Parveen explained, "and the next generation will be even more so."

One common thread throughout the generations was "to look after each other, to treat everyone in our extended family like it's your own family." Mona, her husband and children, all live the traditional way, in one house with the grandparents. Parveen, who lives with her husband and two sons a stone's throw away, says she gets to "hang out" with her uncles and aunty whenever she wants. The best of both worlds.

The local Sikh temple is located opposite the Bangalow Medical Centre. Sikhs from all around Australia donated to the cost of its construction. On the third Sunday of every month, a function is held at the temple, where anyone interested in Sikhism can attend. The temple is open from 10am to 2pm for prayers and singing, and a meal is provided.

## Baljinder & Kamal Singh's Dahl Recipe

### INGREDIENTS

#### Medium pot

- 1 cup red lentils
- 2.5 cups water
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp salt

#### Saucepan

- 1 tbps ghee (or coconut oil or butter)
- 1 tsp garlic crushed
- 1 tsp ginger crushed
- 1 tsp Garam Masala
- 1 onion chopped
- 1 tomato chopped
- 1 chilli chopped (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash lentils with water.
2. In a medium pot, add lentils, water, turmeric powder, and salt.
3. Bring this to a boil over medium-high to high heat.
4. Once it comes to a boil, reduce the heat to low-medium, so that it simmers. Cover, with the lid ajar.
5. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 30 minutes, or until lentils can easily be mashed.
6. Top with 1/4 cup water, if you feel the lentils are getting too thick.
7. Turn off the heat.
8. In a separate saucepan, heat ghee/oil over medium-high heat. Once hot, add onions, and saute until slightly golden.
9. Add the garlic and ginger and continue to saute until the raw smell disappears (about 30 seconds).
10. Add the tomatoes, chilli and Garam Masala, and stir through for 3-5 minutes.
11. Add ingredients of saucepan to the medium pot with lentils, and stir through.

Serve with roti or rice, yoghurt, pickles and a squeeze of lemon or lime.

Garnish with fresh coriander, and chill.

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# From trumpet to pulpit

Not your regular religious minister, Rev Phil Dokmanovic Photo supplied

**Sally Schofield** chatted with **Uniting Church minister Rev. Phil Dokmanovic** about music and ministering.

When I think of most organised religion, I think of an 'us' and 'them' ideology embedded in lessons delivered from on high, down to the design of the building, and through to the natural conclusion, a fear of God. Separation. Judgement. Worse.

Phil doesn't subscribe to that brand of Christianity. Born and raised in Sydney's Western suburbs, he grew up in a Christian household, attending a Christian school from kindy to year 12, and connecting his love of music with his faith. Teaching was his goal, maths in particular, which shares many patterns and logic with his other passion, music. "Music was something I picked up in high school when I was about 15. I had a wonderful school music teacher who said,

'Oh, you'd be a great trumpet player,' but I wanted to play cricket for Australia," he laughs.

As is often the case with young people, encouragement from an inspirational source can have a profound and lasting impact. "This teacher started a band, and all my friends were in it. I thought, 'Oh, I'm missing out.' They were all on a band tour, and I was in a classroom, so I said, 'OK. Give me the trumpet.'"



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While music was a great outlet for teenaged Phil, he didn't aspire to become a musician; instead, he had his heart set on going to university to become a maths teacher. His first few years on the job were at some of the toughest schools in Sydney's Western Suburbs, which in many ways highlighted the disparity and disadvantage in society that would eventually lead Phil on a transformative pathway from teacher to pastor to minister.

Meanwhile, Phil progressed from playing the trumpet to the cornet. I'm a bit rusty on my brass, so he reminds me to "think of it like a squashed trumpet but with a sweeter sound." The instrument was adopted by jazz musicians such as Louis Armstrong and became a staple sound of the classic British 'coalminers' brass band. Phil fine-tuned his playing while continuing his studies in maths and education and went on to play the cornet in a national championship.

A lecturer from the University of Salford in Manchester was there to adjudicate, and upon hearing Phil play, offered him a scholarship to study with him. "That was a radical turnaround because I had been thinking I'd be a teacher!" After a long stint in Manchester playing cornet, Phil returned to education, becoming a music teacher and teaching for 12 years in Australia.

Phil credits his mum as being "really foundational" in the role faith plays in his life. "From a young age, I had this sense of being committed to this faith thing; it was never forced on me by my parents, but it was just encouraged to go along and be part of it." So, when church services—and music in particular—began to modernise, Phil saw an opportunity to get even more involved, leading music groups within the church. At the same time, a renewed understanding of the narratives contained in the scriptures, sparked by a conversation with a visiting Canadian colleague, got Phil thinking.



**Delighted with divinity** Photo supplied

"Oh, there's more to learn," he laughs. "So, I did an online course that was based around music and theology and loved that. It was very practical; I wrote a few songs, and when that was done, I enrolled in a Bible college part-time while I continued to teach part-time, still not thinking that this was a journey to become a minister."

Even after completing a Master of Divinity, Phil had still not heard angels with trumpets heralding ministry as his vocation but edged closer to this inevitability by stepping into a role as a music minister in a church on the Central Coast. During this time, his down-to-earth demeanour and approachability were recognised by his peers who gently shepherded Phil onto the path to becoming a Reverend. He commenced a Year of Discernment (a trial 12 months to determine your suitability and commitment to the work). "After that, it became more and more clear to me that this calling was for me."

The year 2020 was a difficult one for many, and Rev. Phil was no exception. COVID aside,

he weathered several challenging personal crises but also enjoyed the culmination of years of study and commitment to his faith when he was ordained as a Uniting Church minister in a ceremony at the majestic Bangalow A&I Hall.

Phil is aware of the waning influence of organised religion in our increasingly secular society and is working with others in the community to contemporise the experience of faith. "I do feel like the Uniting Church is unique in their progressive nature. They are passionate about the issues that resonate with people in this region, whether it be Indigenous or identity, sexuality, fair trade, or climate change." This former Bangalow cricket club player seeks to level the playing field and make faith more accessible and relevant, joking that he would remove the elevated pulpit from his own church if not for its heritage status. "I've never been up there. I prefer to be with the community."

**Sally Schofield**

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**FAIR DRUG DRIVING LAWS**

Right now, the NSW drug driving laws that facilitate police roadside drug testing are unjust. Many locals are increasingly being prescribed medicinal cannabis by their GP for effective treatment of chronic pain and other conditions, but current driving laws leave hundreds of unimpaired patients falling foul of the law for driving with traces of lawful cannabis medicine in their system.



Scan here or visit [tamarasmith.org.au/FairDrivingLaws](https://tamarasmith.org.au/FairDrivingLaws) to sign the petition calling on the NSW government to reform this discriminatory system.



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# Lawn grub on the march

One local lawn hit hard by the grubs Photo Angela Saurine

Lawn Grubs! These little critters are always a worry to everyone who loves a good, healthy park-like lawn. Over the past six months, we have witnessed a huge explosion in all sorts of insect life, and our lawns are taking a beating.

It is distressing and rather depressing to see, firstly, yellowing patches that turn brown and continue to spread. How do we control this? Well, because they are naturally occurring and part of a moth's or black beetle's lifecycle, the grubs doing the damage can only really be limited, not eradicated.

There are strong, toxic insecticides — banned in some countries — such as Carbaryl and Trichlorafen that can be applied, but these are only effective when used early and often. The hot, humid, and soggy conditions that we all

dislike are perfect for the beetles and moths that lay enormous numbers of eggs, which then develop into very hungry caterpillars before completing their lifecycle to become breeding moths.

Some folk go to great lengths trying to eradicate them by laying damp hessian bags over affected lawns. The grubs emerge from the soil and attach themselves to this fabric when left overnight. They can then be 'euthanised', but who has the time or determination to follow this path?

