

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE | April 2023

It takes a village



Boy, have we grown
Population and housing

Behind the lens
2479 photographers

Young sports stars
Track, field and more

Vale Jo Walsh



Bangalow has lost a much-loved resident with the death of Jo Walsh, an environmental scientist who lived here for over two decades. Together with her husband, Mick O'Regan, and their son, Jo moved here in 1999. A former senior manager with both Sydney Water and the EPA, she was an accomplished agricultural scientist, specialising in soil and recycled water projects. In the Byron Shire she established her firm, Walsh Environmental Management Services, working to help agricultural producers improve soil quality, achieve organic accreditation, and understand how to manage soil contamination issues.

Away from work she was a vibrant community member, bringing her passion for justice and social welfare to many aspects of her life. She sang in choirs, managed the Byron Public School band, advocated for progressive social change and loved life. It was a life cruelly interrupted by a diagnosis of younger onset dementia, and for the final decade of her life Jo was cared for at home by Mick, and then by Feros Care in Bangalow. Jo is survived by Mick, their son Vincent and, locally, by her sister Janthia and a cherished extended family. She was much loved and is sorely missed. Vale Jo Walsh.



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HERALD

The Bangalow

From the Editor

Feeling like we 'belong' is essential to our well-being. Connection to a community can provide us with a sense of purpose, safety and contentment. In this edition of The Bangalow Herald, we've included many stories about individual achievements from a diverse range of 2479 young, sporty, and artistic residents. What they all have in common is (besides, as some would argue, natural talent) their determination to succeed and the support of those around them.

Our accomplishments, be they small personal goals or bigger ambitions, also have the power to inspire others. Stories of achievement, struggle to succeed, personal losses and gains, and dreaming of the impossible – these tales make compelling reading (especially in a world where there's grim news lurking around every corner). In celebrating the efforts of others, we create a ripple effect throughout the community. Visibility. Pride. Acknowledging small wins and acts of kindness is the beating heart of a positive and supportive community – the kind of place we are proud to call home. And so, I'd also like to thank Neil Deacon for his work in designing this publication for that past 12 months, a labour of love, and a service to the residents of our region who enjoy this little publication.

You'll see from the Census data on housing and income that our community has grown and will, without a doubt, continue to do so. Who wouldn't want to live in this hinterland paradise? But with the privilege of life in 2479 comes responsibility – to the community, the environment, and each other. And so, I would like to take responsibility for the terrible typo in the March edition of this magazine. I am well aware that it's spelled 'rugby' not 'rubgy'. And even though AFL is a far superior game, I solemnly swear on my editorial oath it will never happen again.

Sally Schofield

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

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Thomas ES Kelly will be one of artists leading a free workshop at NORPA Makers Hub. Photo Kate Holmes.

Create and make with NORPA

Homeless since the 2022 floods, NORPA will create a temporary creative space, the NORPA Makers Hub, from May to July this year at the Lismore Showgrounds. The company has shifted focus from presenting work in an established venue to a more mobile model. The Makers Hub provides a fantastic opportunity for NORPA to rehearse and create work again, and for creative practitioners to engage with each other and the company.

Throughout May, leading artists from around Australia will facilitate free workshops in dance, theatre making and physical theatre, both for professional and community level actors, dancers, theatre makers and movement artists. Workshop leaders include Kaz Therese (NSW), Jenni Large (TAS), Emma Saunders (NSW), Nigel Poulton (NSW), Thomas ES Kelly (QLD), Julian Louis (NORPA's Artistic Director) and Margot Politis of Milk Crate Theatre (NSW), with more announcements to come! Applications for participants close 7 April norpa.org.au/makers-hub

Local creators should also 'save the date', Thursday 25 May, when the NORPA Makers Hub at Lismore Showground will host a fun, free 'Creative Speed Dating' evening event. This is an opportunity for all local creatives working in any discipline to gather, connect, and share their practice. Who knows what collaborations may come about as a result?



Photo courtesy of Claudia Chan Shaw

Collectomania comes to Bangalow

Sydney born creative Claudia Chan Shaw has a multi-faceted career as a fashion designer, television and radio presenter, author, public speaker, installation artist, photo artist, and curator. On Monday 17 April, Claudia will give a lecture as the guest of ADFAS Northern Rivers (formerly ADFAS Byron Bay) held at the Bangalow A&I Hall.

Claudia developed a penchant for collecting of all kinds at a young age: tin robots, Humphrey Bogart posters and much more. Over time, she realised it had become something of an obsession – and that she was not alone in her curation of curiosities. She is also co-designer and director for the internationally acclaimed Australian fashion label, Vivian Chan Shaw and has been delighting audiences for the past year since she made herself available to present to ADFAS societies throughout Australia. Claudia presents and produces Arts Friday on 89.7fm Eastside Radio and is a cultural tour leader for the Art Gallery Society NSW in association with Renaissance Tours. She is best known for her role as co-host and presenter on ABC TV's popular program, *Collectors* and her subsequent book *Collectomania: From objects of desire to magnificent obsession*.

ADFAS Northern Rivers extends a warm welcome to all. Ticket can be booked online. adfas.org.au/societies/northernrivers



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And Still I Sing Photo supplied

Ballina Region for Refugees fundraiser

Ballina Region for Refugees is holding a fundraising screening at Byron Theatre on Wednesday 5 April, 7pm, to raise urgently needed funds for their community resettlement program. The film is *And Still I Sing*, an extraordinary documentary by Afghan filmmaker Fazila Amiri. It is the inspiring story of three female singers from Afghanistan who courageously use their voices to stand up for women's rights despite threats of violence and even death. Pop music was banned by the Taliban during their previous reign from 1996 to 2001. This is a dramatic saga that will leave you riveted and inspired by female strength and the fortitude of brave Afghan women to keep on keeping on. The proceeds for the event go to Ballina Region for Refugees' community resettlement program. Two Syrian families are now living in Ballina and Byron shires, with a third family coming in the next couple of months. The group plans to help two more refugee families make new lives in our region before the end of 2023. Funds are needed for accommodation, transport, food and household expenses to assist the families integrate into their new communities.

Tickets to the event are \$25 from byrontheatre.com, and you can watch the trailer here: [youtube.com/watch?v=Dwnulr-kdus](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dwnulr-kdus)



Byron Bay Women's Space provides support for women at risk of homelessness Photo Byron Community Centre

Women's Space at Fletcher St Cottage

The Byron Women's Space was created at homeless hub, Fletcher Street Cottage, in a bid to empower women experiencing housing insecurity and provide them with a safe space to connect and share their experiences. The initiative was led by the Byron Community Centre who recognise the need for a space for women to connect and while enjoying afternoon tea, art activities, access to visiting services and a safe space to create community.

