

The Bangalow

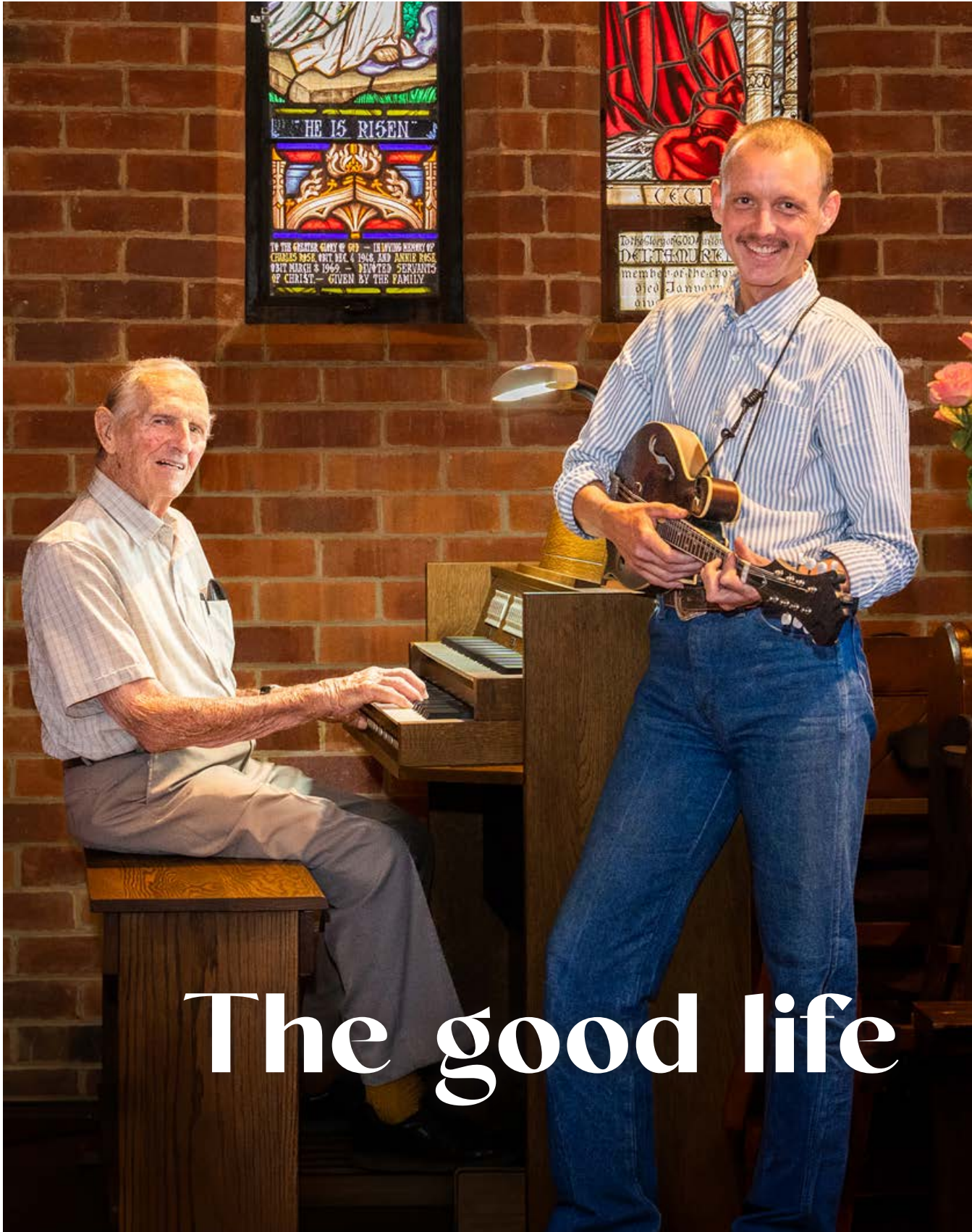
HERALD

2479

Keeping the faith
music and ministry

The world's a stage
travel and theatre

What's the buzz?
EVs and bees



The good life

JUSTINE ELLIOT & LABOR

DELIVERING MORE BULK BILLING



THIS IS
ALL YOU'LL
NEED TO SEE A
BULK BILLING
GP



Labor will always defend and strengthen


medicare

Justine Elliot MP

Federal Member for Richmond



 justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au

 (07) 5523 4371

  Justine Elliot MP

 justineelliott.com.au

Authorised J. Elliot, ALP, 107 Minjungbal Drive Tweed Heads South

From the Editor

What does it mean to live well, and to do so in a way that feels both meaningful and sustainable? Recycle, use less plastic, borrow don't buy – think before you act (and speak). These are simple examples, but the day is full of moments for conscious choices, and in this edition we hear from exemplary residents living their best lives.

Long-time local, former cattle farmer and nonagenarian Denzil Thomas whose enduring passion for playing the organ is a reminder that a life well lived doesn't slow down, it simply deepens. There's the musical Anglican minister whose path was set in motion by a recording of Bob Dylan, proof that inspiration can arrive at any moment and reshape a life. Young folk of 2479 explore a world of pure imagination in a very sweet school musical, and a Bangalow mother and daughter acting duo step out of their comfort zones, embracing the vulnerability and joy that come with following a cherished dream.

Our book reviewer, Carolyn Adams, takes us further afield, recounting a remarkable 15-week 'bucket list' journey that included a white Christmas, Marrakech markets, and the simple pleasure of time spent exploring the world beyond 2479. It's a gentle reminder to say yes to adventures when they present themselves.

There are also timely features that reflect a growing awareness of how we live. Sustainable homes, electric vehicles and even medicinal bees point to a future where living well also means living thoughtfully.

Taken together, this edition is less about any single definition of 'the good life' and more about the many ways it can take shape. Whether through creativity, travel, community or conscious living, the common thread is intention – choose wisely and enjoy.

As always, it's a privilege to share these stories from our community, and I deeply appreciate the team that makes this publication happen every month – including you, dear reader.

Sally Schofield

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

Editor: Sally Schofield

editor@bangalowherald.com.au

Advertising: Pippa Vickery

advertising@bangalowherald.com.au

What's On: Sally Schofield

whatson@bangalowherald.com.au

Design: Gaby Borgardts - GEEBEE DESIGN

Cover image: Saul Goodwin, Property Shot Photography

facebook.com/thebangalowherald

bangalowherald.com.au

PO Box 45, Bangalow, NSW 2479

Contributors: Carolyn Adams, Hywell David, Carole Gamble, Airdre Grant,

Lyn Hand, Digby Hildreth, Gabby Le Brun, Christobel Munson, Sally Schofield,

Graham Truswell

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

DODDS REAL ESTATE

Serving The Bangalow Community



Sales Property Management Friendly Advice

Caroline Cantrell

Michael Dodds

0491 332 430

Bangalow Agent of the Year by RateMyAgent
2021 | 2022 | 2023

25 Byron Street
Bangalow NSW 2479





The Thomas family - Geoff, Denzil, David and grandson Charlie



Denzil Thomas on the keyboard
Photo Digby Hildreth

Faithful to his fingertips

Attend a service at All Souls Anglican church on a Sunday morning and you will not see Denzil Thomas, but you will most certainly hear him.

He's down there at the front, to the right of the apse, sitting at the organ beneath the stained-glass window depicting St Cecilia, patron saint of music, his big, strong farmer's hands pumping out the swelling chords that carry the hymn-singers through their ancient songs of faith.

And out of sight is where this unassuming nonagenarian prefers to be. The very essence of old-school country modesty, Denzil looks positively gloomy at the prospect of having his name in print.

But after spending 79 of his 96 years playing the organ at All Souls, Denzil acknowledges that it will soon be time to give up his seat to a younger person – and that an article in *The*

Bangalow Herald might be the best way to find his replacement.

The needs of the church aside, however, Denzil's story as a lifelong Bangalowian has sufficient merit in itself to earn him a place in these pages. Indeed, his decades of commitment very likely qualify him for a mention in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Starting at All Souls at the age of 17, Denzil has had only a few months away from the role in his eight decades of service – three short holidays with his late wife, Audrey.

For the rest of the time, he has left the family dairy farm at Possum Creek every Sunday and made his way to the cathedral-style building to play, sometimes at several services a day.

Ninety-six years ago, Bangalow was a rural village, where children were brought to church in horse-drawn carriages, a memory

Denzil has retained from his preschool years: "I can remember when I was four years old (in 1934). We didn't have a car at that time, and Dad would harness up a horse and sulky. And he and mum and all the kids would pile into the sulky to travel along a gravel road to the 11 o'clock service.

"I don't know how we all fit in. I was the youngest of six kids, and I remember my sister and I, the two littlies, sitting in what they called a 'dickie seat'." In 1936 his dad bought a car, a second-hand Erskine with a fabric hood; four or five years later he upgraded to "a lovely, powerful" Chevrolet sedan. Today Denzil drives himself to church, calmly navigating through the squall of Bangalow's now incomparably busier streets.

He was 89 when he closed the dairy operation, replacing the milkers with a beef herd of Black Angus that his son Geoff and grandson manage today. He's not as quick on his feet as he once was, he says, "so I don't have much to do with the day-to-day running of the farm. If I got bowled over in the yard with those big animals, I'd have trouble getting up."

However, he does still do all the farm's bookkeeping – glad to be able to keep his mind active. As evidence, he can recount each one of the 15 rectors who have served during his 79-year tenure, with an occasional commentary or amusing anecdote thrown in.

Born in the hospital that was then on Granuaille Road, Denzil had four older brothers who have all since passed away – "two or three of them made 90", he thinks. When World War II was over, the brothers moved away to farm sugar cane at Wardell and in 1946 Denzil left school and joined his



Denzil and Audrey on their wedding day, standing in front of the fireplace at the Bangalow Hotel Photo supplied

father on the farm. He lost his wife in 2017, but still lives in the old family home.

Both he and his sister, Hester, learned to play the piano as children. "She was much more advanced than I was," he says, but he nevertheless completed five exams.

Hester preceded him as All Souls organist and every Sunday she would get on her bike at half past seven and ride to the church to play for the eight o'clock service. "Then she'd breakfast with the Saunders over in the rectory, teach Sunday school from 10 o'clock till 11 o'clock and play for the 11 o'clock service. At 12, she'd get on her bike and pedal home for Sunday lunch," he recalls.

When Hester was transferred to a school in Sydney just before Easter, 1947, Denzil took over.

"But because I was farming with dad, it was hard for me to get into the eight o'clock service so I played for the 11 o'clock. On the last two Sundays in the month, there was also Evensong at seven and I did both services." By this stage, aged 17, he had his driver's licence and drove in.

His piano education was rigorous, under the tutelage of a Catholic nun, Sister Petronella, at the former convent next to St Kevin's. "Petronella taught violin and piano and my goodness, she was a very imposing figure, and strict," he says.

At that time, the church had a little reed organ that required pedalling to create the wind to drive it. Later there was a "beautifully sounding" Hammond, which remains his favourite make.

He helps to choose the hymns for each service and practises them during the week. Typically modest, he won't expand upon his keyboard skills when asked: "I just try to do my best. I try to play it accurately, and, you know, in time. I don't like the hymns to drag."

Despite his extraordinary energy and commitment, he says it's time to look for a replacement: "I'm old and don't know how much longer I've got," he says.

Until one is found, he'll keep on, playing the sacred music, in the place where he was baptised and married, and to which he has devoted his life.

Digby Hildreth

Proud Sponsors of the Bangalow Billycart Derby



So proud we've brewed a beer in its honour.

Make sure to quench your carting thirst with a refreshing Billycart Blonde!





Something to smile about, *Whistle* to open the Bangalow Film Festival

Bangalow Film Festival 2026

Bangalow Film Festival returns to the A&I Hall 11-21 June, and its sixth year promises to be another thoughtfully curated program of cinema and events.

Founder Christian Pazzaglia is enthusiastic about one of this year's 'big ticket items' on the program – an international environmental doco competition. "We're launching Australia's first nature documentary award," he says. "We have five feature films competing and a phenomenal jury, as well as an award determined by the audience."

Documentaries are more than just entertainment – they inform and engage, they invite discussion and reflection, and they can also influence behaviour and bring about change. There's never been a more powerful vehicle – and moment – for messages about climate, energy, conservation, sustainability, community and the world around us than now.

Nature documentary films both catalogue a critical issue, and speculates on the future. This depiction of what is at risk, the scope of the loss to humanity, and possible actions that could alter the course human impact on the nature world can turn something abstract like food insecurity, melting ice caps or rising temperatures into something tangible. They help us see our innate connection and our part in both the problem and solution.

Riding on this theme is a 'festival within the festival' paying homage to 1970s-80s surf films, portrays that majesty of the ocean and the centrality of mateship. A day of 16mm classic surf films is planned, and will include the famed *All Down the Line* directed by Paul Witzig, who will also be hosting a filmmaker Q&A at the session.

The full program featuring 11 days of films, live performance, music, installations and a bar open every day will be revealed next later this month. I have it on good authority that the highly dysfunctional cult-classic Australian crime-drama *Bad Boy Bobby* will also be screening – cats admitted free. The much-anticipated opening night party will be screening *Whistle*, a joyful, quirky, emotional look into the world of professional musical whistling. Yes, really. Will there be a whistling competition on the night? My lips are sealed.

Find out more bangalowfilmfestival.com.au

Sally Schofield

Do you have a community or creative project Council could support?

Grants open now:

Community Initiatives Program

Grants of up to \$5,000 to support projects that will deliver social, cultural and environmental outcomes.

Creative Public Spaces

Grants of up to \$5,000 for creative activations and art projects in public spaces.

Applications are open now and close on **Thursday 4th June.**



Image: Puzzledust at Soul Street 2025, Photo Credit Rebecca Rushbrook

02 6626 7000 • www.byron.nsw.gov.au/grants



Waterfront Retirement Now Selling at Uniting Yamba

56 - 58 Yamba Road, Yamba

Embrace a relaxed coastal lifestyle at Uniting Yamba — perfectly positioned opposite Yamba Marina and the only retirement living community in Yamba with onsite care. A new release of thoughtfully designed apartments and villas is now selling, offering comfort, connection and peace of mind in a truly special location.