There is an insecticide spray called Acelepryn which is said to be safe for humans, pets, bees, and birds. This, sprayed in the early evening or at night every three weeks when moths are observed, may be preventative or even achieve

'knockdown' when repeated every two weeks.

My preference would be to spray a Neem oil solution which doesn't harm beneficial nematodes or other insects. An easy-to-make preparation consists of approximately 30 ml of Neem oil in nine litres of lukewarm water with a couple of tablespoons of dishwashing detergent as a surfactant. It's cheap, easy, and non-toxic. Definitely not guaranteed to rid your lawn of lawn grubs, but it will help the grass recover by reducing the populations. It can be applied with a sprayer or a watering can. Don't be tempted to use a greater percentage of Neem as too much can impede nutrient availability for the grass and cause yellowing.

Light applications of soluble lime can improve the vigour of the grass, and there have been some reports of diatomaceous earth (made from fossilised algae) also being used as preventatives, not controls. When it stops raining and summer finally ends, most grasses will recover with the healthiest recovering best.

Some varieties are more resilient, and lawn care that includes aerating, top dressing, and occasional appropriate soil improvement may not be as affected as other lawns that always seem to struggle.

If there is a positive to all of this, it is that the lawn grubs make delicious meals for our native birds and lizards (which is why toxic pesticides are best avoided).

Carole Gamble

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Reliable phone signal just a dream? Photo supplied

# High hopes for new tower

You're walking down the street when a hapless motorist, whose GPS has failed, pulls over beside you and pleads for directions. You're in the middle of a Zoom meeting and the internet drops out. You try to download an e-script at the pharmacy but can't. You go to make a phone call, and there's no signal. There's no doubt poor internet and phone reception

has been the bane of many of us for years. It's unlikely to be a surprise that the NSW Government's Connectivity Index ranks the Bangalow area as below average, with a score of 21-40, meaning "communities are unable to conduct digital activities such as working, accessing videos and conducting telehealth". But locals are hoping such issues will become a thing of the past when a new 40-metre high 4G and 5G Telstra tower is erected at Newrybar in July. The tower is one of a string of improvements Telstra and NBN outlined to frustrated local residents and business owners at the Connecting Bangalow forum organised by Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce at Bangalow Hotel last month.

But not everyone is happy about the installation of the tower near the existing NBN tower at 161 Broken Head Road, with Newrybar residents divided over the move. While the owner of the property on which the tower will be built will be compensated, the structure will block the view of neighbours, leading to reduced property values. Some residents also claim the decision to build the tower appears to have been a done deal before the community consultation period even began.

Telstra regional general manager for Northern NSW Michael Marom conceded communication could have been better, but said it was difficult to find willing landholders in the area and alternate sites the company had considered were not suitable. He said the region suffers from natural disasters and upgrading the service was a safety issue. "We need to do our best to make sure people are protected as much as possible," he said.

Bangalow Chamber of Commerce president Matt Williamson, who is also a Bangalow resident and runs insurance brokerage Good Cover, said sometimes things have to be done for the greatest good for the greatest number of people. "No-one wants a tower built in their backyard but if we are going to have infrastructure that we hold in the same regard as a flushing toilet or a light that turns on we're going to have to have some infrastructure somewhere."

NBN is also upgrading the network with more fibre to the premises services, increasing bandwidth and doubling the range of fixed wireless offerings, which should lead to faster speeds.

*Angela Saurine*

## Introducing VAE Medical Aesthetics, a doctor led and owned skin, laser and cosmetic clinic.



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# Pit Stop! Food, fun and games at the finish line



The famous cake stall  
Photo supplied

Bangalow Public School's annual school fair 'Pit Stop' is on again and is the perfect addition to all the thrills and spills of the Billycart Derby in the main street on Sunday 19 May.

"It's always such a great day out," says Anna Vinfield, P&C President.

"This year we will have rides, delicious food and games, plus the return of the children's entertainment stage which was such a hit last year.

"Watch out for flash-mob performances by the sparkly

dancers from The Cassettes, the enthralling Spaghetti Circus, the fabulous children's band The Gumboots and talented school-aged dancers from Cape Performing Arts," she continued.

"Local brewery Common People Brewing Co will be making a return and offering cool refreshments for the adults. Our famous cake stall will also be there - and look out for some homemade treats as well. We will have woodfired pizza, sushi, burgers, gyoza, pies, BBQ meats, drinks, SnoCones and ice cream. There will be games like whack a rat, choc shot and jar tombola and craft and activities like make your own badge. It's such a great day out and, alongside our mega raffle, the Pit Stop is our school's biggest fundraiser. All funds raised will go towards learning resources and school improvements and this year we will also be making a donation to the Indigenous non-profit organisation Children's Ground."

"On the day be sure to grab a raffle ticket - there are more than \$15,000 in prizes on offer with vouchers and items generously donated by local businesses."



Spaghetti Circus will keep you entertained Photo supplied

"You could win a trip to Bali, a voucher for a local café, restaurant or shop, plus a voucher for a facial, surf lesson, local attraction, art gallery, golf, food dance and circus classes, theatre plus so much more."

Tickets start at \$5 each and can be purchased at [rafflelink.com.au/pitstop2024](http://rafflelink.com.au/pitstop2024)

For more info see

Instagram @bangalow\_p\_and\_c

Facebook Bangalow Public School P&C

The Bangalow Herald

## Bangalow School news

Final touches are being completed on Stage 1 of the playground, and the fence is expected to come down during the holidays. So, first day next term, students at Bangalow Public School should be able to play on the new play equipment. Teachers will take each class to the new playground to explain how to use the new equipment safely. Well done to the P&C for all the fundraising efforts to get this project this far, chipping in half the cost of the new work. Further plans include one or two cubbies, another tee pee, a vertical timber screen and additional trees. The community is reminded that outside school hours, students should not be on the fixed equipment. Families of enrolled students are welcome to have younger siblings use the equipment for a few minutes prior to pickup, but they must be supervised closely by a parent or guardian.

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**Can you dig it? The Gumboots**  
Photo Sher Manu

The Gumboots were conceived in early 2023 after Melia Naughton, Elodie Crowe and Ben Cox, all parents of young children, realised there was a dearth of engaging music that both kids and adults could listen to without feeling nauseous with repetition and banality. The Gumboots are stoked to be playing at the Bangalow Public School's Pit Stop event as part of the Summerland Bangalow Billycart Derby.

Melia and Elodie co-wrote an award winning musical and Ben is the drummer for Shire Choir the pop up singing event led by Melia, so it wasn't long until the three of them started jamming. Melia has a passion for language, rhyme, and melody; Elodie is a bass playing harmonic maestro and Ben is the Rhythm King and together they have created songs about quirky animals and diggers that kids can dance to while absorbing fun facts. Did you know that the wombat is the only animal in the world that poos in cubes?

**Your songs are about icky, slimy, critters etc – where do you get your lyrical inspiration from?**



# The Gumboots

**Kids entertainment with legs** Photo Joel Cooper

We perform songs about all sorts of things: diggers, jackhammers, fire and rescue and also about weird and wacky animals that aren't commonly written about. Ticks, toads, mosquitoes, cockroaches, spiders, wombats and kangaroos! We like to bring these not-so-popular insects and animals into the spotlight because they are really quite extraordinary. We all know that cockroaches love garbage bins and cupboards that you never go in, but did you know that they can hold their breath for 40 minutes and survive underwater?

**How great is it to write music that entertains young people while also being something that adults don't mind having on in the car!**

What a privilege to entertain the small people! As parents ourselves we are keen for our kids to listen to something intriguing and musically dynamic, so that's what we plan to create. Our motto is that kids deserve better - our younger listeners possess impressionable and curious minds, so we are hoping to nourish

them while keeping the parents entertained with great melodies and witty lyrics.

**What musical influences do you draw on when writing for the Gumboots?**

Ultimately, we are family friendly rock - beats and tunes for everyone! Influences are far flung but include The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, Sheryl Crow, 90s grunge rock, 60s doo-wop and the Spice Girls. Yep, it's a mixed bag.