Women aged 40+ are considered the fastest growing population at risk of or experiencing homelessness. "We want to provide a space for women experiencing housing instability so that they can feel that they have a voice and a place in the world. We want them to know that they are not alone and that there is a community that cares for them," says Community Support Worker, Jen Lunan. The rising cost of housing in the region has contributed to many women sleeping in their cars, staying with friends or family, and in some cases living in tents and caravans due to not being able to access affordable accommodation. The Byron Women's Space will be held every Wednesday at 12:30 - 2:30pm at 18 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay. No booking required. fletcherstreetcottage.com.au

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Future stars of track and field

Aaliyah warming up for discus at the State Championships Photo Amy Hall



Malachi competing in long jump at the Zone Competition, 2022 Photo supplied

With a whole village behind them, young Bangalow athletes Aaliyah 11, and Malachi 8, are putting in the hard yards for their love of athletics (and reaping the rewards).

When Bangalow mum Amy Hall was growing up, she never imagined she'd one day be raising two of the sportiest kids in town. "I always enjoyed soccer and done a little bit of discus and shot put but nothing like these two," she says.

Siblings Aaliyah and Malachi, the eldest of five, have been nurtured in their love of sport from an early age. "Aaliyah has always loved sports. She plays soccer and basketball, and she is also a blue belt in taekwondo," says Amy. But it wasn't until the 2022 Bangalow Public School athletics that Aaliyah's natural ability as a track and field athlete revealed itself. "Her teacher Ms Melville encouraged her to tryout in discus and shot put and she loved it," says Amy.

Meanwhile, her brother Malachi is also a sports fanatic, "He has always been a runner," says Amy. He plays soccer for the Bangalow Blue Dogs, has earned a yellow belt green tip

in taekwondo, but the benefits of sport have extended well beyond the field of play.

"Sports has actually given him so much confidence. As a young boy he was selectively mute, and now at the big athletics regionals event, he was able to go up to the officials and ask them when his events were on, something I couldn't believe he was doing."

After the soccer season wrapped up in 2022, the siblings decided to join Ballina Little Athletics." I never in a million years thought I would be taking them to compete on a state level," says Amy. The family has been fundraising in the community through cake

BANGALOW MARKET 4th Sunday of each month

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stalls and other activities in order to send the young athletes to the competition. "Without the Bangalow and Ballina communities we would not have been able to get Aaliyah and Malachi down to Sydney to compete. Local businesses Seaside Tones, Farmer Jo, Byron Bay Peanut Butter, Bang Burger Bar, and Ballina businesses Truckstop Sk8 and Eight Brothers, and I'm Impressed Fingerprint Jewellery who all donated raffle prizes," says Amy, who is also grateful for the support of friends and family, and Bangalow RSL and Bowlo for use of their venues and equipment.

"To anyone who bought cakes from our cake stall, bought the raffle tickets and also donated cash, you all have truly shown Aaliyah and Malachi the meaning of community spirit." Ongoing encouragement from Ms Meville has also inspired the siblings to continue to better themselves in their events. Behind the scenes, the pair trained multiple times a week with Northern Rivers Athletics coaching in

preparation for the zone, regional, and then state competitions.

Update on the State Athletics events

On the first day of competition, Aaliyah came 10th out of the best 24 girls in the state. Malachi had some great runs including a personal best time in hurdles with a 2nd place in the heats and 4th in the final. He also ran a personal best in the 100m with time of 15:68, coming in 7th place, and is very proud of his new personal best time. The next day of competition, Malachi wasn't feeling 100%, and came 8th out of 24 boys in long jump. He then went on to place seventh in his 70m heats. On the field, Aaliyah was outstanding in the shot put, coming in 13th out of 24 girls.

Sally Schofield



Sporty siblings Photo Zenon Kowalczyk

Q&A with Aaliyah

What do you like about discus, javelin and shotput?

I really enjoy it as it is a lot of fun, it is also harder than it looks. There is a lot of technique involved, which I am still learning and mastering.

Which other athletes inspire you?

I really like Cathy Freeman. She worked very hard for a long time to get to the Olympics, she even had to do fundraisers like we have to be able to afford to get to major competitions.

What do you like most about Little Athletics?

I really like all the friends I have made, and practicing and improving and getting my personal best. I really like going to competitions and competing against people that are better than me, and the next time I compete against them, I have improved and beat them. I have some fun rivalries with other girls from other Athletics clubs.

Q&A with Malachi

You compete in sprint, hurdle and long jump. Which of your events is your personal favourite?

My favourite is the hurdles because I love jumping high over them.

Which other athlete do you look up to?

I like a lot of sports people. My favourite are football players like Ronaldo, Messi, Neymar, and Harland. In the athletics world, I like Usain Bolt.

What do you like most about Little Athletics?

We have a great athletics club at Ballina. I really like racing against my friends. When we go to Zone and Regionals we all meet up and have lots of fun. Also, everyone cheers each other on. I also like watching how everyone else runs and throws.

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Bangalow ANZAC Day March



Celebrating the spirit of the ANZACS and acknowledging all servicemen and women in the annual Bangalow ANZAC Day march
Photos Lyn McCarthy – Niche Pictures

The Bangalow ANZAC March is both a solemn and joyful tradition. It recognises the service, bravery and sacrifice of men and women across generations, on the front line, in the field, and behind the scenes, in many conflicts.

Community groups and associations participate in the annual mid-morning march. The official service at the RSL Hall is moving and thought-provoking. Attendees then disperse to partake in a range of traditions associated with ANZAC Day be it biscuits, beers, or betting on a game of Two-up.

Marchers will gather near the Bangalow Hotel from 10.30am then march down Byron Street at 10.45am.

Young and old line the street to catch of glimpse of the parade, the proud veterans in their regalia, local school groups paying their respects, and music and more.

There will be a short service outside the Bangalow RSL Hall in Station Street with the Lions Club BBQ on hand. As usual, expect a game of Two-up at the Bangalow Hotel to kick off around 2pm. The Bangalow Bowlo will also be a venue for Two-up (2pm-4pm) this year as well as some friendly competitive lawn bowls. Clunes residents will find an ANZAC service in Clunes Park from 9am.

ANZAC Day antics at the Bangalow Hotel

Bangalow Hotel is the starting point for the parade, with doors opening at 10am. Head back up after the march and the RSL Service in Station Street. Enjoy a friendly game or three with a special host running the day to spice things up, happy hour drinks, and an all Australian and New Zealand music playlist to rock out to all day long. Best of all, there will be meat raffles drawn every five minutes from 5pm till 6.30pm with all proceeds going to Legacy.