Enjoy added confidence with:

- No stamp duty
- 90-day change of mind guarantee
- No sales or marketing costs when you leave
- Service fees stop 42 days after you leave

Enquire today and secure your place by the water.



Available now:

- 1-bedroom apartments from **\$630,000***
- 2-bedroom apartments from **\$750,000***
- 2-bedroom + study villas from **\$780,000***

Visit [Uniting.org/yamba](https://uniting.org/yamba) or call **1800 864 846** to book your tour.

Uniting

You will have to pay a departure fee when you leave this village.
*Pricing and information are correct as of April 2026.



Where the bee sucks

Quality control - looking after the bees Photos supplied

Up and down the Northern Rivers coastline, from Wardell and Broadwater, up through Lennox Head to Tyagarah, hundreds and hundreds of beehives are carefully, and prudently, nurtured and maintained year-round by a local family for their honey-making business.

Christobel Munson speaks with the owners to learn about this local agricultural success story.

Thirty years ago, Katrina Evans and Michael Howes started the business they called Tyagarah Apiaries. Originally from New Zealand, Kat and Michael were bushwalking in Tyagarah Nature Reserve with their lifelong friend and Māori elder, Cheryl Livingstone, on the hunt for bush medicine. Cheryl followed the buzzing trail of some bees to see which particular flower was attracting them. What Michael assumed was ‘jellybush’ – a common name for the Australian native tea tree, *Leptospermum polygalifolium*, which creates a thick, jelly-like honey – Cheryl instantly identified as a close cousin of Mānuka, *Leptospermum scoparium*. Both plants share similar medicinal characteristics.

Kat and Michael had the honey from the flowers they found tested in independent laboratories, which proved that its bioactive honey was even more potent in medicinal properties than its New Zealand cousin. In 2012, they changed their company name to Australia’s Manuka to better market their unique bioactive honey.

You’ve heard of the rivalry between New Zealand and Australia with regard to who first invented Pavlova? Well, it’s a similar tale with Mānuka honey.

Apparently, an English missionary, Mary Bumby, introduced European honey bees to New Zealand in 1839. While the Māori people had long utilised the Mānuka plant for medicinal purposes, the first commercial honey production is said to have begun there around 1870, with the bees foraging on native Mānuka flowers.

Meanwhile, down in Tasmania, the term ‘Manuka’ was used to describe local *Leptospermum* bushes back in 1884. Honey was produced there from the 1830s, with commercial production of Tasmanian Manuka honey recorded at Sheffield Honey Farm in 1897.

Recently, Australian producers won a long-running legal battle against New Zealand to use the term ‘Manuka’ for their honey, with the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand ruling in May 2023 that ‘Manuka’ is a descriptive term rather than a distinctive one, enabling its use by both nations.

“Some people see a rivalry between New Zealand and Australian Manuka producers,” says Michael. “But we’re on friendly terms with our beekeeping counterparts, as well as botanists and scientists. We’re into cooperating between ourselves.”

Then what’s the difference between the products? Their answer is immediate: “the taste!”

Meanwhile, back to the bees. Each bee colony within the 150–200 km range from their business at Tyagarah contains between 40–60,000 female bees – a lot of female energy! The hives are located on the lands of about 36 to 40 farmers, with whom Michael has developed good relationships over 25 years.

“Our main focus, the Manuka honey, grows on heathland areas or country. The generosity of farmers lets us come onto their



Inspecting the hives



A family operation

properties, allowing us to do what we do.”

Categorised as a “small family business”, it provides work for five family members. Michael is the CEO, overseeing all aspects of the business, from beekeeping to final production of the products, as well as managing international certification and export. Their range of products is sold around Australia and exported to the U.S., the Middle East, Japan, Vietnam, the UK, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Next week, daughter Hope Evans is off to Taiwan, her role focusing on sales and marketing. Her husband, Simon McCarthy, is beekeeping manager, while her brother Uri manages their impressive state-of-the-art packaging facility in Tyagarah. The operation is fully off-grid, with a 50-kW solar and battery set-up, with generator backup.

Katrina, the company’s MD, works closely with Michael managing all aspects of the business – “everything from beekeeping, managing the bees, extracting, processing, packaging, quality control and selling,” she said.

“We’re all pretty passionate about this business producing a quality, ethical natural food product. We make the strongest MGO honey in the world, MGO being a powerful antibiotic, measured for its antibacterial qualities. We’re into ‘health through nature’. Bees are kept to organic standards. It takes longer, using cold extraction, but it’s worth it.”

Beekeeping is not without its production challenges. One is climate change: recent unseasonal floods seriously damaged their facility. Another is the importation of cheap “fake honey”, which has been adulterated with cheap sweeteners like corn syrup or cane sugar to increase volume and lower costs.

“It can be landed for \$2.60/kg,” Hope

explains. "Beekeepers produce honey for costs of \$9.50/kg, so we can't compete."

Then there's the Varroa mite – a parasitic mite that attacks and feeds on honey bees, known to be one of the world's most damaging honey bee pests. The business has lost 20% of its hives in the past two years.

"But there's a silver lining. Beekeepers who don't do a proper job have been knocked out," explains Michael. "With Varroa mite around, you really have to look after the bees. We're very kind to our bees. They don't need to be treated with antibiotics. Our values are healthy and slow, which makes for a better product."

Their honey range covers both straight Manuka, the strongest antibacterial and anti-inflammatory honey available, as well as culinary honey. Bangalow Foodworks sells their jars of honey, while Aurum Mead in Newrybar uses their honey in its honey wine.

Their factory outlet in Tyagarah is open 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday.

Contact 0480 112 238 or australiasmanuka.com.au

Where the bee sucks, there suck I:
In a cowslip's bell I lie;
There I couch when owls do cry.
On the bat's back I do fly
After summer merrily.
Merrily, merrily shall I live now
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Finger lime, coconut and Manuka honey bliss balls

Bliss balls or protein balls make a great healthy snack, pre- or post-workout snack, and are perfect for school lunch boxes. Like smoothies, you can be creative and make them with the nuts and flavours you like. But get some native foods and Manuka honey inspo below.

These bliss balls are quite sweet with an added burst of the sour finger lime pearls when you bite into them.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup cashews
1/2 cup dates
2/3 cup shredded coconut
3 tbsp Manuka honey
5 finger limes
Zest of 1 lime
Shredded coconut, for rolling

INSTRUCTIONS

Put the shredded coconut into a blender and refine slightly, then remove.

Place cashews into a food processor and blend until fine. Add dates and honey and blend until a smooth paste forms.

Add the mixture, refined coconut and finger lime pearls to a bowl and mix well.

Roll into balls of desired size – 10 or 20 cent piece is a good size. Then roll in a plate of coconut to coat.

Note: You can use regular lime instead, using 3 tbsp of lime juice with pulp instead of finger limes. If the mixture is too moist, you can add extra coconut.



Save the date

Furry Friends Festival 2026

When: Saturday 30th May 2026
8am–1pm

Where: Bangalow Showgrounds

Bring your dogs on lead...

- Doggy Arena shows & trainer tips
- Paws & Claws market stalls
- Food, drinks & live music
- Free face painting & photo booth
- Vet advice, treats & giveaways

More information

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au/
Furry-Friends](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Furry-Friends)



☎ 02 6626 7000 • www.byron.nsw.gov.au



Sound ministry

Mark loves his music and ministry Photo Digby Hildreth

Music has the power to unite communities, connect individuals to a higher power, and even save lives, says the Byron Anglican Parish's most recent addition, a banjo-pluckin', Bob Dylan-quoting pioneer lay minister. **Digby Hildreth** reports.

Every Saturday morning, Mark Thornton sits on the driveway outside his home in Ashton St, two doors down from All Souls Anglican Church, head shaven in support of a blood cancer fundraiser, playing bluegrass tunes on a banjo or mandolin, sometimes singing, sometimes interacting with any passers-by who stop for a chat.

It's his way of spreading the word – the good news of the Gospel, of course, but more often just engaging with Farmers Market customers, talking about music, about Bangalow, their lives – life in general. There's laughter and joking, but he's also fully present for a serious conversation.

What Mark calls his "hour of power" embodies and expresses nearly every one of the things that drive him: a passion for folk music, a commitment to his faith, the

need for authenticity, and the fostering of communal spirit – a longing to bring people together in something that's both new and timeless, uplifting, free of dogma. For him it's a kind of grassroots level ministry: he's not there to lure people into the church next door, or recruit congregation members. The music and conversation simply exemplify a "glue" that unites people – across belief systems, age, nationality, gender.

The morning reinforces his faith, in a higher power that he chooses to call Jesus, but also in the fundamental decency of human beings, the wonder of life, and the need for an invigorated social cohesion.

We are suffering an epidemic of loneliness, he says: "We're too busy. We're disconnected from one another. We desperately want the sort of things the community can offer but we haven't quite got back to it yet. I think we're headed there. We just have to be open to finding the ways. It's the Farmers' Market, and God willing, the Bowlo will get resurrected."

For him, small is beautiful – and, as the world becomes more dangerous and frightening, it's a message that is timely: life is good here in comfy little Bangalow, and it is healthy to acknowledge that, and to nurture it.

One of Mark's core principles is summed up in the personal experience of coming to the town, arriving here from Newcastle with two daughters and their mother, Irini, who grew up in Mullumbimby. "My wife has always had a desire for homecoming. I think most of our generation are hungry for that, for a nest, something in the way our great grandparents were. There's a hunger for stability."

The Saturday Farmers Market meets something of that need for continuity. "In a way, it's a return to how we did things 100 years ago, before supermarkets, because people recognise that they need locally grown, lovingly grown things. We also need to know the people who've done that.

"It nourishes people in a way that's more than just convenience. Being a part of that is what I think of when I think of being involved in the church."

Mark was raised in Gosford and studied at Newcastle University, finishing his Bachelor of Theology by correspondence through the Trinity College Theological School. He's a pioneer lay minister, hoping to become a deacon – "fancy terms" he says that only mean he can continue doing what he finds most fulfilling, "helping others anywhere I can". NDIS care work as a young man provided some of the happiest times of his life.

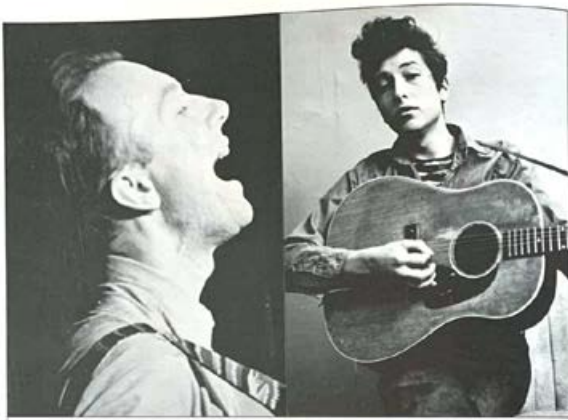
His upbringing was "very chaotic, with a lot of fracture" and he could have gone off the rails. "But I was lucky. The church, for me, was always a peaceful place. It felt safe and loving in a way I don't think I really saw anywhere else." Raised a Roman Catholic, he joined the Anglican Church as an adult, where he came upon "a group of Macedonian ladies" who supported and guided him. "It was love in a way that was as natural as breathing to them. And it saved my life."

Almost equally important was his "conversion" to 20th century music; folk, blues, country, rock. An early fan of classical forms, his real passion for music wasn't sparked until well into his teens, when he heard a recording of Bob Dylan performing at the 1963 Newport Folk Festival.

"I vividly remember hearing that and going, 'that guy is someone I need to learn more about'. Just the sound of his voice! Within a couple of months, I was really serious about learning the folk guitar, and within about 12 months, I'd got myself a banjo. What Dylan was tapping into in those early years was something primordial."

About the same time, he was also exposed to The Beatles: "Something about the combination of those two...it just fired the neurons, and I've never been able to put it down."

He's a huge fan of Paul McCartney ("the voice! What a gift he gave the world"), listens to The Beatles' pivotal album *Revolver* in his car and is not only familiar with Rolling



PETE SEEGER

BOB DYLAN

Pete Seeger has been humming and strumming his way across the land since 1940, the year before Bob Dylan was born. Today, Pete's eminence as an authority in his field is undisputed and his special gift for involving audiences in his performances is largely responsible for the folk singing revival. Bob Dylan, who exploded onto the scene only two years ago with a style as unique as the songs he writes, has met with knowledgeable, receptive audiences well able to appreciate his exciting, unusual talents. Both artists are dynamic forces in the folk singing world. Both are on Columbia Records.



THE SOUND OF FOLK MUSIC ON COLUMBIA RECORDS

A page from the 1963 Newport Folk Festival program with Bob Dylan

Stones' songs but knows which album they're on.

Music provides some of the milestones of his spiritual life: a song from Dylan's Christian period, *Slow Train Coming*, sums up the unfolding of his religious faith. "It's been gradual, as occurs in any good relationship."

Van Morrison's *Into the Mystic* helps him when he feels untethered, bewildered by the suffering in the world. "I get so angry, and I go to that Van song when I'm feeling lost. I think it's a mystery. My faith started when I stopped holding on to everything so tightly. Stopped needing to have control. Those Macedonian ladies helped me to understand that I didn't have to have it all worked out."

He's also an obsessive Randy Newman fan. "I absolutely adore his music... he has this little throwaway called *Maybe I'm Doing*

it Wrong." Mark appreciates that it's a song about sex, but says it applies equally to life. At times, *his* life. "It's my theme tune. You've got to be able to laugh at yourself."

On the other hand, taking Easter services last month he sang the *Exsultet* – a piece of music that's been in continuous liturgical use for over 1500 years – the kind of continuity that's a recurrent idea in his conversation.

"We have these traditions in the church. One of the great gifts Anglicanism, the old-fashioned Church of England, gave the world was music. That's just incredible over many centuries." He sang the Psalms during Easter services and sees his musical outings now as a continuation of the tradition.

At 5pm on Sundays, he and Irini run a family music and meal event in the church hall. "It's usually pretty informal and mostly just some good songs, a chat about faith and a meal," he says, but it's another example of reaching out to the community through music.