**What's the best part about playing live for young people?**

They are good listeners. We've got some dance moves we are keen to share, and our shows are interactive and full participation is actively encouraged.

**You've just recorded your first studio project, tell us a little bit about that?**

We have just recorded with producer Chris Collins and it was a really brilliant experience. We are soon to release our first music video and can't wait to share more of The Gumboots with the world!

*The Bangalow Herald*

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HERBICA, KARA



# Teddy Bears' Picnic



If you were down in the woods – or rather Piccabeen Park – mid April, you would have happened upon the delightful Teddy Bears' Picnic, hosted by the Bangalow Historical Society.

Lyn McCarthy of Niche Pictures was on hand to snap the Teddy Bear Parade and picnic.

Fun Fact: American John Walter Bratton composed 'The Teddy Bear Two-step,' later known as 'The Teddy Bear's Picnic,' in 1907.



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# Lock it up

Keep your house locked Photo Maria Zeigler

There is no denying the last few weeks have been unsettling for the townsfolk of Bangalow. Talk of intruders, reported break-ins and stolen cars has meant many of us are on high-alert, and those with a more relaxed approach to home security are now tightening things up. But our beautiful community is still a safe place to live, our police department has set up a task force to help address our concerns, and we can help prevent further offenses by employing a simple security strategy.

Youth crime in regional New South Wales (NSW) has been gaining traction. New analysis from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) has found that the gap between crime rates in regional parts of the state and Sydney is growing, and in 2023 was about 60% higher overall. Some of the greater offenses included break and enters in dwellings, which was 127% higher in regional areas versus Sydney, and motor vehicle theft was double the rate in regional NSW

compared to Greater Sydney.

Unfortunately, the Northern Rivers has not been exempt and over the last few months we've seen an increase in crimes committed by youths between 14 and 18 years old across the region. Mostly the crimes are break and enters and car theft, but we're also seeing "post and boasts" where youth film or photograph incidents and upload them to social media.

In mid-March the Clover Hill estate in Bangalow was targeted. Vehicles were stolen and multiple break and enters were experienced. It's both scary and alarming, but it is also, according to Tweed Byron Police District Inspector, Matt Kehoe, out of the ordinary.

"Bangalow is traditionally a safe town, and I am pleased to say, still is," he said. "Because of the community's low crime rate, any time there are offenses, it can therefore look like a significant spike in criminal activity. It can easily happen with just one or two offenders

coming over and targeting a particular area. This has been the situation in the last few weeks. We've had a number of offenses in a short period of time, however, we haven't seen a continuation of this activity nor seen any new offenses being reported (Note: at the time of publishing)."

Over the last six weeks, specifically mid-March to the 1 April, there were six break and enters, two vehicles were stolen and one house experienced an aggravated break and enter, where the intruders scaled the side of the house and entered via a second story kitchen window which was open. Aggravated break and enters are more serious in nature. In this case, They stole a car as well as ID documents, electronics, and jewelry. They returned the following evening to steal the second car, but were unsuccessful.

The majority of the offenses in March occurred during a week and a half, and most were part of the Clover Hill incident. According to Red Suburbs crime statistics, Bangalow's crime rank is 10 out of 100, with zero meaning a suburb has no crime.

Matt shared that the crime spike in March was part of a broader attack on the district, with similar types of offenses reported in other locations such as Suffolk Park, Mullimbimby, Brunswick Heads and South Golden Beach. Additionally, the offenses usually consisted of someone walking into an unlocked house. No locks had been picked or windows smashed. At the time of publishing, no reports were made to police about offenders using trucks to clear out houses.

With the majority of offenses taking place in unlocked homes, Matt implored residents to lock their doors at night and put car keys somewhere safe.

"Homes are not being broken into, rather most of the crimes we've seen recently are opportunistic," he said. "Offenders are able to walk straight into the house via the front or back door because people are leaving their houses unlocked.

"Cars are being stolen where the keys are easily found, so don't hang them on a hook in the kitchen or place them in a bowl on the console table at the front door. Whilst you're welcome to put up cameras, they aren't needed. These simple security measures can help prevent additional break and enters."

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Matt added that offenders are traveling from outside our district, specifically West Ballina, Lismore and Goonellabah, and are not local offenders.

"They are coming into our district to commit crimes and are then returning to these areas," he said. "We can ascertain this as vehicles that are stolen are recovered in these areas. We've also been able to identify offenders from these areas through fingerprints and DNA collected as part of our new task force, Mongoose North."

Mongoose North has been running for a number of weeks and was established to target crimes such as break and enters and vehicle theft. It's a collaboration between the Tweed Byron Police District and the Richmond Police Department. Richmond covers areas such as Ballina, Evans Head, Lismore and Casino - all areas where there has also been an uptick in criminal activity in the past few months.

The task force has already made several arrests in both districts, which has also contributed to the increase in crime reporting levels recently. Matt says the offenders are youth, repeat offenders, and seem to be mimicking activity usually seen in our region by offenders from the Gold Coast.

A Bangalow resident affected by a break and enter confirmed the offending demographic, stating the intruders were no more than 17 and wore ski masks to conceal their identity. Their vehicle also ended up in Goonellabah with some of their ID documents, plus a collection of other ID documents from additional break-ins the offenders had carried out.

With such a significant trend in youth crime hitting all parts of NSW, the state government has now announced new legislation to tighten bail laws for children and young persons. The legislation is part of their \$26 million package announced earlier in March designed to support community safety in regional areas. The package focuses on youth crime, making it tougher to get bail for young persons. Plus, if found guilty of stealing a car or breaking into a house and sharing footage of it online, offenders could also receive an additional two years in prison.

The Premier, Chris Minns, has admitted it will

mean increased incarceration, which some critics are calling dangerous and are insisting that support programs are better suited to help deal with the underlying causes of offending. Ballina state MP, Tamara Smith, feels similarly.

"I absolutely think offenders should be charged, but locking children up without addressing why they are offending is just setting them up to become hardened criminals and hurt more people in the future," she said. "I have spoken directly with the Premier about the well-documented consensus view of experts and local police that identify the increase in youth crime as a direct result of social factors – poverty, disengagement with school, disability, mental and physical health needs, drug and alcohol abuse, and the breakdown of family support networks."

Mr Minns hopes in the long run it will affect change and that the Moree pilot program which includes new bail accommodation for young people, improved out-of-hours activities and additional resources for local and children's courts, can be applied across the state in time.

When asked if such a program would be welcomed in our region, Tamara stated she would welcome as much funding as possible for proven and effective programs that could help divert young offenders from jail and support them to become valued members of society.

Byron Mayor Michael Lyon agrees, stating we can not police our way out of the problem.

"The increase in crime in my view is the symptom of a cause and that is the cost of living and the insecure housing situation and this is what we need to be addressing as a matter of urgency," he said.

Tamara shared she is working closely with the Richmond Area police command and the Tweed/Byron area police command to support local police efforts to prevent crime and is in close contact with the local charities and organisations to support at-risk youth.

"My office collaborates on a regular basis with the peak Aboriginal organisations in the Ballina electorate, as well as monitoring

the health and wellbeing of vulnerable flood impacted people living in the five pod villages in my electorate," she said. "I am also working with State MPs and councillors in our region to find solutions to this awful increase in car theft, assault, and break and enters."

In addition to the task force, Matt said they're also increasing patrols and taskings around the Bangalow area. While he doesn't feel there is an urgent requirement for a community meeting in Bangalow, similar to that held in March to help combat criminality in Ballina, due to the drop in reports already, if anyone should wish for him to address the community he would be happy to.

In the meantime, he reiterated that there are two terrific officers in Bangalow who are very much involved in the community and should anyone have any issues, they are welcome to head to the station and chat to one of them.