When Tuesday 25 April, 10.30am
Where March commences at the Bangalow Hotel
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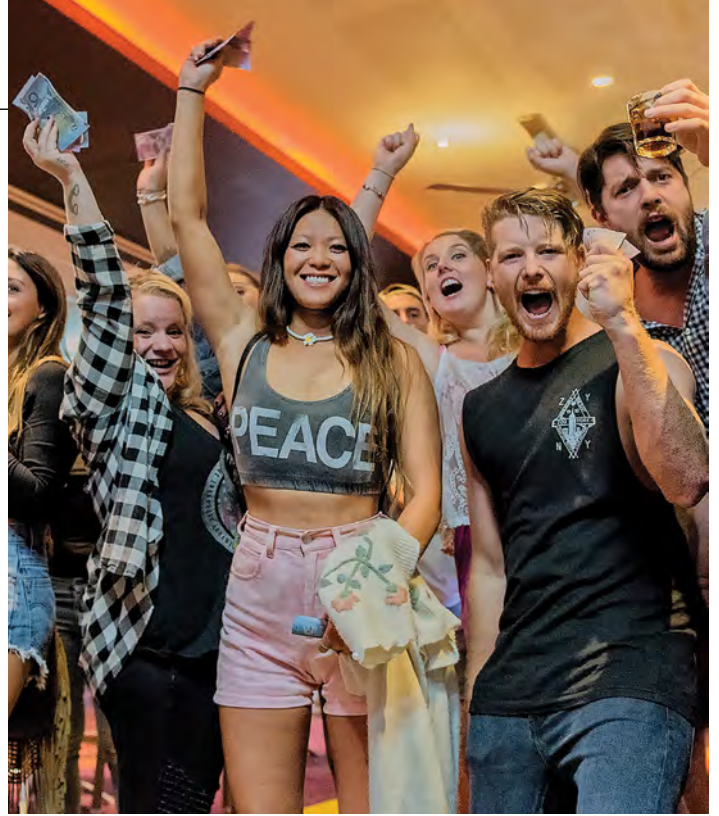
Come in Spinner

This year, ANZAC Day will feature two two-up games in town: one at the pub and the other at the Bowlo. Greg 'Nashy' Nash, who has run the game at the pub for over 20 years, is moving to the Bowlo to join Mark 'Smilie' Noble and 'Ant' Maxwell. At the time of going to press, the pub wasn't sure who was going to run it there but it definitely will be on as usual and run by people with nicknames.

Two-up is part of the ANZAC Day tradition. The origins of the game are a bit obscure, there being similar games going back to the poor in England and Ireland in the 18th century. It was popular amongst Australian soldiers in World War 1 and subsequently became a fixture on ANZAC Day when the authorities turned a blind eye to the illegal games. It became officially legal in New South Wales on ANZAC Day in 1989.

Pennies are part of the tradition. Their weight, size and surface design make them ideal for the game so they spin easily in the air. The person in charge of the game is the 'boxer' and the 'ringie' places the coins and checks the validity of the throw (at least three metres up).

Both games attract many characters and is a great entertainment, even for those not playing. The game at the Bowlo aids two charities: Legacy, and a local not-for-profit, The Younger Heroes.



Two Up! It's on for young and old Photo McCarthy – Niche Pictures



A traditional TwoUp Penny
Photo Kevin Dooley

~ Bangalow Bowlo Two-Up Rules ~

- Play is from 2pm until 4pm. Must be at least 18 years to participate.
- Bets are placed by players against each other: heads or tails
- Three pennies are tossed in the air from a kip (a wooden paddle containing the coins) by the spinner, a player who has been offered the kip standing inside the ring.
- At least two heads means spinner wins, two tails spinner loses and is no longer the spinner
- Spinner places bet before throwing which is covered by another player (in this case the boxer).

The spinner's bet must be covered before each game begins (e.g. if spinner bets \$10 then someone must cover him or her for \$10)

- If the spinner wins he/she takes the bet and the amount covered, otherwise the other player takes the money and a new person becomes the spinner.
- Spinner must stay for at least three tosses if continuing to throw heads but can quit any time after that.
- To become a spinner a name board is provided.

Murray Hand

Bangalow Sports Fields Draft Plan of Management



The Draft Plan of Management for the Bangalow Sports Fields is on public exhibition from 3 April to 1 May 2023.

The draft plan looks at current and future community and sporting needs including:

- Layout and lighting of sports fields
- Change rooms and amenities
- Car parking
- Accessibility

An associated Landscape Masterplan concept for the sports fields is also on exhibition.

The Draft Plan of Management and Landscape Masterplan are on our website.

Read the Draft Plan of Management at yoursaybyronshire.com.au

Make a submission:

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Photo Nicola Redfern Photography



John at the gallery Photo Christobel Munson

The amazingly successful “accidental” environmental artist: John Dahlsen

For the past month and into April, Ninbella gallery on Bangalow’s main street has displayed works by Byron Shire environmental artist, John Dahlsen. Here, John talks with Christobel Munson about how he strayed into creating art from what others may regard as flotsam and jetsam.

John Dahlsen and his wife Rago live on “a couple of acres” on Skinners Shoot. When they moved into their house 26 years ago, John decided he’d like to make some furniture for it out of driftwood. So, he combed the beaches at Mallacoota where his family had a place, looking for “beautiful driftwood” for that purpose, amassing nearly enough to fill a furniture removal truck.

But as it happened, he also became fascinated with the countless pieces of plastics he found on the beach, usually referred to as ‘ocean debris’, so collected 60 big garbage bags full of washed up plastics, too. “I was immediately affected by a whole new palette of colour and shape revealing itself to me. I had never seen such hues and forms before. It turned into an accidental journey into environmental art. I could just see the world needs to see this.”

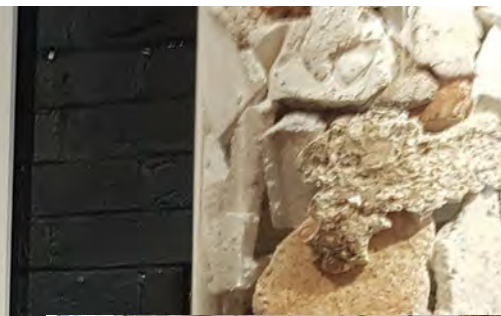
Back home, he tipped all the plastics onto the studio floor and started sifting, sorting and colour-coding. Seeing the piles of debris, his friends

were very concerned, even asking ‘Are you OK, John?’ But, although he had already been a successful painter for 17 years, his primary focus irrevocably changed direction from that point.

Now, these assorted items end up as sculptures and installations. While society labels these things as ugly, trash, and useless – John’s eye perceives something else. “I’m fascinated by the way they have been modified and weathered by the ocean and nature’s elements. My challenge as an artist is to take these found objects and to work with them until they tell their story.”