Songs and his "different" troubled background have helped him in his work too, enabling him to connect with young men in juvenile justice, "boys looking for something more meaningful than the kind of toxic masculinity the algorithms are offering them.

"In centres such as Kariang there are these young guys who have seen it all, but music has this way of helping us drop barriers; everybody is on the same page. A lot of the songs the boys would choose were things like *Stand By Me*.

"Otis Redding's *Sitting on the Dock of the Bay* – everybody who hears that gets it. And that's the power of music: when it touches on the tricky stuff, like loneliness or hurt or indeed, joy and excitement and, you know, love, there's an authenticity that people recognise. What it speaks to, I think, is a yearning.

"It's roots, and that's what people are looking for. Country music often details the sadness of life, but inside of that is this really beautiful, often funny way of dealing with it. And for me, that's what spirituality is. It's looking at how hard life is, which it is, and laughing at it and seeing how beautiful that makes it. I'm not sure I have really found much else that offers that."

When people stop and talk to him on Saturdays, he says he "gets fed". Farmers' markets' value is based upon a community feeding each other, he says. "But my hope is that we can also become a community that feeds each other's souls as well. You know, a farmers' market of the soul."

DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA

t: 02 6686 7522

f: Tamara Smith MP

w: tamarasmith.org.au

e: ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au







Authorised by Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



A fun day out for your four-legged family members, the Furry Friends Festival in Bangalow Photos supplied

Furry Friends

The Furry Friends Festival returns to Bangalow Showgrounds on Saturday 30 May, bringing together dogs, their humans and a wide mix of local experts, stallholders and activities focused on responsible pet ownership. Hosted by Byron Shire Council, the free community event is now in its third year in Bangalow.

The Bangalow Herald caught up with this year's organiser, Sarah Nagel, to find out what's planned.

Sarah says one of the biggest changes this year is the festival site. Rather than spreading the stalls around the outer oval, the festival will have a more compact market-style setup designed to feel easier to navigate.

"We're changing the layout this year so it will be more intimate and accessible," Sarah

says. "The Paws and Claws Market will feature more than 40 stalls to explore with your dogs on lead."

The market is one of Sarah's favourite parts of the festival, with local vets, dog trainers, animal rehoming groups, pet accessory businesses and treat stalls all part of the mix.

"Each stall offers something unique and there's a lot to learn and take away with you," she says. Doggos especially love sampling the treats.

At the centre of the morning will be the Doggy Arena, which gets underway from 8.30am. Trainers will give live demonstrations, share practical tips and run games and friendly competitions for festival-goers and their dogs.

"A couple of really good dog trainers will be

there doing demonstrations and giving tips," Sarah says.

There will also be plenty happening beyond the arena, with a returning photo booth for pet-and-owner snaps, free face painting for kids, live music, food and coffee stalls, and fun competitions for four-legged entrants.

Anyone who has seen the pet parade at the Bangalow Show will know locals enjoy a bit of dress-up and a chance to show off their pets, and the festival promises more of that same community spirit.

Furry Friends Festival
Saturday 30 May, 8–11am
Bangalow Showgrounds

**BunCoffee
Byron Bay**

**Celebrating
20 years.**

Certified Organic and Fair Trade.
Over 60 Single Origin coffees.



Bangalow Billycart Derby

Sunday May 17th 2026

Cheer on Keith the Koala who is competing in the celebrity race. We have been chosen as one of the charities of the day and will have a stall out the front of Summerland Bank.



Summerland
Bank



Koala Tree Planting at Ocean Shores

Saturday May 2nd 2026

Time: 9.00am start

Trees: 1000

RSVP: Bookings are essential,
email to book your place today at:
president@bangalowkoalas.com.au



Loving every minute Photos Rudiger Wasser



Sophie shines as Anne Photo Peter West

ADHD, *Anne of Green Gables* and a mother-daughter community theatre performance are entwined in this heartwarming side quest, writes **Gabby Le Brun**.

"I've discovered it's not what the world holds for you, it's what you bring to it." – Anne Shirley (*Anne of Green Gables*)

Bangalow residents Alicia and her 15-year-old daughter Sophie, were both cast in the recent Ballina Players' production of *Anne of Green Gables*. A moment, they say, that

"the stars aligned" and everything – timing, courage, talent and luck – clicked into place.

Alicia and Sophie arrive early for our interview for this story with a cheese platter and a bottle of bubbles, but they have to wait for nearly an hour while I wage war with a swarm of Bangalow blowflies in my living room. After a failed search for a fly swat, and then nearly suffocating everyone with fly spray, I'm finally ready.

"This is why I love you, Gabs," says Sophie when I sit down. "You get distracted by things, like me." Sophie and I have a shared

understanding of the ADHD side quest – the abandonment of high-priority tasks for lower-priority detours – and so, I expect, would Anne Shirley, the heroine of Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery's 1908 novel. While Montgomery is not explicit, Anne is widely considered to be an ADHD-coded character.

"I won't say another word – not one. I know I talk too much, but I am really trying to overcome it, and although I say far too much, yet if you only knew how much I want to say and don't, you'd give me some credit for it." – Anne Shirley

But for someone who can struggle to stay focused, Sophie has definitely demonstrated commitment and persistence in her role for the Ballina Players' production. She was highly acclaimed for her role, and yet she takes nothing for granted. Her "overnight success" has taken many years of hard work, grit and showing up, even when she's convinced herself she's out of her depth.

"Next to trying and winning, the best thing is trying and failing." – Anne Shirley

Through a gruelling audition process, akin to *The Hunger Games*, 15 Anne hopefuls, all of them except Sophie wearing their hair in two Anne Shirley braids, were whittled down to a final three. Sophie had considered the braids, "but I didn't want to look desperate," she says. "I was trying to be casual." We reflect on the observation that human nature is funny like that – acting one way while feeling another.

Braids or not, Sophie is a natural redhead and was scouted for Anne Shirley by a Ballina Players member who saw her performance as Brooke Wyndham in Bright Lights Performance School's season of *Legally Blonde* in 2024.

Sophie has "adored Anne forever", she says. "I've watched the show over and over. She's been one of my dream roles." Alicia also fell in love with Anne's story when she was a girl and says she couldn't wait until Sophie was old enough so she could read it to her. Alicia's pride in Sophie is so apparent, as is her joy at sharing such a special experience with her. While she waited for Sophie, she too was invited to audition: "A lady asked me, 'can you sing?' and I answered, 'I've been known to'."

"I must have been in a positive mood," she says.

Alicia used to sing with a band in Sydney, but performance anxiety was too stressful. When I first met her, I was told by a mutual friend, "you should hear Alicia sing, she sounds like Adele". It wasn't until I asked her to perform at my birthday party three years ago that I heard her voice and even then, it was borderline. She was so nervous she nearly pulled out. Sophie soothed her backstage and accompanied her onstage, giving her the confidence to perform.

When Sophie's call-back came, Alicia says, "we both screamed". Alicia's call-back for the role of Mrs Barry, the mother of Anne's friend Diana, came soon after. She says, however, that she wasn't overly worried if she didn't get the part; Sophie's wellbeing was her paramount concern. Such is the nature of their beautiful reciprocal family support.

At the call-backs, all the hopeful Marillas, Gilberts, Matthews, Dianas, Mrs Barrys and Annes were assembled in the Ballina Players Theatre. Auditions were held in front of one another: "There were people there who were better than me," Sophie insists. Even when one young woman who "was really good" was sent home, she says she genuinely didn't think she would be in the final three.

And yet, out of all the Mrs Barrys and all the Annes, it was Alicia and Sophie who were the last ones standing. They say the experience has brought them closer together, along with meeting many more "kindred spirits" amongst the cast and crew.

Ballina Players had a three-week sold-out season for the production in January this year, which begs the question: why is the story of Anne Shirley, written in the 20th century, still so popular? Perhaps because Anne Shirley was a feminist before her time, or because she was not afraid to wear her heart on her sleeve, or because she was surrounded by unconditional love despite – and for – her quirks.

It's something that we can all find comfort in, especially those of us with spicy brains, who may take the long way to get on task but, with support and understanding, can get there in the end.

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." – Anne Shirley



Event Management Call Out

Council is seeking an Event Manager to deliver Byron Bay's free street celebrations on New Years Eve – Soul Street 2026.

Established in 2014, Soul Street is a free family-friendly event which brings the streets to life throughout the centre of Byron Bay and along the foreshore.

The scope of the Event Management contract includes:

- Programming across two stages and street activations
- Staging
- Security services
- Site and crew management
- Food vendors and waste management

The Contract will commence in June 2026. Applications close on Monday 18 May

More information

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/NYE-Event-Manager



☎ 02 6626 7000 • www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Pure imagination



Sam Mooney



Ted Garbett



Olivia-Rose Ryan



Aurelien Rignault

Is there a rags-to-riches story as iconic, memorable – and sweet – as Charlie Bucket and his quest for the Golden Ticket?

Roald Dahl's young adult novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was published in 1964 and over the past 60 years has been adapted, re-visioned, and reinterpreted for the screen and stage.

This month, local young people will step into the shoes of Charlie, Wonka and the rest of the sugar-loving cast as Emmanuel Anglican College (EAC) presents a stage production of the whimsical, timeless tale.

Four local emerging young actors share their thoughts about the world of Wonka, and, of course, their favourite sweets.

Ted Garbett, 11, will be playing Charlie Bucket, and is a fan of Freddie Highmore, so naturally prefers the Tim Burton remake of the story. Character-wise, it's the mother of insufferable Violet Beauregarde that he finds most entertaining. Ted also, appropriately, has a sweet tooth: "My favourite sweet treat is a triple choc chip brownie."

For Olivia-Rose Ryan, also 11 and sharing the role of Charlie, the stage version is where the story comes alive. "I love musicals and my dream is to go on Broadway so for me it has to be the stage play. The stage play connects the audience in different ways. There are such amazing songs, and it shows different sides of the characters." She would love a

chocolate river flowing with Lindt chocolate.

Teen cast members seem a little more drawn to the original film, and to the character development and emotional themes of the story.

Sam Mooney, 15, playing Wonka, reflects on the way Charlie's presence brings about change. "Charlie Bucket persuades Wonka to go through a moral change of character, through his good heart, curiosity and enthusiasm." For Sam, Gene Wilder is the original and best Wonka, for his complexity and character development.

Aurelien Rignault, 15, also playing Wonka, is similarly impressed by Wilder's performance. "I love the pure sparkle in his eye and the way he portrays a both magical and slightly eerie character that perfectly depicts the moral of the story... to never be greedy and to always let your imagination lead the way." His experience with the production has also brought about an unexpected change. "I didn't have a sweet tooth until I got the role of Wonka... now I have a new fresh dependency on Loco Love, especially the chewy caramel."

Produced by Bangalow's Wayne Cross, Director of Primary at EAC, and Bangalow Theatre Company's Anouska Gammon, with choreography by Sher Manu, this production – like past EAC shows – promises to take school musicals to the next level. What sets it apart isn't just the scale, but the calibre

behind it. Students from Years 4–12 audition to be part of the cast, before committing to an intensive seven-month rehearsal process. The result is a production that consistently surprises audiences with its polish, ambition and heart.

For those of us who grew up with the 1971 film, it's easy to see it as definitive. But watching the story pass through new hands – onto a stage, into rehearsal rooms, into the imaginations of young local actors – is a joyful mix of magic and mischief.

The premise of a golden ticket opening the door to a mysterious chocolate factory was every child's dream. A chocolate river, edible trees and lickable wallpaper – it really was a world of pure imagination. But wrapped within that narrative is a morality tale that favours kindness over greed, and humility over entitlement.

Maybe that blend of sweet and sour is why Charlie's adventures appeal across the ages, and last like an Everlasting Gobstopper?

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

14–23 May, various times

Lindsey Walker Centre, Emmanuel Anglican College, Ballina

Tickets via trybooking.com/events/landing/1562492

Sally Schofield

Established in 2019, Kindred Women Together continues to connect women within our community through social gatherings and events. Join one of our KWT Clubs to meet other like-minded women. Visit our website to see what is coming up. New women are always welcome!

0401 026 359 | www.kindredwomentogether.com

Insta: @kindred.women.together | Facebook: Kindred Women Together

Subscribe to our weekly newsletter.



Kindred Women Together
Learn . Laugh . Grow

KWT Movie Club | KWT Dinner Club | KWT Exhibition Club | KWT Book Club | KWT Tarot Club | KWT Travel Club

Roll into the fun at the Bangalow Billycart Derby!

Sunday 17 May, 9am
Bangalow Main Street

We're proud to support one of the Northern Rivers' most iconic community events! Join us trackside as the Bangalow Billycart Derby returns for another year of family-friendly action and fun.



Visit us on the day

We'll have a face painter, colouring in competition, loads of games, special offers and giveaways!
Stop by and say hi!