**Sarah Tucker**

## 5 HOME SAFETY TIPS

Bangalow's Luke Addison of Fortress Locksmiths and Security shares his top five strategies that residents can implement to increase their home security and feel safer in their home

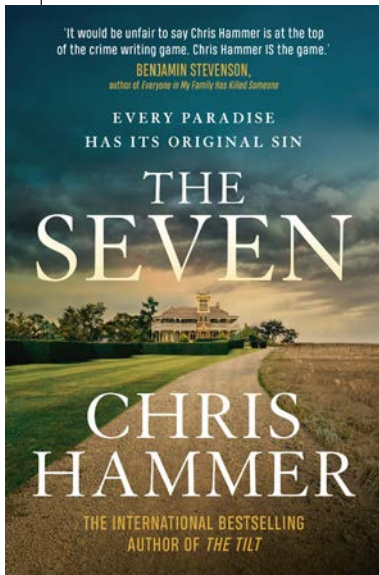
1. Lock your doors. Especially at night. This is the biggest deterrent
2. Whilst you don't want your keys in an obvious place i.e. bowl on the kitchen bench, you also do not want to store them in your bedroom. You don't want them walking in there
3. Make ladders inaccessible. Intruders don't walk around with ladders but will search for them to access a balcony or window, especially if they see one open. Lock them up inside or in a space with a high grade padlock
4. Lock up your meter box. It avoids giving offenders the option of turning off power to your cameras and WIFI
5. Store your documents and valuables in a properly installed safe



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## The Seven by Chris Hammer

*The Seven* is set in an imaginary town called Yuwonderie, somewhere between Dubbo and Griffith. It's described as an oasis in the arid landscape of Australia because, 100 years earlier, it was established within the irrigation scheme created south of the Murrumbidgee River—our main protagonist thinks of it as having *Truman Show*-like characteristics. The architects of the irrigation scheme initially

included nine families, but, for reasons that are explained in the book, only seven families became the founding members of the scheme and shareholders in the various companies established as a result, including the Fruit and Vegetable Wholesalers Co-op and the Riverina Water Traders.

The story is told in three timelines. The earliest, commencing in 1913, is told in letter form from a young pale-skinned Aboriginal girl who becomes a domestic servant to the Titchfield family. She is treated well by the family and writes regularly to her mother, who has remained on the mission where she was raised.

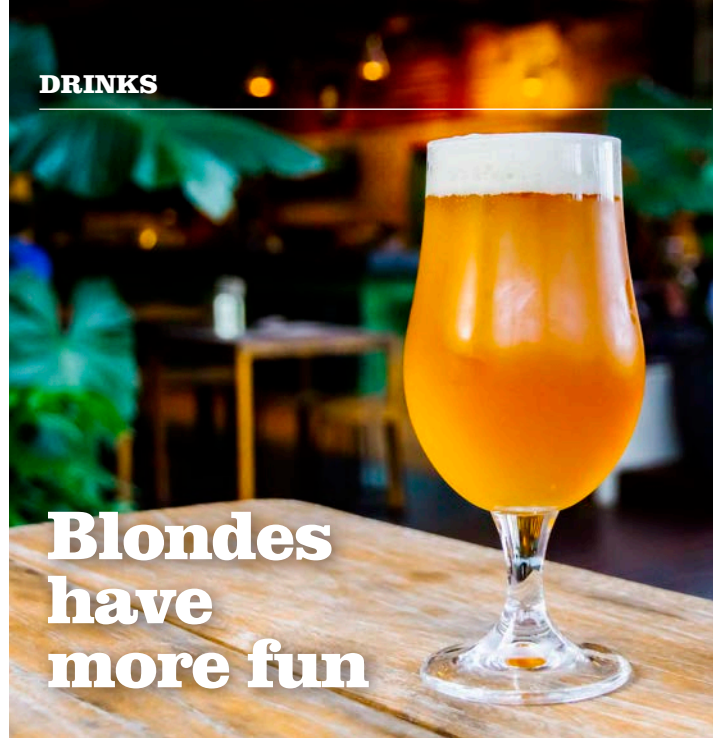
Those who are familiar with Chris Hammer's books will recognise the homicide detectives Ivan Lucic and Nell Buchanan, who are stationed at Dubbo. They've been called to present-day Yuwonderie to investigate the murder of a local accountant who is responsible for the accounting records of the families and the related organisations. As their investigation proceeds, they soon learn that there is a 30-year-old unsolved murder from 1993, and they start to wonder if there is some connection between the old cold case and the murder they are currently investigating.

There is a huge cast of interesting characters in this book; you can just imagine, with seven families covering several generations—I had to write myself a people-mud-map to keep track of who was related/married to whom.

Chris Hammer has been churning out a book a year since the publication of his highly successful *Scrublands* in 2018. Some of them have been terrific; I would highly recommend *Scrublands*, *Treasure and Dirt*, and *The Tilt*. This wasn't my favourite, but it is getting 4.25 stars on Goodreads, so a lot of people liked it more than me!

Published by Allen & Unwin

Carolyn Adams



## Blondes have more fun

Billycart Blonde Photo supplied

Belgian Blonde is a delightful style of beer that perfectly embodies Belgium's rich brewing heritage which dates back to the Middle Ages. Blonde beers are a more recent addition and can be traced back to the post-World War II era, emerging as a lighter alternative to the country's strong traditional ales.

This style was designed to appeal to a broad audience, including those who might have been more accustomed to the lighter lagers that were gaining popularity at the time.

Known and loved for its golden to light amber colour, this ale typically boasts a moderate level of alcohol, generally ranging between six and eight percent by volume. Its allure lies not just in its visual appeal but also in its complex flavour profile, which carefully balances sweetness and bitterness resulting in a complex but rewarding brew. There are hints of fruit as well while pronounced hops and yeast give a distinctive earthy flavour.

Whether enjoyed in a cosy Belgian café (with a massive bowl of Moules Frites), your local craft brewery, or under the warm autumn sun, a Belgian Blonde is a great introduction into the long and proud tradition of Belgian brewing.

This year, Common People Brewing Co is again proudly sponsoring the Billycart Derby and the beer that they brew in its honour; the Billycart Blonde, is back. Their seasonal beer for Autumn, this Belgian Blonde has a bright golden appearance, with a sweet malty aroma of honey and spice. The smooth and rounded mouthfeel balances well with tastes of honeydew, finishing with a medium bitterness. Just like the ride down the Bangalow main street, at 7.6% this beer is not for the faint at heart, but may just be the best ride of your life. Fortune favours the brave!

Common People will be popping up at Bangalow Primary School on the big race day, Sunday 19 May, serving the Billycart Blonde along with their other beers and wines. Part proceeds will be donated to the school.

Isaac Brandon

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## GARDENING

Commonly known as Sugarbushes or Honey pots, the Pink or White King Proteas are one of the most spectacular flowers and are the floral emblem of South Africa as well as the name of their world famous cricket team.

Part of the ancient family of *Proteaceae* they are related to waratahs, banksias, grevilleas, hakeas and macadamias. These are Australia's most widely grown natives and millions of years ago when our continents were joined they may have been more like South Africa's proteas, leucodendrons and leucospernum but each have continued to evolve depending upon climate and soil conditions.

Like their Australian relatives, Proteas have adapted to low fertility conditions and need low phosphorus growing conditions.

Fertilisers containing phosphorus can be fatal so soil improvers like Seasol are the only things to be used and these only sparingly in springtime.

I have to admit to dismal failure growing all of these beauties as they must have open, well draining sandy loams and even in raised beds, full sun and plenty of air flow my gardens have not been like this! However, several friends have had great success so they are well worth trying!

The name comes from the Greek God of the Sea who was thought to be able to change between many forms and came to symbolise diversity and hope. They are also able to survive bushfires and thrive. There are hundreds of variations within the family and *Proteaceae* can also be found in Hawaii, New Zealand and parts of SE Asia.