The diverse range of materials he uses includes hessians, ropes, all kinds of coloured plastics, mattress foam, Styrofoam, driftwood, Coke and water bottles, ropes, flippers, balls, thongs. Nothing is barred. From the massive trunk and rootball of a camphor laurel, it took from 2008 to 2010 for him to create an award-winning sculpture, displayed for some time on the Byron Bay beachfront before arriving at its final destination at Byron Eco Park in Tyagarah. He’s created totem poles out of thongs. “Totem’ means ‘symbol of a clan’. So to me, the thongs are a symbol of our contemporary situation, with its rampant waste. I wanted to express a positive response of renewal.”

That theme became the basis of his PhD from Darwin’s Charles Darwin University in 2016, titled *Environmental art: activism, aesthetics and transformation*. It is described as a ‘response by the artist to the aesthetics of beauty, the role of art as an activist platform and transformation of both a personal nature and of objects in the creative process,’ eventually to be turned into a book.



John in his studio Photo Liquid Works Spain

“The core concern of my art practice is to create something that has its roots in aesthetics, as well as making an activist statement,” he explains. “It’s easy to make blunt statements, but that’s not really art. It doesn’t take people on an investigation, to grow and be inspired. Hopefully my work has more of an effect; inspiring people through art is something I’m committed to.”

When the global financial crisis hit, galleries around the world stopped buying art, and it “really hit many artists”. As luck would have it,

John has Gemini rising (yes, I’m a true believer!) so as well as making art, he started writing, too. “I decided to do whatever it takes.” As well as lecturing at universities, this led to writing five books including *An Artist’s Guide to a Successful Career*, *Art Insights* and *Tide Line*.

Meanwhile, interest in his work has spread globally. As well as having his works exhibited in a number of private collections, he’s exhibited in such countries as Indonesia, Israel, the Netherlands, India, Italy, in many US cities, Greece and China, as well as holding shows in

countless Australian cities. The list of dozens of prizes and awards he’s achieved since 1976 – from the Wynne prize at the Art Gallery of NSW, to a Churchill Fellowship, to being a finalist in the Sulman Award – is quite overwhelming for this quietly spoken man. He also lectures (which he “enjoys immensely”) at universities, high schools, environmental symposiums and has acted as cultural ambassador.

And, in case you were curious – yes, he also recycles at home. “There’s nothing we don’t recycle!”

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Guiding light: Byron Writers Festival artistic director Zoe Pollock Photo Jeff Dawson

The write stuff

If ebullience and optimism are anything to go by, Zoe Pollock will be staging an almighty successful Byron Writers Festival in the town’s Showgrounds in August, writes Digby Hildreth.

Zoe – the festival’s artistic director and CEO – is brimming over with these can-do qualities, coupled with a passion for literature and a seriousness of purpose she shares with her team in the book-lined festival HQ in Byron Bay’s arts and industrial estate.

Underpinning the positivity are a formal training in history, a visionary’s belief in the future of writing, and substantial real-world experience, including two years at the helm of the Brisbane Writers Festival.

Zoe’s optimism confronts even the most dispiriting issues, climate change among them: “This year’s festival will continue the conversation on climate but will be very much focussed on what can be done; on options to fix the problem,” she says.

“Our community is still very affected by what happened last year with the floods. We are living climate change right here, and it’s a matter of thinking what is the role of the arts in this moment? A big part is that we can bring people together and give them a moment away from all that. Joy and optimism and creating an all-round great experience is a huge focus for us; to give people an opportunity to take some time out, connect with others who love books and reading and care deeply about the world, but also have a moment to pause, reflect and enjoy it.”

And in response to the hand-wringing about statistics that show a decline in reading in the young, she proffers the view that “readership is changing”.

Younger readers are actually the most voracious consumers of audiobooks, she says. “And podcasts are exploding. It’s not reading as we know it but the fact is that people are accessing books, are accessing the minds of writers. It’s just that the vehicle for that has changed.”

Encouraging children to read is an absolute priority for the Writers Festival, which this year aims to bring more students inside the reading tent – literally.

Past Creative writing programs have in the past been taken out and presented around the region, but this year students will come to the Showgrounds. “It’s a change in the model, and a very exciting development,” Zoe says.

“It’s important for us, to bring the kids to the festival site so they can meet their favourite authors, and have the opportunity to line up and have their books signed. Reading a work can be a profound experience sometimes – but the author remains an enigma. Seeing and hearing them in person can mean you have that experience again. To meet that person and talk to them is a joy.”

The same applies to adult festival-goers, she says: “Our job as festival programmers is to create experiences that bring people

to the books and to the writers. That, and making the festival accessible to new audiences, including people who may think it’s for writers only, are a big part of what drives me.”

As artistic director, her job is to set the creative agenda for the festival. Each year she has to come up with a theme, which serves as a guiding light to help the programming team choose from the multitude of books published in the preceding year, and decide which people making an impact in the national conversation to invite.

This year’s theme remains a secret, to be revealed along with the speaker program in mid-June.

As a former student of Thai history, Zoe is naturally drawn to Asian writers, “stories that are quite different to our own”. “I also love Australian writers and Australian fiction,” she says.

Achieving a balance between Australian and international writers is dictated to some extent by budget – funding being a perennial challenge for anyone working in the arts, particularly the ‘poor cousin’, literature.

Another goal is striking a balance between inviting writers who people know –the big names – and newer voices, the emerging authors she believes it is the festival’s duty to support.

Zoe says the festival job “is the right one for me” and it almost seems as if she was born for the role: both parents were journalists, and her mum went on to write novels.

The family culture instilled in her a love of reading, which means she always has a number of books on the go.

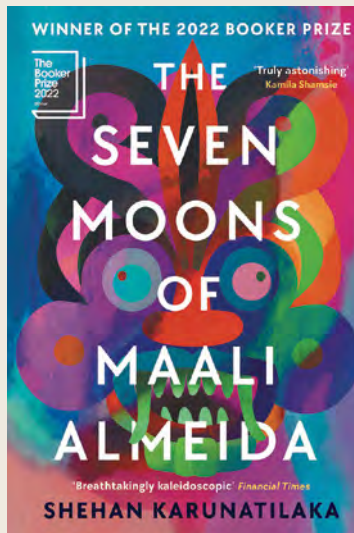
“The biggest challenge is to not have too many going simultaneously, though when you’re a festival organiser that’s not possible, as we’re constantly reading and looking at books and thinking who to invite.” Putting a book down unfinished can be “quite heart-breaking”, she says.



Showgrounds Festival site Photo Alex Hand



Pre-festival guest: Shehan Karunatilaka, author of *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*.



The **Byron Writers Festival** will take place from **11-13 August** at **Bangalow Showgrounds**. Program announced 28 June.