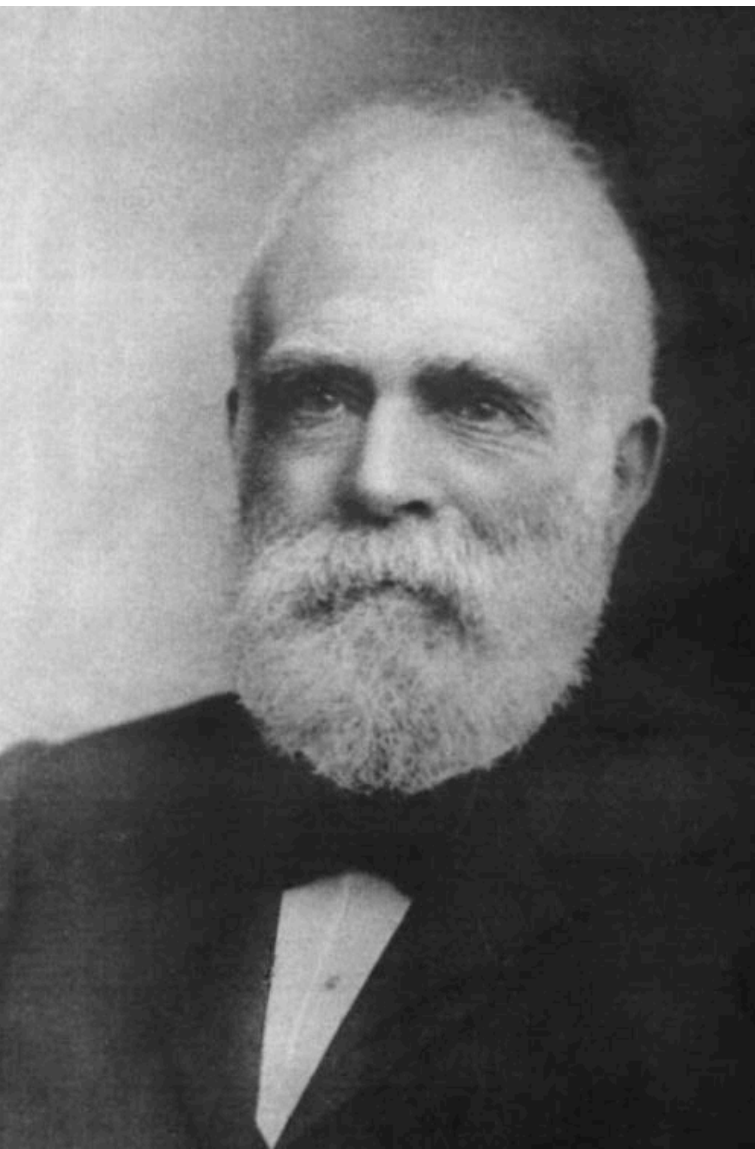
Certified



Corporation

Summerland
Bank

summerland.com.au



Andrew Carson Alcorn, founder of Norco Photo supplied

Tales of our early settlers

1887 arrival of the Alcorns

Moving to a new place has always involved upheaval. Finding somewhere to live, building a livelihood and settling into a new community takes effort at the best of times. In the 19th century, it required something more again – a willingness to leave everything behind.

For **Lynelle Foster**, that story begins with her great-great-grandparents.

“Margaret and Robert Alcorn, of Scottish descent, were born in Ireland,” she says. In September 1856, they set out with their four children – Andrew, James, Elizabeth and Robert Jnr – “in search of a better life”. They were joined by Robert’s brother Joseph, his wife Eleanor, and their seven children.

The journey began with a move by horse and cart from Ireland to



Doctor Led PRP Consultations



Bangalow Wellness Hub offers Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) consultations as part of our regenerative and aesthetic medicine services.

PRP uses components of your own blood which may support the body’s natural repair and renewal processes.

PRP appointments are available for:

**Musculoskeletal injuries
(joints, tendons & muscles)**

Hair thinning support

**Skin quality
(Combined with Microneedling)**

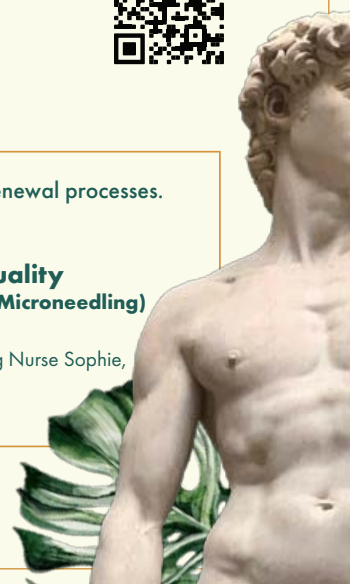
Led by Dr Meera Perumalpillai-McGarry and Dr Irfaan Jetha, alongside our experienced team including Nurse Sophie, Nurse Michelle, and Dermal Therapist Renee Baumann.

A consultation is required to determine suitability.



Book an appointment to learn more.

0477 287 112 | 96 Byron Street, Bangalow | Mon - Fri 10am-5pm
bangalowwellnesshub.com.au





Robert Alcorn Photo supplied

Liverpool. There, the extended family waited three months on the waterfront before boarding their ship, Pedestrian, a four-masted sailing vessel bound for Australia via Cape Town.

"A day after leaving Liverpool, the ship encountered a huge storm lasting several days," Lynelle says. "A cannon came adrift from the ship and tore a hole in the side of the ship." During the storm, "women and children, very seasick, were ordered below deck, while the men had to help the crew on deck."

There were other moments that stayed in family memory. Lynelle recounts family history that suggests that "a passenger and some crew members planned to kill the captain, rob the passengers, and dump them on the coast of Guinea". The plan was uncovered and "the mutineers were all put in irons and kept below deck for the rest of the voyage".

She also tells of further drama on the high seas during that voyage, including a pirate ship, and a fire in the hold when stored wheat ignited.

Life continued on board despite the conditions. "After two months at sea, Eleanor and Joseph Alcorn's eighth child was born," she says.

On 15 April 1857, after 107 days at sea, the ship arrived in Melbourne. From there, the family travelled by coastal steamer, The City of Sydney, to Sydney, before heading south to Kangaloon in the Southern Highlands.

It was there that the family established their first property, Pheasant Hill. "My great-great-great-grandfather Robert, with the help of his three sons, established a successful dairy farm," Lynelle says. His son James remained on the property, which is still farmed today by fifth-generation family members.

Thirty years later, the next generation moved north.

"In 1887, when word spread about the farming potential in Northern NSW, Andrew and Robert Alcorn Jnr moved north and bought land in Newrybar," she says.

Andrew's property, Tallagalla, remains in family ownership. He went on to play a key role in the development of the dairy industry, becoming the instigator and founder of Norco - the North Coast Dairy Co-op, and earning a reputation as the 'Father of the Creamery'. He was also a member of the first Bangalow A&I Committee.

Robert Alcorn Jnr also contributed to the development of the local community. "He was instrumental in the construction of the first school at Newrybar and involved in the growth of Newrybar village," Lynelle says. In 1899, he purchased another property at Knockrow, naming it Cornbrae.

"This was my family home," she says. The property remained in the family until 2010, when it was acquired by the RTA before the new motorway was constructed. "The house still stands, but the farm is divided by the highway," she says.

For Lynelle, these stories are part of a much larger picture – one that traces the movement of families, the building of communities and the deep connections to place that follow. Alcorn Road in Newrybar is a further reminder of the family's presence in the Hinterland.

This story forms part of the Shaking the Family Tree exhibition and local history project at Bangalow's Heritage House Museum.

FUTURAE
DIAMONDS

Conscious luxury. Lab-grown brilliance.
Bangalow studio now open, bookings essential online.

futuraediamonds.com



European vacation

Richard Rombouts and Carolyn Adams enjoying the trip of a lifetime Photos supplied

Since Richard and I retired after our 18 years at the Bangalow Newsagency coalface, we have been concentrating on having a good time – riding my bicycle (me), lawn bowls (him). There was always this distant plan for the trip of a lifetime but, paradoxically, on reaching semi-retirement and being lucky enough to realise the dream, I was suddenly reluctant to go. I was conflicted; the dilemma of creating a large environmental footprint by flying around the world for pleasure sat uneasily with me. Worse, I wanted to travel to destinations already struggling with overtourism. Would the Catalonians water-pistol me in Barcelona? Should I support AirBnB after all the damage they've done to the residential real estate market worldwide? Was Venice going to be flooding when I got there, and would it somehow be my fault?

Putting aside all these concerns, I decided to tick off the one thing on my bucket list: a white Christmas. (Richard's list, of course, was far more expansive).

With the help of a very good travel agent, we finally made it to the departure gate in mid-October and, 24 hours later, had an emotional reunion with our daughter at the luggage carousel in Rome airport. The first two weeks of our adventure were spent exploring Italy with a small tour group, which took care of logistics and led us to places we would never have found ourselves.

You often hear travellers complaining of 'church fatigue' in Europe. Did we get sick of churches? No, we did not. We saw many, and each one was memorable in its own way. At the Vatican, we entered St Peter's Basilica from the crypt below, a cool and tranquil space that led us via a narrow timber staircase straight up into the vast cathedral. It took our breath

away. In Florence we were unprepared for the stunning appearance of the Duomo (cathedral) with its stark white and green features. At the Duomo of Milan, we began not at the front door but on the roof, walking among the spires and gargoyles before descending into the cathedral below. In Barcelona, we toured the Sagrada Familia and learned about Gaudi's extraordinary vision and equally complex life. I have to admit, all these buildings made Notre Dame in Paris feel a little like the younger cousin. In London, St Paul's offered a different kind of experience, climbing to the Whispering Gallery, then higher again to the Golden Gallery where we stepped outside for sweeping views of the city – though not without a moment of panic when Richard's fear of heights kicked in.

Italy was surprisingly hot, so we were happy to board the Bernina Panoramic train into Switzerland, where we explored the Alps and the cities of Zurich and Lucerne. The scenery was spectacular in every direction – and there is a Lindt chocolate factory there!

From there we travelled independently for three weeks through France, mainly Provence, and into northern Spain where I have cousins. We loved France, especially the hilltop villages of Gordes and Roussillon, their terracotta buildings clinging to steep hillsides. Many places were quieter at that time of year, which suited us perfectly. There was still wonderful food and plenty to see. The Pont du Gard near Nîmes and Mont Saint Michel were highlights, but so too were the smaller villages we discovered along the Mediterranean coast.

In Spain, my cousin's husband is a fabulous cook, and we must have put on a couple of kilos working our way through his four-day menu of traditional Spanish fare.

Our next stop was Tilburg in the Netherlands, where we were hosted by some of Richard's 55 cousins and his one remaining aunt. These were relatives he had never met before, so it was extra special to receive such a warm welcome and generosity.

After a few damp days exploring Amsterdam, we boarded a seven-night cruise down the Rhine to Basel. It was the longest we stayed in one bed in over 15 weeks of travel – luxury – complete with a room attendant who made the bed while we were at breakfast and turned down the sheets while we were at dinner. Ooh la la, what decadence.

Christmas in Europe is far more atmospheric than in Australia. It's cold, it gets dark early, and the lights and decorations are something to behold. Europeans, unlike Australians, don't have the pressure of end-of-year functions, summer holidays and social events. It's wintertime, and they are ready for a bit of joy, which we also experienced. Our cruise stopped at towns along the Rhine known for their Christmas markets – full of handmade goods, ice skating rinks, bands,



Twilight Paris was a highlight



Camels in Morocco



Lapland with Santa, a Christmas wish come true



A scarf salesman in Marrakesh

delicious traditional food and, of course, gluhwein. Gluhwein, the best drink ever made for cold winter nights.

From Basel we travelled to Paris, where our daughter joined us again. I didn't expect to fall in love with Paris, but I did. We stayed in a small family hotel in the German quarter, once the residence of a French president, and spent our days wandering the streets and soaking up the history. Seeing the Eiffel Tower at dusk was a highlight.

We then took the Eurostar to London, where our daughter lives, before setting off again just a couple of days later.

Our next destination was Santa's Magic Lapland, in the Arctic Circle. It is hard to top this part of the trip. We drove husky sleds, rode with reindeer, drove skidoos, drank gluhwein in ice bars and searched for – and found – Santa Claus, who

somehow knew our names and gave us presents. On Christmas Day we tobogganed down Finland's longest run at Saariselkä. Christmas Day will never be the same again. I swear it took days to wipe the smile off my face.

Back in London, we headed north to spend time with my Yorkshire cousins, who showed us some beautiful parts of the county.

Our journey home began with a 14-day tour of Morocco. While the cities were fascinating, with their medinas and souks, the highlights for me were the rural areas and the small family-run micro-hotels. Morocco is incredibly vibrant, a welcome relief after a week of grey London weather. Ironically, the only snowstorm we experienced in 15 weeks was crossing the Atlas Mountains to Marrakech. After navigating icy roads, we were delayed by a landslip that blocked our

path. Several hours later, we continued on, and the very next day in the city we were applying sunscreen. All part of the adventure.

Fortunately, our two-day stopover in Dubai was a few weeks before Trump turned the Middle East upside down, so we got to enjoy the colour, lights and glamour of that extraordinary desert city in relative safety.

While some attractions were closed for winter, I would still recommend travelling at that time of year. The weather was cool but manageable, the crowds were smaller, and the autumn colours were beautiful. So, if you have nothing on your bucket list, or room for more, I can highly recommend a white Christmas. It was so much fun I would do it all again.

Carolyn Adams

Sport



The Byron Shire Rebels rugby team Photo supplied

Rugby Rebels expand Youth Pathways and Seek 'Golden Oldies'

The Byron Shire Rebels Rugby club are off to a flying start in 2026. Beyond the scoreboard, the club is celebrating the launch of its first "Minis" program for ages 3-5 at the Byron Rec Grounds, which has already seen over 20 local kids participating.

The Rebels Academy is also expanding into local schools, including St Finbarrs and Newrybar, to build a sustainable pathway for young athletes. For the older fans, the club is currently seeking players for a new 'Golden Oldies' side for exhibition matches. If you're interested in pulling the boots back on or getting your kids involved, reach out via byronshirerebels.com.au

The Byron Shire Rebels also have some exciting home games in Bangalow and beyond coming up.

Byron Shire Rebels Season Opener

**Friday 1 May (Juniors) and Saturday 2 May (Seniors/Colts)
Shultz Oval, Bangalow**

Rugby returns to Shultz Oval! Friday night features our Juniors with a family-friendly BBQ. On Saturday, the Seniors and Colts officially launch their competition against Lismore. After a long pre-season, our teams are ready to let loose on the field. Come support local grassroots sport, enjoy the community atmosphere, and cheer on the Rebels as they start their 2026 campaign in Bangalow!

Rebels vs. Mullumbimby Local Derby

**Saturday 9 May
Casuarina Beach Rugby Club**

The Rebels head north for a triple-header derby away day! Our Seniors, Women's, and Colt's sides face off against rivals Mullumbimby in what promises to be the highlight of the round. Come and see the next generation of Rebels' talent as they build on a fantastic pre-season campaign and join the teams to show your support for a good day of local rugby.

Rebels Home Game: Men, Colts, and Women

**Saturday 23 May
Byron Bay Recreation Grounds, Carlyle Street, Byron Bay**

Join the Byron Shire Rebels for their first home game in Byron Bay! The Men's and Colt's sides take on Lennox Head, while our Women's team are against SCU. Community spirit and three back-to-back matches in the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds.