If, unlike me, you are able to grow these fantastic plants, they grow to around a metre and a half (height and width) and benefit from pruning the flower spikes for arrangements or



# King Protea

The ancient and intriguing King Protea Photo Carole Gamble

when they have died. They like mulch and well rotted composts – keep away from the stems to avoid trunk and root rot – and only water to get them established as they are dry country plants. Leaf miner and root rot are the only rare issues.

If the foliage looks yellowish or has leaf spots it will usually mean that a sunnier spot is needed or that it is too wet and perhaps has developed a fungal disease. Do not fertilise!

Plant leaving lots of space around them as air flow is needed to combat our rather high humidity. Like most ornamentals, proteas are poisonous to humans and dogs but as the foliage is so leathery, I hope it won't seem inviting.

They are rather shallow rooted so take care not to disturb and only carefully hand weed around them.

The flowers are pollinated by bees, birds, flying foxes and even small mammals so form an important food source for a large number of creatures.

When you purchase proteas, be aware that they usually take three to six years to set flowers and have a life span of around 12 years so be patient.

Good luck!

Carole Gamble

## Room to grow

Byron Shire locals will be given the hands-on skills and practical knowledge to tap into the growing horticulture industry as part of a new Certificate II in Horticulture. The new course will be split between the Byron Bay Connected Learning Centre (CLC) and TAFE NSW Wollongbar campuses. It's the first time the course has been offered at Byron Shire CLC and enrolments are open now. According to the Byron Shire's economic profile, during 2020-2021, the total value of agricultural output, which includes the horticultural sectors in Byron

Shire was \$33m. The nursery and cut flower sectors accounted for 33.5 per cent of Byron Shire's total output and was the region's largest commodity. TAFE NSW acting head teacher of horticulture Robert Davies, said there is a particular need for horticulturists in the Byron Bay region, where, due to the year-round warmer climate, there is demand for nurseries to supply products both locally and further afield to the Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne markets. For more information about TAFE NSW courses, visit [tafensw.edu.au](http://tafensw.edu.au) or call 131 601.

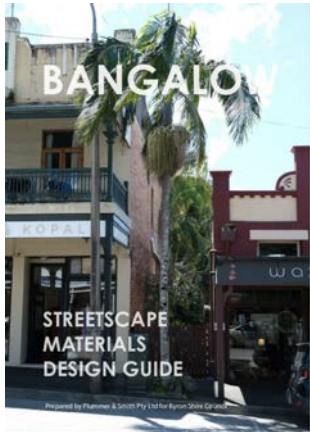
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# Bangalow Streetscape Materials Guide



The Bangalow Heritage Conservation Area now has a guide that documents existing materials and designs used in streets and public places - things like pavers, street furniture, streetlights, garbage bins, bollards. The Guide then proposes designs and materials that will serve to protect the heritage value of Byron and Station Streets and surrounding residential streets. It also contains a Plant Palette of preferred plants for streets and public places. Lastly, the Guide proposes design ideas for the three entrances to the Bangalow village

- from the north, east and west. Note that this document is a Guide for future projects that would require funding.

Coming hot on the heels of the Streetscape Guide is a proposal from Council for a staged replacement of the leopard trees in the main street. Keep your eye out for the opportunity to Have your Say.

## Nominations for Byron Shire Community Awards open

If you know an individual, a group, a business or an organisation who you think has made an outstanding contribution to the community over the last 12 months, please consider nominating them for an award. There are eight categories:

1. Community Member of the Year
2. Young Community Member of the Year
3. Community Initiative of the Year
4. Caring for Country Award
5. Contribution to Health and Wellbeing Award
6. Creativity Award
7. Access and Inclusion Award
8. In Business for Good

Applications are open until 1 June 2024. To nominate someone, fill out the online nomination form at [tinyurl.com/y2d7j63y](https://tinyurl.com/y2d7j63y)

The Awards Ceremony will be held in the first week of August 2024.



## Two Council grants open

Every year Council offers small grants for community projects. The Community Initiatives Program offers grants of up to \$5,000 to organisations with inspiring community projects. Go to [byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Byron-Shire/Grants/Community-Initiatives-Grant](https://byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Byron-Shire/Grants/Community-Initiatives-Grant) to find out more about the assessment criteria and guidelines; download the budget template and apply online.

The Creative Public Spaces Small Grants program offers seed funding of up to \$5,000 for new art works (either temporary or permanent) in public spaces in Byron Shire. Go to [byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Byron-Shire/Grants/Creative-Public-Spaces-Small-Grants](https://byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Byron-Shire/Grants/Creative-Public-Spaces-Small-Grants) for the selection criteria, grant guidelines, budget template and online application form.

Applications for both programs close on 30 June 2024

## Place name changes

Whilst Bangalow welcomes the new name Piccabeen Park, we can now also choose to call Cape Byron 'Walgun' and Julian Rocks 'Nguthungulli' – their traditional Aboriginal place names. Walgun means shoulder in the Bundjalung language, and local Arakwal people use Nguthungulli to refer to the Father of the World.

## New heritage items

Whilst the closing date for Have Your Say has passed, it is worth noting that Council is proposing that 17 new heritage items be added to the Byron Local Environment Plan 2014. Three of the items contain dwellings in Bangalow: six dwellings in Charlotte Street, one in Leslie Street and seven on Lismore Road west of Readings. Other items are located in Brunswick Heads, Byron Bay and Mullumbimby. All items across the Shire have been endorsed by Council's Heritage Advisory Committee and assessed by Council's Heritage Advisor. If approved by Council, a heritage listing ensures that any development to these dwellings in the future will have to recognise their heritage value.

*Jenny Bird*

**Have your meetings or functions at Heritage House in 2024**

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# Prawn Toastie

Who doesn't love Chinese prawn toasts? Crunchy white bread prawn toast coated in sesame seeds? This adaptation from Jamie Oliver is an easy winner and so quick to make for a weekend treat.



## INGREDIENTS

- 2 spring onions
- 160g green prawns, peeled
- 2cm piece of ginger
- 1/2 tbsp low-salt soy sauce
- 1 large egg, separated
- 4 slices of white bread (soft loaf)
- 2 tsp sesame seeds, a mix of black and white works well
- 2-3 tsp sweet chilli sauce

## METHOD

1. On a large board, finely chop the spring onions. Add most of the prawns (reserve four for later).
2. Grate or finely chop the ginger and add to the mix.
3. Add the soy sauce and egg yolk. Chop and mix everything together.
4. Divide and spread the filling between two slices of bread, then sandwich the other slices of bread on top.
5. Heat a frying pan with olive oil (or heat your sandwich press if you have one).
6. Brush egg white on both sides of the sandwich. Pat on the sesame seeds.
7. Split the remaining prawns lengthwise and press onto the bread.
8. Place in the pan and press down with a spatula to keep the sandwich flat, or pop into the sandwich press.
9. Cook for a few minutes on each side until cooked through and golden brown.
10. Serve with sweet chilli sauce.

Note: If you are not into prawns, this would be just as delicious with cooked minced chicken or tuna.

*Lyn Hand*

Speaking of prawns, 'The Big Prawn' is one of Australia's iconic 'big things' and a celebrated tourist attraction in our neighbouring Ballina Shire. This giant crustacean stands proudly at the entrance of a local Bunnings Warehouse, and is a symbol of the region's rich seafood industry. Constructed in 1989, the Prawn has undergone various renovations, the most significant in 2013, which added a tail and revitalised its exterior to a more vibrant and realistic finish.

Visitors to the Big Prawn can take photos with the structure, which is one of the largest of Australia's 'big things' before heading to the Northern Rivers Seafood or the Ballina Fisherman's Co-Op for a kilo! Easily accessible, free to visit, and now commemorated on t-shirts, tea towels and more, the Prawn continues to be a popular stop for tourists wanting a slice of Australian roadside novelty.