The festival will host a special live event on 23 May at Byron Theatre with Shehan Karunatilaka, 2022 Booker Prize-winning author of *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*. For details and tickets, head to byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on.

Feedback for the Byron festival has in the past been “resoundingly positive”, she says, with 98% of audience members saying they would return.

While an increase in ticket sales would be welcome – especially after a COVID-induced drop-off – Zoe’s gauge of success is, refreshingly, more holistic than mere growth.

“The audience’s experience is the primary factor. It can be a balm and a salve for many attendees.”

Authors, too, love the Byron experience.

“They can come and be together here in a way they’re not able to in the city festivals. They can stop, pause and reflect. As one author told me last year, ‘Now I remember why I do this’.”

“Success” for Bangalow locals could mean a boost to business turnover, full accommodation venues and, crucially, no traffic snarls. The team is working closely with Council and professional consultants to get the

traffic management, parking and shuttle bus service right.

Since the announcement of the new venue in Bangalow, she has had nothing but a positive response from 2479 residents.

“People we’ve spoken to are so excited, which is a really good sign.”



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Boy, have we grown



Bangalow NEW SOUTH WALES

**Back in the day, Clover Hill from Raftons Road, 1991
Photo Maralyn Hanigan**

Bangalow village 2023 Photo Saul Goodwin Property Shots

more people living alone and the housing needs of young people, Bangalow and 2479 data did not show any significant

This, the second in the Herald’s Census 2021 series, analyses data on population and housing collected by the ABS on the 10 August 2021. At the time most Australians were in COVID lockdowns and a lot has happened since then – floods, inflation, interest rate hikes, a national housing crisis, a boom in house prices.

What can we learn from the 2021 Census about population growth and housing? And what did and didn’t change in the village of Bangalow and the larger 2479 postcode between 2021 and previous Census?

The Census confirms what most residents already know – the population of both the Bangalow village and the 2479 postcode has grown. As of 2021 there were 2,260 people living in the village of Bangalow, and 5,780

in the whole 2479 postcode. The increase in population for the Bangalow village between 2016 and 2021 was 32.5%. This growth spurt was nearly three times the 12.2% increase in the previous Census period 2011-2016. In fact if we look at the 10 year period 2011-2021 the population of the village has grown by 48.7%.

For the whole 2479 postcode, the population growth between 2001 and 2016 was not quite as high – 22.2%, but significantly higher than the 4.2% growth of the previous Census period.

When Council complete their analysis of the whole Shire we can compare these growth rates with both the Shire overall and other towns and villages. It was, by any account, a substantial increase in population and confirms a busier village in every way.

All these people need houses to live in and private dwellings of all types in the village increased by 25.7% between 2016 and 2021 – nearly twice the rate for the previous Census period. There was a smaller increase of 14.8% for the 2479 postcode as a whole.

Whilst state and Byron Shire Council housing policy directions aim to diversify housing stock to account for changing demographics such as an ageing population,

changes in the types and sizes of private dwellings. Overwhelmingly we are living in separate dwellings (93.4% in the village and 96% in the 2479 postcode), the majority of which remain 3-4 bedrooms in size (82.2% and 78.3% respectively). These figures are well above state and national figures.

The converse is also evident in the Census data. When it comes to semi-detached, terraces, townhouses, flats or apartments the village sits at 5% compared to NSW at 33.4% and Australia at 26.8%. The 2479 postcode has even less at 2.7%. There was little change in this type of housing between the 2016 and the 2021 Census. We are also underrepresented when it comes to smaller dwellings (0-2 bedrooms) of any type. Our figures of 16.6% and 20.2% were lower than NSW at 30% and Australia at 24.9%. Again there was little change between 2016 and 2021. Note that the ABS does not have a distinct category for secondary dwellings. Council analyses other data sets to make best estimates of infill development.

At the last Census the *Herald* reported that social housing in Bangalow was pretty much out of the question due to the price of land and property, and that has not changed. We also reported at the last Census that many

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residents, as they got older, had no choice but to leave Bangalow in order to downsize and/or enter retirement and aged care facilities. In 2021 26.4% of the population of Bangalow village was 55 years or over, and we are still not providing housing choices for this part of our population.

Nor is there any evidence of improvements in affordable housing. The median weekly rent jumped from \$515 in 2016 to \$680 in 2021, well above both NSW and Australian figures (the Australian median is \$375). The proportion of residents in the village who rent did not change much from 2016 to 2021, now sitting at 24.5%.

According to onthefhouse.com the median house price in 2021 in Bangalow was \$1,280,127, a 61.2% increase on 2016, when the figure was \$794,221. The median monthly mortgage repayment rose from \$1,733 in 2016 to \$2,167 in 2021. Given that interest rates were stable and low during 2016-2021, the hike in mortgage repayments can be explained by the rise in house prices across that period.

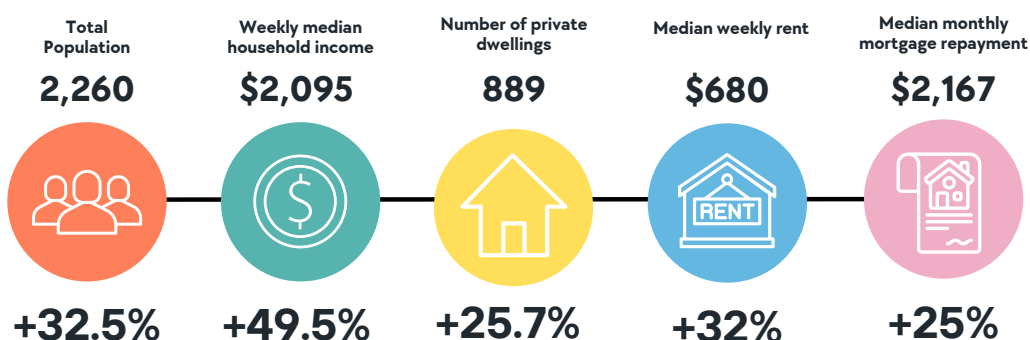
The median household weekly income in the village jumped from \$1,401 in 2016 (only slightly above the NSW and Australian figures) to \$2,095 in 2021 (well above both NSW and Australian medians). This is a whopping 49.5% increase that cannot be accounted for by

wages growth and suggests changes in the social demographics of our community. The *Herald* will explore this further in a subsequent article in this series.