Hywel David
Byron Shire Rebels

Bangalow Social Tennis needs players

New players of all ages are needed for the long-running Tuesday social tennis night at the Bangalow courts. A fun weekly event, play commences at 7pm. A relaxed environment with mixed play, and grades from B to D. Contact Brian Sundstrom 0429 311 830 for further details.



GNF real estate
Byron Hinterland Specialists

**Real Estate Sales & Property Management,
for all your real estate needs contact us today:**

- 📞 Alli Page 0403 498 648
- 📞 Chris Hayward 0416 005 700
- 📞 Sandy Jovanovski 0406 429 550
- 📞 Bangalow Office 02 6687 2833
- 📍 Shop 4, 2 Byron Street, Bangalow
- 🌐 www.gnfrealestate.com.au



Experience, Expertise, Integrity

On the land



Grow your own Photo supplied

Just a Farmer – free film and BBQ

Local Land Services will host a screening of the film *Just a Farmer* at Pearces Creek Hall on Wednesday 6 May, bringing an important and timely conversation to the local community. This Australian feature film tells the story of a farming family navigating grief, silence and the ripple effects of suicide in rural Australia. Through honest storytelling and emotional depth, it shines a light on the challenges faced by farming communities while encouraging greater understanding, connection and support.

More than a film, *Just a Farmer* aims to open meaningful conversations around mental health, resilience and the importance of looking out for one another. It's a reminder that behind every farmer is a family, and behind every loss is a community that feels the impact. Mental health support from the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) will be available on the night. This is a free event with a free BBQ before the screening. Bookings essential.

Note: this movie discusses themes such as suicide; for support, please contact Lifeline 13 11 14 or Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636. In an emergency, call 000.

Wednesday 6 May, 5.30–9pm
Pearces Creek Hall, 40 Pearces Creek Rd
events.humanitix.com/just-a-farmer-screening-pearces-creek

North Coast Farming Forum

Local Land Services will host the North Coast Farming Forum this May, bringing together farmers, industry leaders and advisors for two days of practical, region-specific discussion. Focused on climate-adaptive agriculture, the forum is designed to help producers navigate increasing pressures from changing climate conditions, evolving markets and environmental challenges. Through real-world case studies and expert insights, the event aims to build confidence and provide actionable strategies that can be applied on-farm.

Across the two days, attendees will explore topics such as soil health, natural capital, whole-farm management and climate-smart practices that support both productivity and long-term resilience. The forum also creates space for honest conversations, shared experiences and connection with others facing similar challenges across the North Coast. With a strong emphasis on practical knowledge and local relevance, it offers a valuable opportunity for landholders looking to futureproof their operations.

7–8 May, 8am–3pm
Banyula Farm, 813 Booyong Rd, Clunes
\$25 / students free
nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/local-land-services/events/north-coast-farming-forum

Bangalow Koalas on Landline

Linda Sparrow, co-founder of Bangalow Koalas, is no stranger to media attention. For the past 10 years, she has combined grassroots environmental action with a sharp instinct for media to build momentum around koala habitat restoration. Her work - including the planting of more than half a million trees - was recently featured on the ABC's *Landline*, highlighting the scale and impact of reconnecting fragmented landscapes across northern New South Wales.

Linda's ability to tell the story has been just as powerful as the planting itself, bringing farmers, communities and conservationists together around a shared goal.

That reach is already creating ripple effects well beyond the Northern Rivers. The group has even received interest from a prestigious Victorian boarding school, where a staff member has begun discussions with the estate manager about a similar initiative on their 550-acre campus. With 100 families, 1000 students and more than 700 boarders, the potential for it to become a hands-on educational program is significant. It's exactly the kind of real-world impact Linda's work is inspiring.

bangalowkoalas.com.au



OFF GRID
ELECTRICAL SOLUTIONS

Locally owned and
trusted by locals
like you!

Excellence in
powering people,
not just properties.

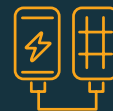
When it comes to your power, don't risk it with anyone else.
We offer honest advice with quality results.



All Electrical



Solar



Batteries



5 Star
Rated



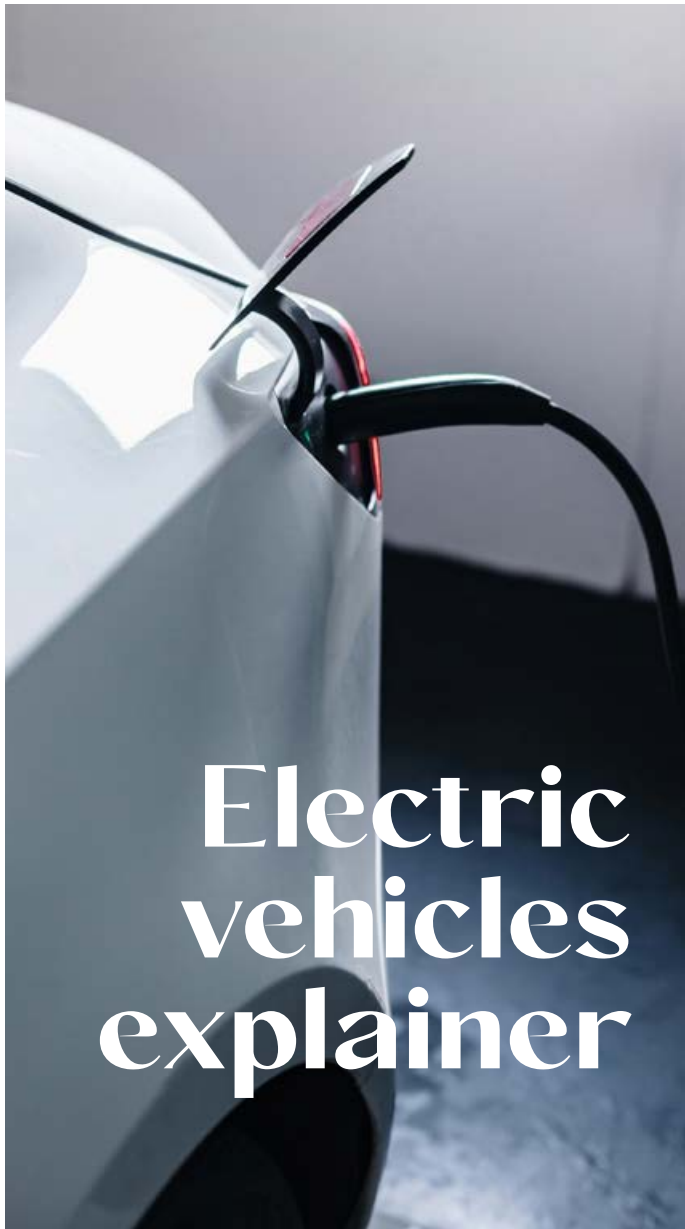
Installations
and
Maintenance



Our Clients
Matter - 24/7

We keep homes & businesses running. Our clients matter – every single time.

Contact us today: 0489 262 479 | www.offgridelectricalsolutions.com.au



Electric vehicles explainer

With all the chaos in the Middle East and surging fuel prices, most people would at least fleetingly be thinking about EVs and hybrid vehicles as a way out of the added pressure on household costs. Wouldn't it be nice to drive past a service station in an EV, grinning widely.

Here are some pointers that may help clarify the options and inform your decision.

ICEs – Internal Combustion Engine cars we all know. They have some 2,000 moving parts in their drivetrain, need regular servicing and emit the greenhouse gas CO₂.

HEVs – Hybrid Electric Vehicles have an ICE, an electric motor and a battery. They need fuel to drive the engine and charge the battery. They save on fuel because the electric motor is more efficient when initially accelerating, at slow speeds, running the air con and when starting the engine. They are generally built with smaller engines which burn less fuel. The battery is also charged when braking and sometimes when cruising.

They achieve the best fuel savings when being driven in urban areas, where they can reduce fuel costs by about half. This saving drops to about one-third when driven in rural areas. When roads are more open, cars drive faster and are less efficient.

So more moving parts, more complicated, and the fuel costs remain about two-thirds of an ICE in rural areas, but still a saving.

PHEVs – Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles have an ICE, at least one electric motor and a bigger battery. They can be driven on fuel alone like HEVs, or they can be plugged into electricity to charge the battery. This can be done using a simple home power socket, a larger home car charger installed by an electrician, or a public car charger.

With a full battery, they can be driven for around 70–150 km using the electric motor alone. After this, the ICE can drive the car, usually with a similar range to a normal car.

The benefits of PHEVs are most significant for people who have solar on the roof at home or work. If charged that way and the daily drive is within the range of the battery, the running costs are minimal. After the battery is used, the ICE then enables the car to be driven for longer distances on normal fuel.



*Bangalow Market,
simply stunning*



Bangalow Showgrounds
4th Sunday of each month
8am ~ 2.30pm

Parking is available for \$2 in the Showgrounds at the Market.



Charging around Australia Photo Jesse Donoghoe

There are some drawbacks to owning PHEVs:

1. As the cars require a larger battery, they are heavier and so, if driven on the ICE alone, will use more fuel
2. They can be more expensive to purchase
3. The distances you can drive on the battery alone are overestimated by manufacturers
4. For those who don't keep the battery charged, a PHEV might not be the right vehicle

EVs – full Electric Vehicles: no fuel, no engine, no CO2, just one or two electric motors and a battery. Only about 20 moving parts in the drivetrain.

The upfront costs are still higher but coming down. Costs can include installing a home EV charger and solar panels. There is no engine to service; otherwise, the vehicle informs the owner when to check the auxiliary battery, brake pads and tyre pressures. The battery does make the vehicle heavier, so tyres can wear faster.

The drawbacks are:

1. **Longer charging times** than refuelling an ICE. This mainly applies when driving longer trips and is not an issue with well-timed home charging. Newer vehicles may be fitted with solid-state batteries next year that will only need 10 minutes to charge
2. **Range anxiety** requires trip planning and awareness of charging station locations
3. **Battery life.** After 300,000–500,000 km, the battery will still hold about 70% of its charge. This will be towards the higher end if the car is not frequently 'fast charged' and if the battery charge is kept between 20% and 90%.

Additional information

- The Australian government has scheduled the 'Solar Share Offer' to start on 1 July 2026. This will mandate free electricity for households and businesses for three hours a day in the middle of each day, making PHEVs and EVs more affordable

- The average cost to charge an EV or PHEV at public charging stations is about \$10.00 for 100 km of driving. Based on \$2.00/litre of fuel, the average cost for an ICE is \$16.00 per 100 km. Based on current diesel costs of \$3.20/litre, the average cost for a diesel ICE is over \$22.00 per 100 km. In other words, the running costs for EVs and PHEVs are 50–100% cheaper if the car can't be charged at home
- Toyota has announced that in late 2027/2028, it will be installing solid-state batteries in its vehicles with a 10-minute charge time and a 1,000–1,500 km range. Other manufacturers also have battery improvements planned
- Second-hand EVs are good value and assessing battery health is fairly easy. On the dashboard, a fully charged EV will show how many kilometres of range it has. This can be compared with the new vehicle specifications
- Increasing numbers of EVs have 'bidirectional charging'. As batteries in EVs are usually 2–4 times larger than home batteries, this means they can be used to store power and use it in a house or elsewhere at night

This fuel crisis looks like it will go on for some time – and is unlikely to be our last.

*Graham Truswell
Electrify Byron*



BYRON BAY
Thursdays 7-11am
Butler St Reserve

**REAL
FARMERS,
REAL
FOOD**



BANGALOW
Saturdays 7-11am
Piccabeen Park



Sustainable House Day

Peter's Poured Earth House in Bangalow Photo supplied

Around 10 homes across the Northern Rivers – including two in Bangalow – will open their doors on **17 May** for **Sustainable House Day**, giving locals a rare chance to step inside and see how climate-smart living actually works in practice.

From off-grid builds to clever retrofits, the homes are part of this year's Sustainable House Day, 17 May, a national event that invites people to explore real houses, talk to the people who live in them, and pick up ideas they can use themselves.

The local lineup reflects the region's growing focus on rebuilding and adapting for a changing climate. There's an off-grid, engineer-designed home ('Room with a View, Off Grid Engineer's Dream') showing how full energy independence can work, alongside a retrofitted 1980s treehouse-style home, available to view online, that proves older houses can be upgraded rather than replaced.

In Bangalow, two standout homes highlight how natural materials and thoughtful design can create comfortable, resilient spaces.

A poured earth home demonstrates a low-impact building approach using stabilised earth to create durable, energy-efficient walls, a method known for being both affordable and climate-responsive.

Nearby, Bangalow Stone House showcases how traditional materials can be used in modern ways, combining thermal mass and natural finishes to help regulate temperature year-round.

While each home is different, they share a common goal: making homes more comfortable, affordable to run, and better prepared for extreme weather. And in a region still recovering from major floods, that focus on resilience is front of mind. Many of the homes feature passive cooling, flexible design, and energy systems that can keep things running during blackouts.

Sustainable House Day is run by not-for-profit organisation Renew, and has grown into Australia's largest community-led event focused on climate-smart living. The idea is simple - neighbours learning from neighbours.

Instead of expert talks or sales pitches, visitors can walk through homes, ask honest questions, and hear directly what worked, what didn't, and what it cost.

Renew CEO Helen Oakey says more households are starting to think differently about their homes. "Australian households are leading one of the fastest clean energy transformations in the world. Families are installing rooftop solar, embracing home batteries, retrofitting insulation and adopting passive design to reduce bills and improve resilience," she says.

Importantly, it's not just for people building new homes. Many of the ideas on show are low-cost or retrofit solutions that can be applied to existing houses, and even rental properties.

Alongside the open homes, there'll also be workshops, tours and local events to help people explore options at their own pace.

Tickets are available for a flat \$15 fee, giving access to as many homes as you like across the day.

Last year, more than 240 homes took part nationally, with 70% of visitors saying they went on to make changes to their own homes within six months.

Find out more and book your tickets sustainablehouseday.com

The Bangalow Herald



The Stone House, Bangalow is architecturally striking and requires no heating or cooling thanks to the thermal mass of the stones Photos Sue Franklin

Poured Earth House

My primary motivation for building a sustainable home is that I love living in earth buildings they make you feel grounded, comfortable safe and secure.