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# Scoot

The art of un-busyness Photo supplied

I was in a shop waiting for some food when a young guy glided in on his scooter.

"How you going mate?" called out the dude stacking the drinks fridge.

"Good, good," said the youth. "Seen Tommy?"

"Nah man, he's been and gone. What you up to?"

"Not much," said scooter guy. "Just riding around." And so, saying, he cocked his head in a cheerio and glided out of the shop.

This, I thought, is a salutary life lesson. I had spent the morning doing life admin. You know the stuff: paying bills, sorting out insurance, unstacking the dishwasher, booking appointments... blah blah blah. All the sort of stuff you feel you need to do, because it feels very important, and it stops you from Just Riding Around.

How long had it been since I simply hung about? Sure, sometimes I allow myself a

tea break and a bit of a cloud gaze or a bird watch, but, in truth, usually at the same time I'll be making a mental list of tasks.

Scooter guy reminded me of something I'd lost and hadn't even noticed. The ability to just hang about. I had a sudden awareness that I'd become hooked on the need to be busy. There's a lot of external validation for being busy. Even stressed gets a badge of approval. It kinda indicates somehow that you are important. Madness. We often justify it by affirming to others; how are you we ask, very busy, comes the reply, hectic. It's a lot harder to be still and to just be.

Scooter guy showed me I'd gotten stuck in an absurd loop and completely lost the ability to Hang About, To Ride Around. Watching him reminded me that there are other ways to exist in the world that don't involve rushing from task to meeting to duty to self-imposed obligation and back to task.

I had a list of various things I was going to do; to play the ukulele (tried and failed already). To knit a fabulous jumper everyone would admire (I can't knit). To grow orchids (not sure why). To join a choir (I'm quite tuneless). To get a dog (long fantasy about an adorable well-behaved and popular dog). To get good at composting (multiple failures there). To clean the car (achievable and easily postponed). To work out how to get the stain off my white tee shirt (hmm, harder than you think). All mundane I know, but I hadn't achieved any of them. I lost them under an urgency of much more Important Things To Do that I can't even remember now.

Urgent recalibration is needed, clearly. But forget about making a list of how to that. Scooter guy showed me the way. I am just going to Hang About and when I'm sick of that I am going to Just Ride Around.

**Dr Airdre Grant**

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# Mullum Laneways Festival 2024

Mullumbimby is gearing up for the Laneways Festival 2024, taking place on 4 and 5 May. This festival, following the successful 'Blue on Burringbar' event last year, aims to further aid community healing after the devastating floods, with an enriched arts, music, and community spirit celebration. The festivities will span two days, including a free twilight event on Sunday, 5 May. Burringbar Street and its surrounding laneways will transform into a creative sanctuary, offering a vibrant mix of music, dance, theatre, art, and culinary delights. Headlining Sunday's events are Bunny Racket with their unique punk rock, The Lovies with their harmonious style, and the 10-piece Soul'd band, delivering an infectious blend of soul, rock, and blues. The festival also features roving performances by The Cassettes and Spaghetti Circus, alongside activities for all ages, from face painting to life drawing sessions led by Hot Mess. Saturday includes a lantern-making workshop and a fundraiser Progressive Dinner Party, setting the stage for Sunday's grand festivities. For tickets and more details, visit [kaleidomullumbimby.org.au](http://kaleidomullumbimby.org.au)



**Versace Boys appearing at the Mullum Laneways Festival, Saturday 4 May with their 'sundrenched soul mixed with hip hop and happiness' Photo Nina Claire Photography**

## Babe Rainbow at the A&I Hall

That crafty Eltham crew have staged yet another spin off, this time, Eltham Offsite, a live music event at the majestic Bangalow A&I Hall. Headlining the show is Byron's psychedelic-surf rock phenomenon Babe Rainbow along with a host of special guests with two sessions on Friday 10 May. The family matinee, from 4pm-6pm also has kids' yoga with Sunflower Sutra, while the strictly grown-ups only show, from 7pm-10pm, features Very Nice Person, and Single Cell Organism. Both shows have amazing pizzas from Ciao Mate and Loco Love chocolates available. Babe Rainbow have supported King Gizzard, Allah Las, Tomorrows Tulips, and French synth wave band La Femme internationally. Catch them locally before they head to Europe later this month. Tickets on sale now via [bandsintown.com](http://bandsintown.com)

## Byron Writers Festival 2024: First Guests Announced



**Byron Writers Festival at Bangalow Showground Photo Saul Goodwin**

The Byron Writers Festival has announced the first group of authors who will appear at the 2024 festival to be held in Bangalow, 9-11 August. With new Artistic Director Jessica Alice at the helm, this year's event features international bestsellers Trent Dalton and Jane Harper, acclaimed writer and farmer Bruce Pascoe, Booker Prize winner Richard Flanagan, Irish poet and novelist Caoilinn Hughes, PEN award-winning author and poet Nam Le, playwright, screenwriter, and novelist Suzie Miller, investigative journalist and debut novelist Louise Milligan, and local speculative fiction writer Mykaela Saunders.

The full program, which will include over 100 writers, thinkers, and commentators, to be revealed on 19 June. The 2024 Byron Writers Festival will take place on the beautiful Bundjalung land at the Bangalow Showground. Discounted Early Bird three-day passes are available now at [byronwritersfestival.com](http://byronwritersfestival.com)



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# Gather

## After School Self Love Club

**When** Tuesdays 3.15pm-4.15pm (during school terms)

**Where** Bangalow Scout Hall, Bangalow

**Info** [goodvibesgang.com.au](http://goodvibesgang.com.au) |  
Instagram @goodvibes.gang

**Tickets** \$200 for 10 week term or \$23  
for a casual drop in class

Self Love Club is a Tween Mindfulness After School Club aimed at Tween Girls aged eight to 12. Through games, dance, craft and beginners' yoga these girls will become part of a like-minded group learning about their intuition, how to calm their worries and be proud of their uniqueness.

## Bangalow Quilters

**When** 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month

**Where** All Souls' Anglican Church Hall  
Ashton St Bangalow

**Info** Karen 0413 621 224

Join our friendly group of local quilters. We are happy to share our skills and knowledge.

Visitors and new members are very welcome.

## KWT Thursday Social Club

**When** First Thursday of the month, 5.30-7.30pm

**Where** Bangalow Anglican Church Hall

**Entry** \$7 including afternoon tea

Kindred Women Together (KWT) is hosting a regular social catch up at the Bangalow Hotel on the first Thursday of every month for any woman who would like to meet other women from our community. Buy your own drinks and dinner and have a casual chat with other like-minded, friendly women. All women welcome.

## Bangalow Bridge Club

**When** Friday afternoon

**Where** Bangalow Anglican Church Hall

**Entry** \$7 including afternoon tea

Guests and potential new members are most welcome. Refresher lessons are held at times for those who need to lift their game. Contact Brian Sundstrom 0429 311 830 and Eda Bridgeman 0411 872 423.



## Bangalow Show Pavilion entries update

Planning is underway for a fantastic 2024 Show to be held 15-16 November at the Bangalow Showgrounds. For those already planning their entries in the Pavilion please note that there is a major change this year. All judging in the Pavilion will now be taking place on Thursday 14 November (not the traditional day of Friday). This will mean closing dates for entries will be changing. Please keep an eye out on our social media pages later in the year for these revised dates. Good news is this will mean the Pavilion will be open for inspection from Friday morning and you will all have plenty of time to view the amazing entries from our talented community. If you would like to help out our wonderful volunteers in the Pavilion and become a steward, please send us an email and we will get back to you - [bangalowshow@outlook.com](mailto:bangalowshow@outlook.com) or Facebook @Bangalow Show Society

*Anne McClelland, Show Secretary*

## Position Vacant

We're looking for a reliable person to deliver *The Bangalow Herald* to the hinterland once a month. The position involves delivering approximately 300 papers to parts of Bangalow, Coorabell, Possum Creek, Binna Burra, Brooklet and Newrybar.