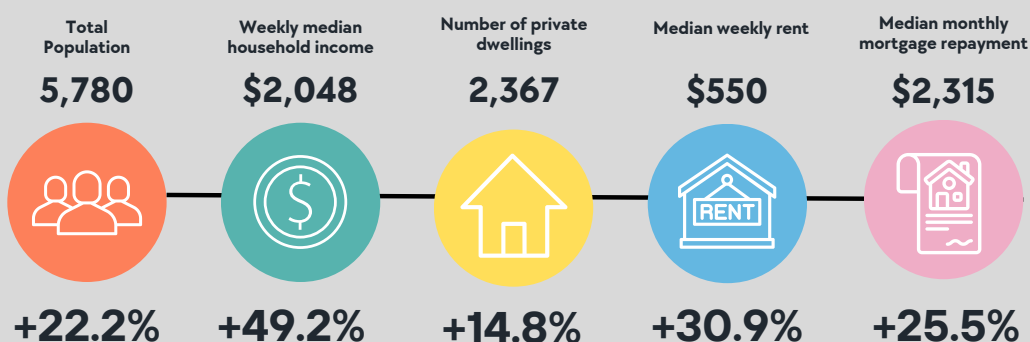
These figures point to significant population growth spurt between 2016 and 2021 and changes in the social demographics of our community. The figures do not point to any improvement in affordable housing, social housing or housing options for young and ageing populations in either the village or the 2479 postcode.

Jenny Bird

BANGALOW VILLAGE: POPULATION AND HOUSING 2021 COMPARED TO 2016



2479 POSTCODE: POPULATION AND HOUSING 2021 COMPARED TO 2016



Source Comparison of data published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2016 and 2021 Census Reports



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April Sun in Cuba

Something is about to happen All photos by Jenny Bird

Sally Schofield chatted with Jenny Bird about her recent return to the intoxicating island of Cuba.

I first visited Cuba in 1984, and I fell in love. I visited Mexico and Jamaica on that trip, and by comparison, felt comfortable and safe in Cuba. I always thought I would return, but I didn't think it would take 40 years!

The minute I slid into the back seat of the turquoise 1951 Buick taxi at the airport, I wound down the windows. The taxi driver turned up the salsa music really loud, and I fell in love with Cuba all over again. The architecture and history are incredible. I spent days poking around Old Havana – taking over 800 photos!

Cuba is such a fabulously diverse island, geographically. It's got mountains and incredible beaches. The Spanish architecture is stunning. One of the advantages of being an island, and being relatively isolated since the revolution, has been the preservation of the buildings. The heritage values are significant and an important part of the culture and also the aesthetic of the cities. Cuba has nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These buildings weren't knocked down and replaced with high-rise buildings like you see in Miami,

but many of them are now in disrepair.

Then you've got music. Seriously amazing music, all connected to a genre called Son, which combines Spanish and Afro-Caribbean music. There's Cuban salsa, rumba and cha cha. It's intoxicating. It's everywhere. Buskers in the streets, in cafes, particularly in Santiago de Cuba and Holguin.

In Cuba, people look after each other. There's a collective spirit of support and sharing. One day we were driving along the potholed main highway (which made Byron roads look positively smooth). Suddenly, our tour driver stopped the van and jumped out. On the other side of the road was a man slumped under a tree with his hat pulled low over his face. Our driver gave him some money and bread. As we drove off he told us the story of that man. He had lost his wife and all his children in an accident and was destitute. All the tour drivers knew about him and they took it upon themselves to always stop and give him money and food.

You saw this kind of care and sense of community everywhere. Socialism and collectivism are at the core of everything they do.

It's a beautiful place, but the economy in Cuba is crumbling. Whilst Canadians travel freely to Cuba, US citizens cannot. Obama

opened the island up to US tourism, which was a huge boost, but then Trump put a stop to that. Then COVID hit and shut down the island completely. People are leaving the island in droves and heading for the US, both legally and illegally, hoping to earn money. It's a complex situation. I felt my contract with Cuba was to spend my money there. To contribute to the economy in a small way.

Some friends of mine organised a nine-day study tour with a focus on two women who were very involved in the 1959 Revolution that overthrew the authoritarian government of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista and finally established Cuba as an independent nation.

Learning about these two women, who were instrumental in establishing gender equality and Cuba's famous universal literacy and health care programs, was fascinating. One was Vilma Espin Guillois, one of the first Cuban women to graduate as a chemical engineer. Vilma was the founder and president for 47 years of the Cuban Federation of Women, which promoted equal rights for Cuban women. The other was, Celia Sanchez Manduley, the daughter of a social reformist doctor, the first woman to join the guerrilla movement, a right-hand woman to Fidel Castro, researcher and archivist, lover of fishing and a chain smoker.



The colours of Cuba



Street musician in Santiago de Cuba

On the tour, we also met with elderly Cuban women in their 70s and 80s. They could describe, "This is what my life was like before the revolution (no access to education for most girls). This is what I contributed to the revolution (literacy teaching, child care services). This is what my life has been like after the revolution (I got a qualification and had a career)."

To think that equality for women was a fundamental principle in the revolution in the late 1950s is just incredible.

Cuba is poor, teetering on the edge of economic collapse, but there is nowhere else like it in the world.

"Cuba had gender equality on the agenda before most first-world countries."



Street music in Havana

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Easter events

Easter events at Bangalow Uniting Church

Station Street, Bangalow

Our next Family Gathering is on Sunday 2 April at 5pm and has a Palm Sunday theme. Worship is aimed at young families and a meal will be provided afterwards. All welcome.

Tuesday 4 April at 3.15pm to 5pm. is our Easter Crafternoon. Primary aged children are welcome to come and participate in games, stories, singing and Easter themed craft activities, plus an egg hunt!

Contact Reverend Phil Dokmanovic phild@nswact.uca.org.au

Easter Services

Service of the Shadows

Thursday 6 April 5pm at Bangalow Uniting Church

Good Friday

Friday 7 April 9.30am at Byron Bay Uniting Church

Easter Sunday Sunrise service

Sunday 9 April, at 5.45am Byron Bay Lighthouse (park in lower car parks and walk up). Come to Wategos beach afterwards and share breakfast and a swim together.

Corinne Nash

Easter events at All Souls Anglican Church Bangalow

Ashton Street, Bangalow

Join us on Easter Sunday Day at 9am for a family service full of love and joy, and an Easter egg hunt for kids, with a message of love, inclusion and acceptance

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday

6pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday with The Washing of Feet, The Last Supper, The Stripping of the Altar, and The Watch

Good Friday

3pm Good Friday Liturgy with Reserved Sacrament of Holy Communion

Easter Sunday

9am Easter service and renewal of Baptism vows.

11am Easter Day Eucharist, Ewingsdale

Rosie Wynter

Changes to rules about tourist accommodation in rural areas

Council is seeking feedback about two proposed changes to the Byron Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2014 and Byron Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014 Chapter D3: Tourist Accommodation. Their aim is to find a better balance between tourist accommodation, agricultural activities and environmental repair by locating future accommodation on suitably sized sites.