Several sustainable practices are incorporated in our Poured Earth building design. These homes are very affordable and there is very little waste created. Moulds for making the earth walls are then used to create ceilings and kitchen cabinets and other joinery. In the case of this build, affordability and sustainability go hand in hand.

There are many rewarding aspects to living in this style of building – year-round comfort due to thermal mass and cross ventilation, so easy to maintain, no external painting just a pressure wash once or twice a year, and seeing the surprise and fascination sparked in the eyes and minds of guests and visitors.

Peter

The Stone House

We are lucky to live in one of the four or five bluestone houses built locally in the early 1990s by Stonemason David Oliver, ours and one other in the Bangalow township itself.

Our home was originally built for a local artist and the other Bangalow stone house built for Landcare legend Edith Franks who asked David to build a home that didn't require the felling of trees.

We bought the house because we loved it and only discovered the multiple benefits of living in an environmentally friendly home after moving in.

The house is a passive design house that works using the thermal mass of the rock and the north facing aspect to create a thermally stable environment. The house doesn't need heating in winter or cooling in summer and with the addition of solar panels we have very low energy bills. It never gets mouldy and comes with a bonus native bee colony living in the rock wall.

An unexpected joy of living in a more natural home is visitations from local native wildlife. We live on the edge of a wildlife corridor and over the years have had an echidna, various snakes, a wallaby and even a koala at our front door to investigate. Now we are inviting our human community in on Sustainable House Day, 17 May.

Sue and Angus



FOOD & OBJECTS FOR SLOWER MORNINGS

Browse our curated collection of goodies for Le Pantry, Le Table & Le Kitchen

OPEN FRIDAY, 10AM - 2PM

16 Tasman Way
Byron Bay, NSW 2481



Give a little bit

Volunteering is the lifeblood of many community organisations throughout Australia, and nowhere more so than in the Northern Rivers. While the numbers of people volunteering are not what they used to be, many local groups continue to thrive simply because of the commitment shown by individuals keen to contribute. With **Volunteers Week** coming up this month (**May 18–24**), to celebrate and honour such people, we asked several organisations across 2479 to share something about themselves, and how they were going.

Bangalow Garden Club

“Our club’s main purpose is to share our love and knowledge of plants and gardens. We learn new things from our guest speakers, make new friends with like-minded people, enjoy delicious afternoon teas, visit local and not-so-local gardens and nurseries and enjoy bus outings and other celebrations.

“Our club could not exist without volunteer committee members. We share the tasks across a large committee, with two presidents, two treasurers, a membership, communications and newsletter editor, and several activity coordinators, each with a clearly defined role.

“From time to time we have speakers from groups such as Landcare or Friends of the Koala. We give a donation to these organisations. We also donate to the Bangalow Show and have a stand there as a community endeavour, where our members provide flowers and plants to decorate the stand.

“Our volunteers benefit from being part of an active, friendly and informative group. We share information and plants, enjoy outings, bid for plants at each meeting at a plant auction, purchase excess produce and cuttings, all provided by members. People who are new to the area can learn about gardening in the sub-tropics.

“New members are always welcome. The yearly membership fee is \$25. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm at the Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground.”



The community spirit is strong in Bangalow Photo supplied

Bangalow Land and River Care

“Bangalow Land and River Care’s main aim is to restore a riparian buffer zone along Byron Creek at Bangalow. Riparian zones stabilise the creek banks, stopping erosion by sending their roots down under the water. They create habitat and help shade the creek, preventing weed and algal growth.

“We are fortunate to have a core group of 10 volunteers turn up most weeks. Our youngest volunteer is 15 years old; we have four in their 20s, and several in their 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s.

“We work every Saturday morning at 8.30; people only come when they are available.

“Our most recent success is having younger people join our group and continue to show up. I hope they feel appreciated and rewarded by the results of our work. We encourage young members with new ideas and knowledge. We now have our own Instagram page.

“We all benefit from the social interaction and sharing of knowledge and stories. Connections and friendships continue outside the working bees.

“We welcome new members: no matter your skills or time you can commit to a working bee. The work is rewarding and satisfying when you see the results of a tree you planted that is now providing shade and habitat to wildlife.”

Visit bangalowlandcare@gmail.com



Younger vollies are getting involved too Photo supplied



9 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar
6687 1342

info@newrybarproduce.com.au
www.newrybarproduce.com.au

OPENING HOURS:

Mon to Fri 8am – 5pm | Sat 8am – Noon
Free Home Delivery Service





On the tools at the Men's Shed



Sweet support from the CWA



Primary Ethics teaching volunteers needed

Bangalow Men's Shed

"Bangalow Men's Shed is an inclusive community program offering members the opportunity to share skills or learn in programs including an exercise class for men, and for men and women an art class, mahjong and, at separate times, woodworking. There is also a group of Blues musicians, community food pantry, nursery and garden. Paula Todd runs twice-weekly exercise classes and our art class is run by local artist Caleb Reid.

"Without volunteers we simply do not exist. We have roughly 120 wonderful volunteers engaged in our nine programs.

"One of the pleasing aspects of our shed is volunteering in community events such as the Billycart Derby, the Bangalow Show, Christmas Eve Carnival alongside other volunteer groups such as the Bangalow Lions Club, Bangalow CWA, the Show Society and the RSL.

"We also do fundraising through the year with sales of woodwork products produced by both men and women. And we sell plants from our onsite nursery.

"Being an inclusive group, we welcome everyone from the age of 18 years onwards."

The Men's Shed project a community-based, non-profit organisation often described as a "shoulder-to-shoulder" space, that aims to reduce social isolation, improve mental health, and boost overall well-being of men around Australia.

Contact David on 0403 899 225

Bangalow CWA

"Bangalow CWA was formed more than 100 years ago to provide a network of friendship and support to women and improve the lives of women and children. As a volunteer organisation, it is as relevant today as it has always been, with the Bangalow branch having more than 80 members.

"Women join the branch for a variety of reasons: friendship with other women; a commitment to social issues and the opportunity to influence social change and government policy; to learn a new craft; to contribute their skills such as cooking, sewing, knitting or crochet to raise funds to support local organisations serving vulnerable groups in the community.

"Volunteers are paramount to the Bangalow branch as we operate a retail charitable shop six days a week. Through members' cooking and craft work, in 2025 Bangalow CWA distributed over \$47,000 to help support women and families in vulnerable circumstances. Aside from special fundraising events such as the Biggest Morning Tea, Devonshire Teas at the Bangalow Show, one of our greatest achievements is our valued collaboration with other volunteer organisations in the Byron Shire.

"Our members enjoy great camaraderie, contributing to our community and being part of something successful and positive. CWA is the perfect organisation to join to learn and engage in traditional skills. Bangalow branch would love to hear from you."

Contact cwasecbangalow@gmail.com to find out more.

Bangalow Primary Ethics program

"Bangalow Primary Ethics is a statewide program with the primary goal of supporting children to develop skills in critical thinking, ethical reasoning and respectful discussion through volunteers delivering ethics classes in public schools. We provide students at Bangalow Public School with an alternative to religious education in the half-hour time slot once a week.

"Our teachers received great feedback from kids in our 2025 end-of-year reflection lessons. Many students recalled multiple topics in detail and shared how much they had learned from listening to each other. These end-of-year sessions are always a favourite for our teachers.

"Volunteers are crucial to the Primary Ethics program. Our five teachers and school-level coordinator, and the regional coordinators, are all volunteers, motivated by wanting to contribute to local kids having the opportunity to learn valuable life skills like self-reflection, how to discuss opinions and disagree respectfully. Some of our volunteer teachers are retirees, while others are parents at BPS.

"We currently have three classes without teachers, so are looking to recruit new teachers. We are also looking for a new coordinator for the Bangalow program. The commitment is about 30 minutes a week (flexible timing) and no experience in teaching is required."

For more information, visit primaryethics.com.au or call Claire on 0478 785 191.

WE MAKE PROPERTY CONVEYANCING EASY



SERVICES

- Conveyancing NSW and QLD – competitive fixed prices!
- Retirement Village Contracts
- Complex Property Matters
- Leasing
- Sale & Purchase of Business
- Options



Suite 2/5 Lismore Rd, Bangalow NSW 2479 / P: 02 6687 0548 / hello@bangalowconveyancing.com.au / www.bangalowconveyancing.com.au

Raised by Wolves

by Tristan Bancks

On Sunday mornings, when I was a little girl, we used to listen to books being broadcast on the radio. I was so enamoured of the book *The Railway Children* by E. Nesbit that I made my mother take me to the local library so that I could read it for myself. This was a story of young children thrown into unsettling times by the disappearance of their father and an unexplained move to the countryside. It was full of adventure and thrilling tension, and it was the beginning of my love of reading. Tristan's *Two Wolves* series reminds me of that book.

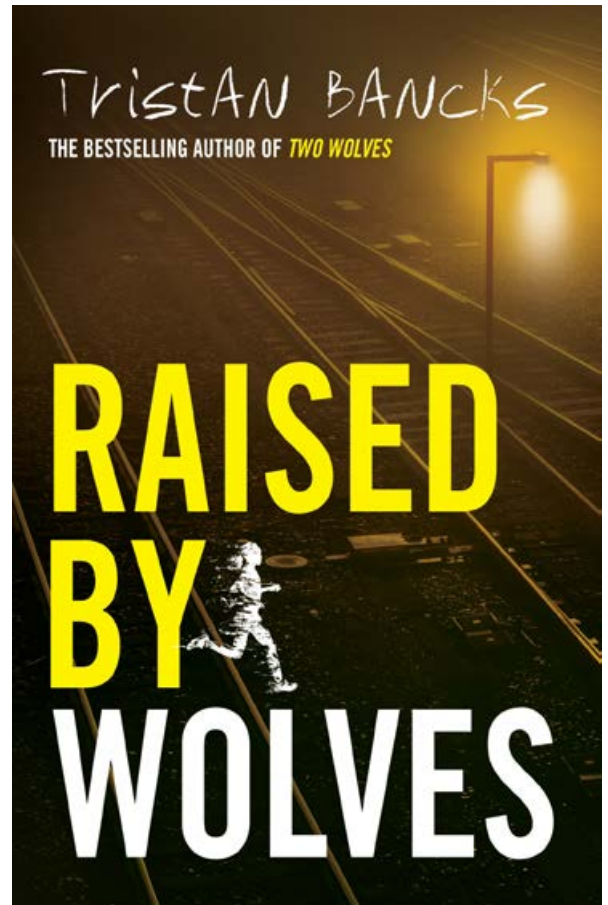
Raised by Wolves has been written as a sequel to *Two Wolves*, which I reviewed for the *Bangalow Heartbeat* back in 2014 – time flies! *Two Wolves* explored the moral dilemma faced by children who are thrown head-first into the wrongdoings of their parents. The story is told by Ben, a young teenager with dreams of becoming a police officer. Olive, his sister, is only seven years old.

Fast forward five years, and Olive is now 12 years old and the narrator of the sequel. Ben is 20 and a police cadet not far off graduation, and Mum is a single mum with two jobs, trying hard to pay the rent and put food on the table. Their father, Ray Silver, has been a fugitive for the past five years, and Olive is under strict instructions never, ever to open the door to him.

One day at school, Olive peers out the window at a man standing opposite her school. She's sure this is the man who causes her so much internal angst – her father, the person who is supposed to love her, the person who has caused them all so much grief.

The final bell rings for the day, and when she gets outside, he disappears. Olive follows him, driven by her need to know that he still loves her. Eventually, there is a confrontation, and Olive inadvertently leads her father back to their home. Trusting him completely, she gives him access to the house, which is where she learns that her father is not someone she can trust, and now, because of her, he has stolen something that needs to be retrieved.

This action-packed thriller is written over an eight-hour period and was an immensely enjoyable rollercoaster. It is being released this



month and, whilst it can be read alone, I would highly recommend reading the prequel.

Tristan Bancks is an award-winning local author currently working with producers to develop some of his books for stage and screen.

For readers aged 10+

Publisher: Penguin Random House

Carolyn Adams

The Bangalow

HERALD

2479

Does the 2479 region know who you are?



The Bangalow Herald connects your business with our community. To find out about advertising options contact Pippa Vickery on 0409 606 555 or email advertising@bangalowherald.com.au

Tai Chi & Qigong

Mindfulness in Movement

Heart Mind Centre
Shirsha Marie

Bangalow Classes
Wednesdays 8.00 to 9.30am
and 6.00 to 8.00pm

0400 558 181
info@heartmindcentre.com.au
www.heartmindcentre.com.au

Full of surprises

Our resident gardener, **Carole Gamble**, waxes lyrical about the Spider Lily, a magical autumnal bloom.

Sometimes also called the 'Surprise Lily' or 'Magic Lily', *Lycoris radiata* – the Spider Lily – is a stunning scarlet lily that pops up after heavy rains on a bare stem during late summer.

Originating in China, Japan, Korea and Nepal, but now hybridised and available in many cultivars – including a white *Lycoris albiflora* and a bright yellow *Lycoris aurea* – it is quite hardy and, unusually, dormant during the first part of summer, appearing as if by magic just when most summer blooms are fading.

The red (pictured) is the most prolific and grows easily in pots or well-drained soils in partial sunshine. In the ground, I mark the positions of the perennial bulbs so that I don't inadvertently dig them up.

They are part of the huge *Amaryllidaceae* family, easily propagated from bulbils/offsets that form around the main bulb. These may take at least two years to flower but are more successful than seed propagation and are true to form.

They should be carefully separated from the main bulb and planted in pots (preferably) with the tip showing and kept moist, but not really wet, as they are prone to rot, like most bulbs in our climate. Most people who grow them successfully will love to share, so if you are lucky enough to be given bulbils, keep them dry and plant in spring about 20cm deep.

When the foliage emerges, a slow-release fertiliser applied around the base (but not touching the stem) is advantageous. Then after flowering, another feed of a low-nitrogen mix helps the following flowering season, as does mulch.

The spectacular blooms, usually four to six on each stem, are irregular and roughly resemble spiders – delicate but dramatic. The leaves are narrow and curve backwards, often with a pale stripe



The Spider Lily is delicate and dramatic Photo Carole Gamble

down their length. These die down and the plant becomes dormant after flowering, all but disappearing, which is why, in the garden, they should be planted towards the edge of beds and marked with a stake.