The successful applicant will hold an ABN, their own insurance and a vehicle. The work would be ideally suited to a motor scooter or Postie bike.

Papers are collected from Bangalow and delivered usually on the last Friday or Saturday of each month, with the delivery run taking about 3.5 hours in total.

For more information please reach out to our Distribution Coordinator Murray Hand 0478 125 457 or email [info@bangalowherald.com.au](mailto:info@bangalowherald.com.au)

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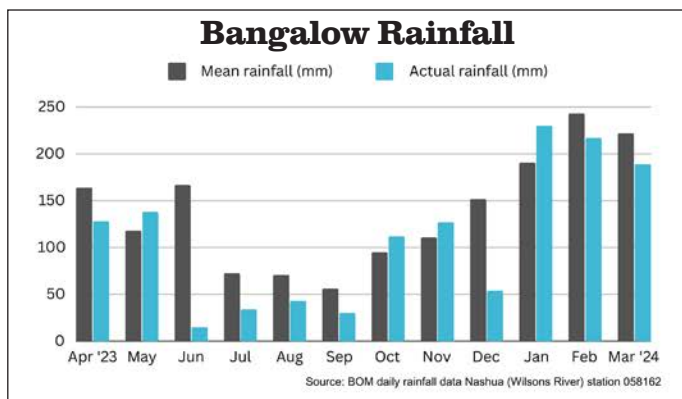
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AA (6pm Tues)	Karen Mc	0403 735 678
ADFAS	Dianne	0412 370 372
Al-Anon (2pm Fri)		1300 252 666
Bangalow Koalas	Linda	0411 491 991
Bridge Club	Brian	0429 311 830
Community Children's Centre	Kerry	6687 1552
Co-dependents Anonymous	Gye	0421 583 321
CWA (Wed)	Lorraine	0417 705 439
Garden Club (1st Wed)	Diana	0418 288 428
George the snake man	George	0407 965 092
Historical Society/Museum	Trisha	0429 882 525
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 (6pm 2nd/4th Tues)	Nashy	0418 440 545
Men's Shed	John	0427 130 177
Op Shop (M-F 10am-2pm, 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
Community 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
Pony Club	Rebecca	0410 706 959
Rugby Union (Rebels)	Dave	0412 080 614
Soccer (Bluedogs)		0434 559 700
Tennis court hire	Bernie	0433 970 800
Venues		
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All Souls' Anglican Hall		6684 3552
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Heritage House	Trisha	0429 882 525
Lions Club Kiosk	Nashy	0418 440 545
Moller Pavilion		6687 1035
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## WHAT'S ON

May your days and nights be filled with quality community events and entertainment.

### Bangalow Garden Club

**When** Wednesday 1 May, 1.30pm  
**Where** Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground  
**Info** bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com or Diana Harden 0418 288 428

This month's speaker is Phil Dudman, a regular on Saturday morning North Coast ABC radio gardening segment, who will talk about pruning.

### Harvest Food Trail

**When** 2-3 May  
**Where** Various Northern Rivers locations  
**Info**

northernriversfood.org/harvest-food-trail

If your idea of foodie heaven is tooting along picturesque country roads and dropping into glorious farms, restaurants, and cellar doors along the way, then the Harvest Food Trail is for you. Now in its eighth year, our iconic self-drive trail is a unique opportunity to spend two days wandering through the gates and into the paddocks, kitchens, bottling rooms and packing sheds of some of the Northern Rivers finest food and beverage producers. It's the ultimate way of going behind the scenes to where the magic happens.

### New Moon Ceremony

**When** Sunday 5 May, 7- 8.15pm  
**Where** Bangalow Scout Hall, Bangalow  
**Info** goodvibesgang.com.au  
**Tickets** \$25

Join host Kate Vandermeer and other like-minded women in a circle, deeply connecting to yourself through guided meditation, reiki, essential oils, crystal healing and journaling. This is a beautiful, healing ceremony designed to encourage us to pause and nourish ourselves whilst harnessing the magic of the New Moon.

### Bangalow Business Networking Breakfast

**When** Thursday 9 May, 7.30- 9.00am  
**Where** Woods Café, Bangalow  
**Tickets** byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au

Kate Nutt from Kate Nutt Photography is presenting 'Beyond the Screen: Crafting an Engaging Online Presence'. Discover strategies to enhance your digital footprint beyond social media. From revitalizing email communications to crafting compelling quotes for conversion, this presentation will equip you with tools to captivate clients online. Elevate your online presence to foster genuine engagement and drive business success.

### Shire Choir Bangalow

**When** Thursday 9 May, 7pm  
**Where** Bangalow Bowling Club, 21 Byron Bay Road, Bangalow  
**Tickets** \$15/\$25 shirechoir.eventbrite.com  
Shire Choir is back with Melia Naughton leading you through a gorgeous three-part harmony rendition of a classic pop/rock song. One song, one night. All voices welcome. There will also be a screening of Shire Choir's Community Feelgood Tour documentary, an up-close look at Shire Choir captured perfectly by local filmmaker Sharon Shostak, at the start of the night. Who knows, you might even spot yourself on the big screen!

### 2024 Summerland Bangalow Billycart Derby

**When** Sunday 19 May, all day event - very early start  
**Where** Byron St, Bangalow (Main Street)  
**Info** billycartderby.com.au or call Nashy 0418 440 545  
**Tickets** Online or register on the day 6.30-8am sharp

Bangalow Billycart Derby is a much-loved long-term iconic Bangalow Village event hosted by Bangalow Lions Club and sponsored by Summerland Bank and many other local businesses. It's good old fashioned family fun with categories for everyone from 5 to 80 years young - kids, parents, schools challenge, sporting clubs challenge, professionals, amateurs, celebrities and pretenders. Hundreds of races. Features the Grand Parade at lunchtime - very cool and very fun. It's a must attend community event.

### ArtsNational lecture: The Vienna Secession: From Klimt to Schiele

**When** Monday 20 May, 6.30-8pm  
**Where** A&I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow  
**Tickets** Non-members \$25 via trybooking.com/CNJRL

In 1897, Gustav Klimt led the Secession, a 'break-away' group of artists who sought artistic freedom. Paintings by Klimt and Schiele were accused of creating pornography and bringing art down into the gutter. Presented by International Lecturer, Dr Anne Anderson.



René Bolten *Studio Storage with Red* (diptych), 2024, oil on canvas Photo Raimond De Weerd

## In Conversation with Jane Tara

**When** Thursday 23 May, 5.30pm for 6pm start

**Where** Lone Goat Gallery, Byron Library, 28 Lawson Street, Byron Bay

**Info** byronbayfol.com

**Tickets** Free for members, \$5 for non-members

Friends of Libraries Byron are hosting a book event for Ballina-born writer Jane Tara featuring her latest book *Tilda IS Visible*, in conversation with Naima Brown. The novel is a funny and believable story about two older women and their invisibility in society. This book addresses the power of our thoughts and how childhood trauma shapes our adult experience.

## Bangalow Quilters World's Biggest Morning Tea

**When** 23 May, 9.30am – 12.00pm

**Where** Anglican Church Hall, Ashton Street, Bangalow

**Info** bangalowquilters@gmail.com or Karen Hagley 0432281084

**Tickets** \$5 at the door

Bangalow Quilters will again host a World's Biggest Morning Tea in aid of the Cancer Council. This annual event will again feature a trading table, games and a raffle as well as a quilt display of members work. A splendid morning tea is served and all are welcome to join us in supporting this wonderful organisation. Please RSVP if bringing a group.