Council is proposing introducing a 15-hectare minimum lot size requirement for developments of tourist and visitor accommodation such as bed and breakfasts, farm stays and holiday cabins in RU1, Primary Production and RU2, Rural Landscape zones.

Council is also proposing reducing the maximum number of farm stay accommodation bedrooms from 12 to eight.

Consultation is open until Wednesday 5 April 2023 at byron.nsw.gov.au/Your-Say-Byron-Shire/Changes-to-rules-about-tourist-accommodation-in-rural-areas

New lights for Sports Fields

Byron Shire Councillor Asren Pugh worked with Council staff to secure funding to replace the lights at the Bangalow Sports Fields. Council has successfully snagged a \$795,350 grant under the 'Essential Community Sports Assets Program'. The replacement will mean upgraded wiring, LED lighting and new poles that can be lowered to enable easier access for maintenance. According to the grant conditions work must start this year.



Flagging that work will soon commence on the long awaited intersection upgrade Photo Jenny Bird

Rifle Range Road/Lismore Road intersection

What do the chirpy little red flags in the grass mean? They show where services like Telstra are currently located, as they will need to be moved before any real work begins. Council will issue a media release in the near future with more information about the intersection upgrade.

Draft Bangalow Sports Fields Plan of Management

Note Council's advertisement on page 9 of this issue. There you will find all the details about where to find both the draft Plan of Management and the associated Landscape Masterplan and how to provide feedback.

Jenny Bird



1200kgs of beach rubbish collected in Byron Shire – on one day!

On Sunday 5 March, volunteers bagged more than 1,200kgs of rubbish across the Shire as part of Clean-Up Australia Day. At Byron Bay, 90 volunteers turned out to help Council and Positive Change for Marine Life tackle the Main Beach area. "We had backpackers, families, Byron Bay Surf Club nippers, Byron Scouts, and so many people in the community, all picking up

rubbish," Zoe White, Resource Recovery Education and Compliance Officer, said. "What was really interesting for volunteers was that this equated to more than 3,200 items, most of which was micro-litter," she said.

This included:

- 451 cigarette butts
- 422 metal bottle caps
- 306 drink containers (including coffee cups)
- 86 pieces of single use cutlery and straws
- 1,662 plastic items.

Council staff will be looking at the data surrounding the clean-up and use this to develop proactive and targeted anti-litter campaigns. Information about waste services is on Council's website

byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Waste-and-recycling

Byron Bay Council

*Also see page 8-9 for a story on local environmental artist John Dahlsen who is creating art from this kind of ocean debris.



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The Shooters Party



Sky Edwards of Morcheeba captivating the crowd Photo Lyn McCarthy



Ben Harper singing the blues at Blues Photo Kurt Petersen

With Bluesfest coming up, the *Herald* spoke to three local photographers who will be in the front line documenting this world-renowned music festival, that just happens to be held right on our doorstep.

Anthony Moulay and Lyn McCarthy live in Bangalow and Kurt Petersen lives in Federal. They will join up to thirty other adrenaline-fuelled photographers from around Australia and beyond this Easter, capturing each act's performance and telling their story - usually in 10 minutes or less!



The Living End in the moment
Photo Lyn McCarthy



The one and only Iggy Pop
Photo Kurt Petersen



Vastu Jackson casts an eye
over the crowd at Blues
Photo Anthony Moulay

Lyn McCarthy, Niche Pictures



I've been shooting music festivals for 10 years and have always shot with a Nikon camera and lenses. This year at Bluesfest I'll be capturing the action with

my D850 and my mirrorless Z7ii. Although we are close to the stage in the photographers' pit, we need to have both a telephoto and wide-angle lens at the ready. I find the 70-200 and the 24-70 most useful. I also carry a couple of prime lenses in the bag for when I'm outside capturing the punters.

It's really hard to pick favourites. For pure theatricality, though, I would choose Vintage Trouble, St Paul & the Broken Bones, The Living End and Grace Potter. Lukas Nelson and Sky Edwards from Morcheeba love the camera and the camera loves them. And for legendary status, it would be Tom Jones and Iggy Pop.

I'm keen this year to tick the Doobie Brothers and Paolo Nutini off my bucket list, and excited to see Bonnie Raitt and Elvis Costello again.

I haven't had any major mishaps shooting the festival, unless you count the number of times I've put the camera to my eye, only to realise that I still had the lens cap on. Duh! One of my best memories is the time Jason Momoa was in the photographers' pit, watching one of the shows, and we had a little dance together. I seem to recall I told him I loved him. Embarrassing but true.

Kurt Petersen

I've been photographing live music and festivals for about 17 years now. I used to shoot with Olympus but these days I have moved to Sony. My main lenses are the 24-70 and 70-200, which will cover 90% of what you need to do, but I also really love a wide angle like the 16-35 or fisheye lens - they really need you to get up close and personal with your subject! I also carry a couple of primes for when the light gets really low.



Some acts are just phenomenal to shoot because they are so intensely into the music and performance like Ben Harper, Lucas Nelson, Ash Grunwald, or Jeff Lang. Others really ham it up for the photographers like George Clinton and P-Funk, Melbourne Ska Orchestra, Client Liaison, or Henry Wagons. My greatest moment though was when I was in the pit for the Godfather of Punk, Iggy Pop. What a primal force he is!

This year I'm really looking forward to photographing Buddy Guy, Trombone Shorty, Femi Kuti, Allison Russell, and my American buddy Steve Poltz here at Bluesfest for the first time ever.

Can't think of any mishaps but I nearly tripped over my own feet a few times at Bluesfest last year. The overwhelming feeling of being back in the pit again and the visible emotion of the performers being back in front of a crowd was bringing tears to the eye.

Anthony Moulay – Australian Blues and Roots Airplay Charts



As a radio presenter on BayFM for over 25 years I've been attending Bluesfest for many years. I started photographing Bluesfest seriously in 2010.

My choice of cameras in the recent past have been Canon 6D and 70D. I use Canon lenses, the 24-70mm and the 70-200mm. Recently I upgraded to a new mirrorless body E6 which I will be running through its paces for the first time at this Bluesfest.

The best to shoot? Too many to mention. Any and all of the legends of Blues music. BB King, James Cotton, Charlie Musselwhite, The Tedeschi Trucks Band (all 12 of them on stage – where's the wide-angle lens?), Robert Plant, (legend in his own right), and The Sensational Space Shifters, Northern Mississippi Allstars, The Backsliders, The Music Maker Foundation musos.... But this list would change if I was asked tomorrow!

I'm looking forward to seeing Buddy Guy on his last ever tour of Australia, great Australian musician Ray Beadle with his STAX of Blues and 2023 Grammy Award winner Bonnie Raitt.