Some do retain their leaves during winter if it's dry, dropping them when the temperature rises, but most don't in this region.

If the foliage yellows, it usually means that the bulb is too wet and, if waterlogged, won't survive, so I keep mine in pots so that I can appreciate them at close quarters when in flower.

They don't make good vase specimens, but the pots can be brought indoors to a sunny spot.

Another amazing floral display that attracts butterflies and other pollinators.

THE CELLAR
BANGALOW Locally owned and operated

Sun to Thurs: 10am – 8pm Fri to Sat: 10am – 9pm
43 Byron Street, Bangalow
6687 1262 • www.thecellar.com.au •

CASTRIKUM ADAMS LEGAL
Smart Solutions

- Property Conveyancing & Settlements
- Leasing
- Building & Construction Law
- Elder Law & Aged Care Contracts
- Wills, Powers of Attorney & Appointments of Enduring Guardian
- Estates, Estate Litigation & Family Provision Claims
- Trusts, Corporate Trustees & General commercial

Suite 2, 5 Lismore Road, Bangalow
P: 6687 1167 | E: enquiry@castrikumlegal.com.au



Jenn Rowe, Tomorrow V, Wandirbi, 2025, driftwood, inflorescence, pva glue, found Ibis feathers, ochre, 55 x 30 x 7cm; image courtesy the artist



Casting a spell: Midsummer Night's Queen
Photo Bobbie Field

Arts and about

'Where Matter Breathes' an exhibition by Jaimie Klum and Jenn Rowe

This exhibition brings together Northern Rivers artists Jenn Rowe and Jaimie Klum. Through sculpture, installation, photography and wall-based works, the exhibition explores connections between body, land, material and spirit. Both artists consider how matter shapes inner and outer worlds, revealing processes of transformation, fragility, connection, adaptation and survival.

Until 6 June
Wednesday - Saturday 10am-3pm
Lone Goat Gallery
28 Lawson St, Byron Bay
lonegoatgallery.com

Festival of the Stone returns for a winter session

Stone & Wood's Festival of the Stone returns this June, bringing live music, fresh brews and community spirit back to the Byron Bay brewery for one of the region's most anticipated winter gatherings. Now in its 12th year, the festival has become a local institution, marking the seasonal release of Stone Beer – a limited winter brew made using traditional methods with stones heated over a wood fire.

This year's bill features Pacific Avenue, Ruby Fields, Dear Seattle, Eliza & The Delusionals and Liquid Zoo, offering a mix of indie rock and emerging Australian talent. Beyond the music, the festival continues its support of Fletcher Street Cottage, reinforcing its connection to the local community.

With early bird tickets already on sale and a loyal following that returns year after year, Festival of the Stone remains a highlight on the regional calendar – a chance to gather, listen and celebrate.

Festival of the Stone 2026
Saturday 20 June
Stone & Wood Brewery,
Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
Tickets: \$65 + BF (early bird 18+),
\$30 + BF (12–17), under 12 free
stoneandwood.com.au

A bold new musical hits Mullumbimby

The Drill Hall Theatre will transform into a glittering disco palace this May for the world premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Queen*, a bold new Australian musical written by Michael Sharmon and directed by Kylie Fuad. Loosely inspired by Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, the production reimagines the classic through a vibrant LGBTIQ+ lens, blending camp glamour, heartfelt storytelling and high-energy musical numbers. Expect towering wigs, dazzling gowns and larger-than-life performances in a show that leans joyfully into spectacle while still carrying emotional weight.

For Michael, the production has been years in the making, describing it as his most personal work to date. Director Kylie Fuad says the show balances fun with meaning, celebrating inclusivity, love and self-expression. With its mix of humour, music and message, *A Midsummer Night's Queen* promises a night of theatre that is both entertaining and uplifting – sending audiences home smiling, with a little more joy in the world.

A Midsummer Night's Queen
7–24 May
Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby
drillhalltheatre.org.au

our corner store

A collection of timeless, well made goods that are both beautiful and part of daily life.

1/36 Byron St, Bangalow
Phone: 02 6687 1881

ourcornerstore.com.au
ourcornerstoreone@gmail.com



☎ Phone 6687 2960 • Offices in BANGALOW and BYRON BAY
theofficeaccountants.com.au • info@theofficeaccountants.com.au

the office...
ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISORS

Contact Greg Clark ☎ Phone 6687 2960



Jam Donut Focaccia

Looking for Mother's Day brunch ideas? This recipe is not hard to make if you have a dough hook attachment for your stand mixer. You can knead by hand if you don't, letting the dough rise overnight instead.

INGREDIENTS

For bread dough

- 1¾ cups warm water
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1 packet active dry yeast (2 tsp)
- 2 cups bread flour
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp salt
- 6 tbsp olive oil, divided, (2 tbsp for bowl, 2 tbsp for pan, 2 tbsp for topping)

For filling

- 1 jar raspberry preserves or best-quality jam (homemade or shop-bought)

For glaze

- 2 cups icing sugar
- 2–4 tbsp milk

INSTRUCTIONS

In the bowl of your mixer, combine the warm water and sugar, whisking quickly. Add the active dry yeast and whisk again. Let sit for five minutes until bubbly.

Attach the dough hook to your mixer. Add the two flours and salt to the yeast mixture. Mix on medium speed until a sticky dough forms.

In a large bowl, coat the sides with olive oil (about 2 tbsp), adding a little more oil to the surface with your hands. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and place in a warm spot to rise for about an hour.

Grease a metal baking pan with olive oil. Place the doubled dough into the prepared pan (24 cm x 34 cm). Fold it in thirds over itself a couple of times, flipping as needed to ensure an even coat of oil and to lightly knead it. Cover again with wrap and let rise again for about an hour. It should double again and spread to the edges of the pan.

When the dough has risen, preheat the oven to 220°C. Pour 2 tbsp of oil over the dough. Use your fingers to poke deep holes over the surface. Use a spoon to spread about 1/4 cup of jam, making sure it collects in the grooves.

Bake in the preheated oven for 18–22 minutes, until golden brown and cooked through. Remove from oven and, using a large straw, poke multiple deep holes (about 35) into the bread. Immediately fill with preserves or jam. The residual heat helps the jam melt into the bread. Be generous.

Once the bread is slightly cooled, prepare the icing by combining icing sugar with milk. Add milk one teaspoon at a time until thin enough to spread. It should be thick enough to harden when set. Spread icing over the top of the focaccia. Once the top sets, flip over to the bottom and glaze as well. Cut into squares to serve.

Note: If making by hand and the dough has risen overnight, bring back to room temperature and pick up at step 5 to complete the recipe.

Recipe and illustration Lyn Hand





02 6687 0675

Acupuncture
Herbal Medicine
Homeopathy
Veterinary Osteopathy
General Medicine & Surgery

Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm

Dr Megan Kearney BVSc MVS VetMFHom DipHerbMed
Dr Jodi Ruckley BVMS MBA DipSmiAnNaturopathy

4a Ballina Road Bangalow
info@vitalityvetcare.com.au
vitalityvetcare.com.au

Bangalow Museum

has a new exhibition running until July 2026

'Shaking The Family Tree'

Museum Hours
Wed to Fri 10am to 2pm
Sat 9am to 1pm




bangalowhistorical2479@gmail.com
PH 66872183 Follow our socials

Community Contacts

Tree Services

Tallow Tree Services 0401 208 797

Garden and Landscaping

Coastal Cleaning and Gardens 0487 816 023

Slash Me Silly 0429 994 189

Building Services

Trueline Patios and Extensions 6687 2393

Bathroom Renovations - Fully professional 0410 788 420

Concept Carpentry - Big jobs and small 0410 788 420

The Bio Cleaning Co Restoration Cleaning 0414 480 558

Window Tinting, cars & homes John Crabtree, Bangalow 0410 634610

Local Builder - Josh@FeiloProjects.com 0419 852 255

Handyman and Odd Jobs

Absolute Handyman All repairs & renovations, large & small 0402 281 638

Best cleaner in the area 0402 921 948

Rubbish Removals - Mark 0411 113 300

Plumber

Matt Wilson Plumber 0408 665 672

Simpson Plumbing 0416 527 410

Electrical

Electric Boogaloo 0417 415 474

North Stream Electric | northstreamelectric@gmail.com 0427 393 044

Furniture/Antique Restoration

Stuart 0438 603 498

Signs and Printing

Digi Print Pro 6687 2453

Bangalow Sign Co. 0423 685 902

Earth Moving and Excavations

Jarrett Excavations 0431 329 630

Pump Repairs

Bangalow Pumps and Irrigation 0428 871 551

Solar Installation

Solartek 6688 4480

Juno Energy 0425 256 802

Swimming Pools

Tranquil Pools 0418 278 397

Computer Services

My Geek Mate Tech Support 0431 122 057

Veterinary Care

Bangalow Vets 5555 6990

Vitality Vetcare 6687 0675

Architectural Drafting

Michael Spiteri Drafting 0417 713 033

Equipment Hire

Kennards Hire 6639 8600



Free Quotes Luke Jarrett - 0431 329 630

- Tipplers, Excavators, Positracks
- All aspects of Earthmoving
- House and Shed sites
- Roads, Driveways, Carparks
- Dams and Property clearing
- Rock walls and Landscaping



KENNARDS
HIRE

Kennards Hire Byron Bay specialises in a wide range of rental equipment and tool hire to make any job easy.

4 Centennial Cct, Byron Bay
6639 8600 | www.kennards.com.au
byronbay@kennards.com.au

Solways **TYRE & MECHANICAL**

Servicing, Mechanical Repairs, Rego Checks, Brakes & Tyres.
6687 1022 - Michael John Burke Lic No: MVRL53686

BANGALOW
AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS

Call Don on:

6687 1171

Monday to Friday
7.00am to 6.00pm



Architectural Drafting Services

- Renovation & Alteration Drawings
- Concept Design & Layouts
- Council Documentation
- Studios & Granny Flats

holmstudio.com.au 0488 216 555

Ray Towers

CARPETS
RUGS & VINYL

Towers Drive, Mullumbimby
PH 6684 2467 | raytowerscarpets.com.au

SHIRE CHOIR
Thursday 4 June
7pm Bangalow Hotel
Tickets \$25/\$20
shirechoir.eventbrite.com

Community

AA (6pm Tues)	Karen Mc	0403 735 678
ArtsNational	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 (Mon-Fri 10am-2pm/Sat 9am-12pm)	Lydia	cwasecbangalow@gmail.com
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
Piccabeen Park	Lynn	0429 644 659
Park Trust Committee	Shane	0475 732 551
Police - DCI Matt Kehoe		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

A&I Hall	Belinda	0499 392 812
All Souls' Anglican Hall		6684 3552
Bowling Club	Chris	6687 2741
Coorabell Hall		coorabellhall@gmail.com
Heritage House	Trisha	0429 882 525
Lions Club Kiosk	Nashy	0418 440 545
Moller Pavilion		6687 1035
Newrybar Hall	Kerry	0414 560 119
Scout Hall	Shane	0475 732 551
St Kevin's Catholic Hall	Russell	0423 089 684

MICHAEL SPITERI ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTING

www.michaelspiteridrafting.squarespace.com

michaelspiteri66@bigpond.com

ph. 0417 713 033



Design of new homes,
renovations, studios &
granny flats.

AAKO

CONSTRUCTION

LICENCE No.
314988C

MOBILE
0413 164 424

WWW.AAKOCONSTRUCTION.COM

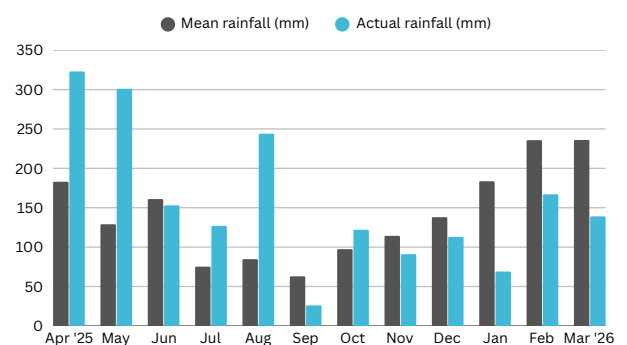
GEEBEE DESIGN

Photography and design, perfectly aligned.

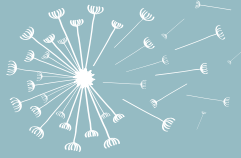
Product photography, brochures & catalogues,
logo design, combined for a consistent and
polished brand presence.

0422 149 685 [geebeedesign](https://www.instagram.com/geebeedesign)

Bangalow Rainfall



Source: BOM daily rainfall data Nashua (Wilsons River) station 58162



BANGALOW MYOTHERAPY

RELAX REPAIR RENEW

Imelda Johnson RN, RM, MYO
Unit 4 / 20 Byron Street, Bangalow | 0422 024 446



YOGA • PILATES • YOGALATES
AWARD-WINNING FUSION

BANGALOW
STUDIO

Mon	Hatha yoga @ Suffolk	5.30	to	6.30pm
Tues	Yogalates	9.30	to	11.00am
Wed	Relax and Restore	9.30	to	11.00am
Wed	Hatha Yoga	6.00	to	7.15pm
Thurs	Yogalates	9.30	to	11.00am
Thurs	Yin Restore Yoga	5.30	to	6.30pm
Sat	Yogalates @ Suffolk	8.15	to	9.30am

For Suffolk Park class times and our Online Studio visit:
yogalatesacademy.com



BANGALOW & BALLINA REMEDIAL MASSAGE

Upholding the highest standards of care
Remedial | Deep Tissue | Lymphatic Drainage
Sports | Relaxation | Trigger Point | Bowen
Pregnancy | Dry Needling | Cupping
Instant health fund rebates available

Book online: bbrmassage.com.au or call 0499 490 088

Josie Cain Fitness

Personal Training & Group Fitness Club

Yoga – Pilates – CardioTone - BodySculpt

Face to Face & Live Online

To join contact via website

Or call 0415 178728

facebook.com/josiecainfitness

josiecainfitness.com

BANGALOW MEDICAL CENTRE

Dr Graham Truswell	Dr Lydia Hubbard
Dr Julia Chiu	Dr Sasha Morris
Dr Clinton Scott	Dr Jemma Bultjens
Dr Patrick Ivits	Dr Alistair Mitchell
Dr Emily Dunn	Dr Eloise Julier
Dr Max Gulhane	Dr Niamh Dove
Dr Caitlin Downes	Dr Sally Ryan

1A Ballina Road, Bangalow
6687 1079 • www.bangalowmedicalcentre.com



0405 594 240
@ glohair.makeup





Only connect

The search for belonging, an age-old quest Photo Sasha Freemind

More than a century after English writer E.M. Forster's call to 'only connect', the message feels newly urgent as communities grapple with rising loneliness and the search for belonging, writes **Dr Airdre Grant**.