## The Painter's Studio Het Schildersatelier by René Bolten

**When** until 25 May, Weds-Sat, 10am-4pm

**Where** Lone Goat Gallery, Byron Bay

### Info

lonegoatgallery.com/exhibitions/rene-bolten

Australian-based, Dutch artist René Bolten has been making work in his Georgica-based home studio for over 30 years. His work represents the beauty in everyday objects. This new body of work pays homage to his studio and explores the objects and tools of his daily art practice. Each life size painting represents an aspect of his studio and objects of familiarity, that are loaded with the comfort of memory and tenderly observe the place where he has spent a lifetime painting, making meaning and finding solace and safety. Free entry.

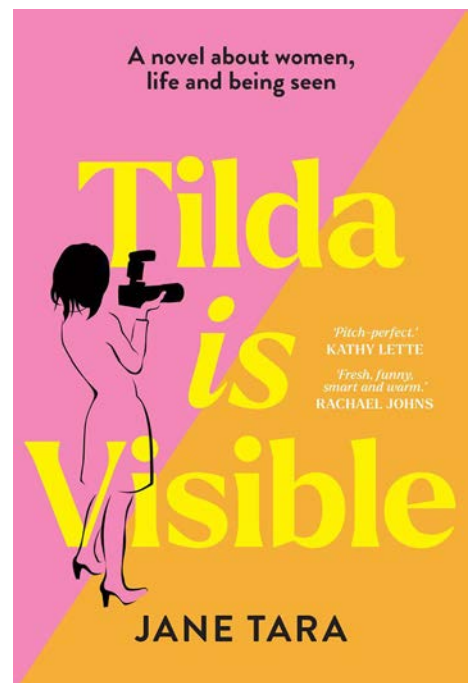
## Byron Comedy Fest 2024

**When** 30, 31 May and 1 June

**Where** The Hotel Great Northern's Backroom, Byron

**Info** byroncomedyfest.com

The Byron Comedy Fest brings laughter to Byron with eight headline shows including UK's Dan Willis, Bob Franklin, Matt O'Neill, and Gillian Cordiner. Sri Lankan-born Australian TV star Dilruk Jayasinha swaps his accounting career for the comedy stage, joined by talents like Bev Killick and Venezuelan comic Ivan Aristagueita and more. Enjoy a blend of international and local comedic talent, with tickets available for individual shows or passes.



## Diary

### May 2024

1	Bangalow Garden Club
2-3	Harvest Food Trail
5	New Moon Ceremony
9	Bangalow Business Networking Breakfast Shire Choir Bangalow
19	2024 Summerland Bangalow Billycart Derby Bangalow Public School Pit Stop fair
20	ArtsNational lecture: The Vienna Secession: From Klimt to Schiele
23	In Conversation with Jane Tara Bangalow Quilters World's Biggest Morning Tea
25	The Painter's Studio Het Schildersatelier by René Bolten
30 - 1 June	Byron Comedy Fest 2024

### June edition deadlines

What's On 13 May

Copy 13 May

Advertising 13 May

# Getting Max back



**Andy and Jenny on Weekend Sunrise appealing for the safe return of Jenny's pug Photo supplied**

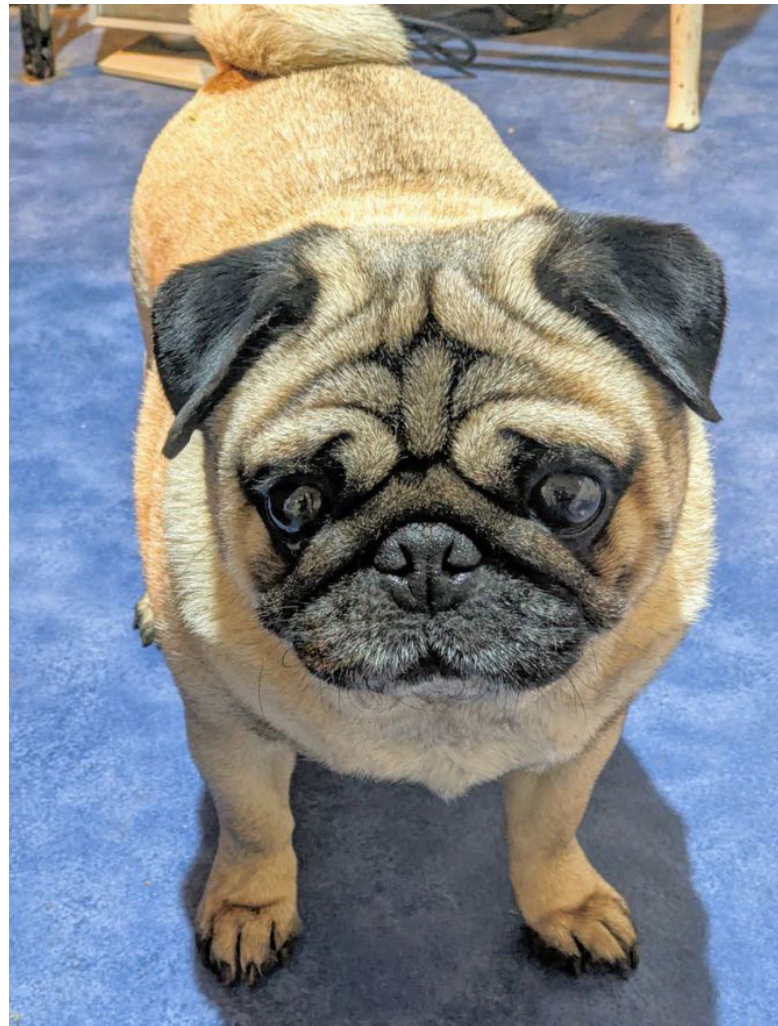
In 2023, Bangalow local, 90-year-old Jenny Coman, was hospitalised after an horrific traffic accident whilst walking her two pet pugs. After a lengthy stay in hospital and rehabilitation, Jenny returned home to find that the person she had entrusted to care for her pugs had rehomed Jenny's dog Max without her consent.

A small group of concerned locals has been active on local Lost and Found Pet social media pages hoping to find a clue as to Max's whereabouts.

An anonymous tip off informed the group that the dog had been rehomed on the Central Coast.

The couple who are now in possession of the precious pug have been tracked to the city of Newcastle but when approached, have denied any wrongdoing, saying they were told the original owner 'had died.'

On learning that Jenny is still alive and well – and wanting her dog back – the pair have now gone quiet, except for one statement to an ABC journalist denying they have Jenny's dog.



**Max, the dog at the centre of an outrageous illegal rehoming saga Photo supplied**

The Newcastle couple, who married mid-April, even paraded Max as part of their wedding shoot on social media, knowing full well that there was an elderly woman in Bangalow who had been through significant trauma and was wanting her dog back.

Jenny is devastated by the loss of her pet pug, Max, and dearly wants her fur baby returned.

A recent search and rescue mission to Newcastle was enacted with the plan of snatching Max off the street but proved fruitless. The determination of the community to reunite Jenny and Max has resulted in raised awareness with both the ABC and Sunrise having contacted Jenny in relation to the illegal rehoming of her beloved dog.

It is hoped that additional media attention will promote Jenny's plight – and perhaps appeal to the conscience of his current custodians to return Max to his rightful owner.

Max is microchipped and registered to Jenny Coman.

**The Bangalow Herald**

**BANGALOW BILLYCART DERBY**  
THERE'S A RACE CATEGORY FOR EVERYONE - SEE WEBSITE

RACES START AT 9AM. STREET PARADE AT 12.30PM

REGISTER ON THE DAY 7-8.30AM AT THE BANGALOW HOTEL OR EARLIER ONLINE [WWW.BILLYCARTDERBY.COM.AU](http://WWW.BILLYCARTDERBY.COM.AU) - PRINT REGO FORMS OFF WEBSITE, COMPLETE DETAILS AND BRING 'EM WITH YA - BE EARLY PLEASE!

VISIT THE SCHOOL FAIR - THE PIT STOP - FOR RIDES, FOOD AND GAMES!

**SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2024 | [BANGALOWBILLYCART.COM.AU](http://BANGALOWBILLYCART.COM.AU)**