At the pub, the atmosphere was buzzy. Groups of people were laughing and chatting. Food was being ferried to tables, a trivia game was taking off in one of the rooms, there were advertisements for an upcoming pub choir and other community events. The bar staff were friendly; the whole place was warm and inviting. It felt good. A nice place to connect, even read a book (although it wasn't that quiet). A single person could sit, have a drink, watch the passing parade, and feel included. Humans are (mostly) pack animals and we need company, to feel we matter, to not feel alone. Isolated. Lonely. This differs from the pleasure of solitude. Loneliness is the one that gets us by the throat and can spin us into sorrow and

self-pity. Loneliness can be hard to bear.

A study by the University of Sydney in 2025 revealed that one in three people feels lonely. Loneliness affects over 40% of young Australians. Loneliness and social isolation are so serious that governments have taken notice. Japan appointed a Minister for Loneliness in 2021 and the UK followed. In Australia there's a peak body called Ending Loneliness Together and, in Victoria, Fiona Patten from the Reason Party has urged the government to create a Loneliness Minister. In Queensland there was a Parliamentary inquiry into social isolation and loneliness exacerbated by the pandemic and lockdown.

It's wonderful that loneliness is being taken seriously by governments, because it reminds us that every piece of legislation is about people, not jobs and growth. The design of cities, the building of amenities, the resourcing of services – it's all about strengthening society in positive, heart-centred ways. Even the most hard-headed data scientist notes that loneliness has an

economic cost. Loneliness increases the risk of mental health issues, suicide, poor health and obesity, among other things. The pandemic forced people apart and restricted human contact dramatically. The memory of that time lingers. It brought into focus the deep human need for connection.

Everybody is lonely in one way or another. There is a core of longing that sits deep in our hearts. Author Herman Hesse wrote, "We have no one to guide us. Our only guide is our homesickness". The longing for home and belonging is visceral. And that is not just bricks and mortar. It's the sense of home that comes from a feeling of connectedness, belonging. This is the antidote for loneliness and social isolation.

Maybe a Minister for Loneliness is a good idea?

Do what you can to keep the howling dogs of loneliness at bay: get yourself to the community garden or choir, find like-minded people, pull up a chair and just show up. That's a good place to start.



Enjoy a warm welcome and good old fashioned service at Déjà Vu Bangalow. Offering a wonderful selection of beautiful ladies apparel & unique accessories, fabulous silks & French linen.

9 Byron St, Bangalow.
Ph: (02) 6687 2622.

CRUNCH

FINANCE

Your local Home Loan & Equipment Finance Specialist

94 Byron Street, Bangalow, NSW 2479

(02) 6694 1422 info@crunchfinance.com.au

crunchfinance crunch_finance

HONEY BEE HOMES
AGED CARE REIMAGINED



Discover Honey Bee Homes
Aged care re imagined, feels like home

Our locations

- Coorabell
- Bangalow
- Ewingsdale

Our services
Compassionate support, engaging activities, and a warm environment to ensure every resident feels valued and cared for.



enquiries@honeybeehomes.com.au
honeybeehomes.com.au

Join the CWA!



More than Tea and Scones
Bangalow Branch
Enquiries: cwasecbangalow@gmail.com
The CWA is a substantial and influential women's lobby group

TIM MILLER
REAL ESTATE

0411 757 425
tim@millerrealestate.com.au
millerrealestate.com.au



What's on

Bangalow Garden Club

When Wednesday 6 May, 1.30pm
Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground
Tickets Yearly membership \$25. Guests welcome.
Info bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com
Diana Harden 0418 288 428

The Bangalow Garden Club offers a friendly monthly gathering for locals interested in plants, gardens and the subtropical environment. Each meeting includes a guest speaker, flower of the month, Q and A and a lively plant auction, followed by afternoon tea. It's a great way for newcomers to connect with others while learning what thrives locally. Members also enjoy newsletters, garden visits and occasional bus trips.

Coorabell Film Club – Roma

When Wednesday 6 May, 7.30pm
Where 565 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Coorabell
Tickets \$15
Info coorabellhall.net

Coorabell Hall Film Club screens *Roma*, Federico Fellini's vivid and unconventional portrait of Rome. Blending memory, fantasy and documentary-style storytelling, the film unfolds through a series of striking, often surreal scenes, including its famous ecclesiastical fashion show. Both nostalgic and satirical, it captures the contradictions of city life with humour and insight. Food and drinks are available from the licensed bar from 6pm.

SELENE – Theatre with Megan Drury

When Friday 15 May, 7pm
Where Pearces Creek Hall
Tickets \$33-\$38
Info pearcescreekhall.com.au

SELENE is a contemporary theatre work from acclaimed storytellers Wright and Grainger, performed by Megan Drury. Drawing on ancient myth and the story of the moon, the production explores identity, belonging and transformation across different stages of life. Moving between childhood, adolescence and adulthood, it reflects on the light and dark within us in a thoughtful and imaginative performance.

2026 Summerland Bank Bangalow Billycart Derby

When Sunday 17 May 2026, 7am-3pm
Where Bangalow Racetrack/Byron Street, Bangalow
Info bangalowbilycart.com.au

The Bangalow Billycart Derby returns with a full day of racing, spectacle and community celebration. With more than 300 racers and thousands of spectators expected, the event transforms the main street into a lively racecourse. Highlights include the Grand Parade, Lions BBQ and a festive carnival atmosphere, making it one of the region's most anticipated annual events. Free to watch, registration fees and regulations to participation – check the website for details.

Bangalow Public School Fair – The Pit Stop

When Sunday 17 May, 9am-3pm
Where Bangalow Public School
Info Instagram @bangalow_p_and_c
Running alongside the Billycart Derby, the Bangalow Public School Fair delivers a full day of family fun. Expect rides, games and classic stalls, along with a wide range of food from pies and pizza to gyoza and SnoCones. Crowd favourites like the cake stall, toffee apples and vintage treasures return, with all proceeds supporting school resources and improvements.

ArtsNational Northern Rivers – Damien Hirst and Contemporary Art

When Monday 18 May, 6pm welcome drinks for 6.30pm start
Where A and I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow
Tickets Members included, guests \$30
Info artsnational.au/societies/northernrivers
Presented by sculptor and academic David Worthington, this presentation considers Damien Hirst's reputation and challenges perceptions of his work as purely provocative, instead highlighting its depth and influence. David brings extensive international experience in sculpture and art education, offering an informed and engaging perspective on contemporary art and its place in modern culture.

Bangalow's Biggest Morning Tea

When Thursday 21 May, 9.30am for 10am start
Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground
Tickets \$10
Info cwasecbangalow@gmail.com
The Bangalow CWA hosts its Biggest Morning Tea in support of Cancer Council Australia, raising funds for research, prevention and support services. Known for their generous baking, the group serves up a spread of homemade treats, with raffles and entertainment hosted by Mandy Nolan. It's a chance to come together, enjoy great food and support an important cause.

Elias Bartholomeo in concert

When Friday 22 May, 6pm
Where Pearces Creek Hall
Tickets \$30
Info pearcescreekhall.com.au

Fingerstyle guitarist Elias Bartholomeo brings his dynamic live performance to Pearces Creek Hall. Blending blues, country and jazz, his music combines technical precision with expressive, melody-driven compositions. Having performed internationally and alongside leading musicians, he delivers an engaging and energetic show that connects with audiences of all backgrounds.



Boo! The Spooky Men's Chorale are coming to you - Friday 29 May, Bangalow A&I Hall Photo supplied

Spooky Men's Chorale

When Friday 29 May, workshop 5pm, concert follows

Where A and I Hall, Bangalow

Tickets \$59/\$49 + fee events.humanitix.com

The Spooky Men's Chorale returns with their unique mix of humour, theatre and powerful vocal performance. Exploring the absurdity and depth of the modern male experience, the group delivers a memorable and often moving show. Audience members can also join a pre-show workshop to learn songs and take part in the performance.

Bangalow Resilience Gathering

When Tuesday 2 June, 5.30-7pm

Where Heritage House, Bangalow

Tickets Free

Info bangalowresiliencenetwork@gmail.com

Following recent extreme weather, the Bangalow Resilience Network hosts a community gathering to discuss local emergency response and preparedness. The session brings together residents and organisations to share ideas, strengthen connections and explore practical strategies for future events, with a focus on collaboration and community resilience.

REGULAR EVENTS

Bangalow Chess Club

When Tuesdays, 6-9pm

Where Bangalow Hotel, 1 Byron Street, Bangalow

Tickets Free entry, 18+

Info Instagram @bangalowchess

Bangalow Chess Club meets weekly for a relaxed and social evening of strategy and connection. Hosted by Evan and Daniel Manttari, the group welcomes players of all skill levels, from curious beginners to experienced competitors. It's an opportunity to learn, test your game and share tips in a friendly environment, with a bar voucher awarded to the winner each week.

Newrybar Song Sharing Circle

When Thursdays, 10.30am

Where Newrybar (details via registration)

Tickets Free but booking recommended

Info events.humanitix.com/newrybar-song-sharing-circle

The Newrybar Song Sharing Circle invites songwriters to come together in a supportive and creative space. Participants can share original songs, workshop ideas or seek feedback in a relaxed and encouraging environment. Instruments are available, and the focus is on collaboration, creativity and building confidence, whether you're just starting out or refining your sound.

KWT Monthly Social Gathering

When First Thursday of the month, 5.30-7.30pm

Where North Byron Hotel, Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay

Tickets Free, RSVP required

Info kindredwomentogether.com

Bangalow-born Kindred Women Together hosts a monthly gathering for women seeking connection and community. Open to those living across the Byron Shire, the group provides a welcoming and social space to meet others, build friendships and share conversation. Now at a new venue, the gatherings continue to foster meaningful connections in a relaxed setting.

Diary

May 2026

6	Bangalow Garden Club Coorabell Film Club - Roma
15	SELENE - Theatre with Megan Drury
17	2026 Summerland Bank Bangalow Billycart Derby Bangalow Public School Fair - The Pit Stop
18	ArtsNational Northern Rivers - Damien Hirst and Contemporary Art
21	Bangalow's Biggest Morning Tea
22	Elias Bartholomeo in concert
29	Spooky Men's Chorale

Regular events

Tuesdays	Bangalow Chess Club
Thursdays	Song Sharing Circle, Newrybar
first Thursday of the month	Kindred Women Together

June edition deadlines

What's on	13 May
Copy	13 May
Advertising	13 May

EMMANUEL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

ROALD DAHL'S
CHARLIE
AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

In partnership with
RAJNIK
DESIGN GROUP
ARCHITECTS

14 - 23 MAY 2026

Director **Anouska Gammon** | Choreographer **Sher Manu**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

www.eac.nsw.edu.au

2026 Billycart Derby day



The Bangalow Herald announces 2026 sponsorship

The Bangalow Herald is proud to join other local businesses as a Major Sponsor of the 2026 Bangalow Billycart Derby. Every year the May and June editions of our magazine celebrate this cornerstone event in the Bangalow calendar with lots of photographs. This year, for the first time, we step up our support to the Bangalow Lions Club and all the volunteers who host this much loved event. See you there.

Jenny Bird

President, The Bangalow Herald Inc Management Committee

Food, fun and games at the finish line

Bangalow Public School, P&C President Renee O'Flaherty, says the school community is excited to hold their annual school fair alongside the derby celebrations on Sunday 17 May from 9am - 3pm.

"It's always such a great day out," says Renee. "This year we will have rides, delicious food and games. Kids can zoom down the super slide, spin on the teacups and swing around on the storm.

"We'll have a selection of food vans there to feed the hoards after working up an appetite racing down the hill in their billycarts, including delicious pies, pizza and gyoza... and the famous SnoCones."

Of course it wouldn't be a school fair without a cake stall including the ever-popular old-fashioned toffee apples which have sold out in previous years. The vintage stall is also back, as well as classic carnival games like whack a rat, choc shot and jar tombola.

"All funds raised will go towards learning resources and school improvements," she says.

Instagram @bangalow_p_and_c

Facebook @Bangalow Public School P&C

Billycart Derby Schedule, Sunday 17 May

7 – 8.30am	Registration and scrutineering
8 – 8.45am	Practice runs
9am	Races begin
9am	5-7 year old – traditional/homegrown
9.20am	8-11 year old – traditional/homegrown
10:20am	12-15 year old – traditional/homegrown
11.30am	Parent/Child – traditional/homegrown
11.45am	Schools Challenge
12.10pm	Mothers Challenge – any billycart
12.15pm	Trophy presentation – morning events
12.30pm	Street Parade and lunch
1.15pm	Men's Shed Challenge – homegrown
1.30pm	Open – traditional/homegrown
2pm	Junior – professional
2.20pm	Open – professional
2.45pm	Tag Team – any billycart
2.55pm	Novelty Race – special billycart
3pm	Trophy presentation – afternoon events
3.15pm	Street clean up – all welcome

Further details and registrations
bangalowbillycart.com.au



**BANGALOW
BILLYCART
DERBY**

THERE'S A RACE
CATEGORY FOR
EVERYONE - SEE WEBSITE

RACES START AT 9AM. STREET PARADE AT 12.30PM

REGISTER AND PAY ON THE DAY 7-8.30AM AT THE BANGALOW HOTEL OR EARLIER
ONLINE 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 17TH MAY 2025 | BANGALOWBILLYCART.COM.AU



Summerland
Bank