My mishaps include almost having my camera confiscated by security. Or giving up my interview time with Robert Cray, to shoot some act... I still can't remember who it was either! And the mad dash down the dusty road to the media tent to find the throng of photographers already being escorted off to the next act.... You've got to be fit for this photography caper!

The Bangalow Herald

Return and earn for Bangalow Koalas



Bangalow Koalas is on the hunt for bottles and cans to help raise \$15,000 this year as part of the community group's recent registration with the NSW Government's Return and Earn initiative. This money will plant and maintain 1000 koala trees.

Bangalow Koalas can supply cardboard collection boxes and do regular collection and donation runs to local return points. Or you can recycle and donate directly by downloading the Return and Earn app on your phone and selecting 'Bangalow Koalas' as your preferred payout recipient.

Return to:

- Byron Bay Cavanbah Centre – 249 Ewingsdale Rd, Byron Bay
- Mullumbimby Ex Services Bowling Club – 7 Jubilee Ave, Mullumbimby
- Return and Earn Centre Ballina – 42 De-Havilland Crescent, Ballina
- Woolworths Goonellabah – 2 Simeoni Drive, Goonellabah

Scan the app and start returning your containers. Press TRANSFER on the RVM screen when finished and you're done! Donation made! If you would like Bangalow Koalas to pick up and return your drink containers, please contact Linda at president@bangalowkoalas.com.au

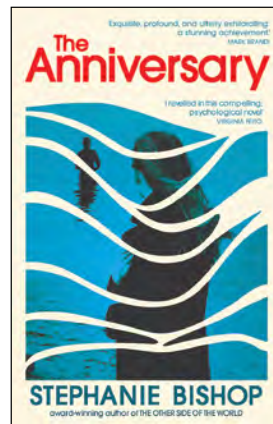
National Koala Recovery Team

Bangalow Koalas has been invited to join the community advisory committee of the National Koala Recovery Team on behalf Dr Fiona Fraser, Threatened Species Commissioner and chair of the koala recovery team. First meeting is in April. The Australian Government published the National Recovery Plan for the Koala in April 2022 to help oversee and coordinate implementation of the recovery plan. Linda Sparrow, president of Bangalow Koalas is the nominated representative to the committee which will meet every three months or as required. The Koala Recovery Team Community Advisory Committee Membership includes organisations involved in koala conservation, rehabilitation, research or advocacy across Australia.

Find out more tinyurl.com/5dchphnr

Bangalow Koalas

The Anniversary by Stephanie Bishop



The Anniversary is narrated by Lucie, a novelist who publishes under the name J.B.Blackwood. The story begins when Lucie learns that she will be awarded a highly prestigious prize for her latest novel but is not allowed to share this secret with her husband, Patrick. Lucie began her relationship with Patrick in Sydney where he, as a visiting scholar from London, was tutoring in Film Studies and waiting for his big break in directing features. Unbeknown to Lucy he had recently separated from his

wife and when he left London, she was pregnant with their son, Joshua. Lucie met Patrick whilst taking his course in Film History and idolised him (as did all the other students). Despite their 21-year age difference, it's clear, from Lucie's description, that they have an intellectual and creative connection and that theirs has been a loving and meaningful relationship.

When Lucie learns about the prestigious book prize she and Patrick have been together for 16 years and have extremely successful careers, but, their relationship is under some strain. They are both intensely busy with their demanding schedules, and Patrick's son Joshua, who is now 16 years old, is regularly creating dramas which result in ugly screaming matches.

Lucie wants to do something special to celebrate their upcoming wedding anniversary and convinces Patrick to take some time off to go on a cruise and spend some quality time together. The cruise leaves from America, ends in Japan and finally, unbeknown to Patrick, they will fly to America to attend the book prize awards ceremony. But, just before reaching Japan, the ship encounters a wild storm that has devastating consequences for the couple.

This engaging story unfolds with an alternating timeline with the author successfully building an atmosphere of uncertainty and menace whilst allowing the reader to feel empathy for Lucie's grief and confusion. As well as exploring the minutiae of the relationship between Lucie and Patrick it examines the callous demands and pretentiousness of the publishing industry. I liked it and would recommend to those readers with a literary bent.

Good Reads rating 3.8 stars. Published by Hachette

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Amaryllis belladonna lily

Amaryllis belladonna is sometimes called ‘the beautiful lady’ or ‘the naked lady’ and originated in southwestern South Africa. However, it has now naturalised in other parts of the world, especially along coastlines.

It is an environmental weed in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia but thankfully not in New South Wales, as it is a hardy, adaptable and a beautiful addition to our summer garden floral displays.

This is the only true *Amaryllis* and is not related to the large *Hippeastrum* family.

A perennial, it dies down in the autumn and winter after a stunning display of large sprays of trumpet-shaped flowers. Make sure to mark their position when they are dormant to reduce the risk of digging damage.

The leafless flower stems emerge from the

ground, each bearing four to 12 scented pink flowers in a cluster. Lovely vibrant strappy leaves follow, and these lend a different look to any garden, following flowering between December and April.

They then can look a bit scrappy but do not cut back the foliage as the bulb needs to reabsorb the nutrients for the following year’s flowering.

They can be successfully relocated in the cooler months but only divide the bulbs when necessary, as they take many years to flower.

When planting, the tops of the bulbs should be just above the soil level and look best when planted in small groups surrounded by other seasonally flowering plants.

Amaryllis do best in semi-shade, with morning sun preferred. They don’t require additional feeding of any sort and apart from a little water if the winter is very dry. They thrive on neglect which makes them even more rewarding.

They make very fine cut flowers in mixed arrangements, and I absolutely love their pale but vibrant pink and long pale stamens that contrast so well with the bright strappy leaves.



Amaryllis belladonna lily in bloom
Photo Carole Gamble

Carole Gamble



Coorabell Hall Flower Show a blooming success

March saw the return of the much-loved Coorabell Hall Flower Show, celebrating its 52nd edition after a hiatus of more than a decade. “The Community welcomed the Flower Show with joy and enthusiasm. Flower power is alive! Clearly there is an appetite for such sustainable and low impact events, and we look forward to building on this year’s success with an innovative program in 2024,” says Coorabell Hall

Committee President, Lissa Coote. A key focus of the Flower Show was to fundraise for improvements to the historic hall, and this is an ongoing activity. A large, covered deck, bi-fold doors, an integral coffee servery and picture windows will enhance the appeal of this community-owned asset and secure its commercial viability.

Coorabell Hall





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Behind the hotel



Photo Todd Van Hoosear

STREAMING

Villainy and delight for your viewing pleasure

actor Sarah Snook plays ambitious daughter Shiv, who aims to be her father's successor, is complicated and ambitious, and has a very unpleasant husband, Tom (Matthew Macfayden). Her brother Roman, played by Kieran Culkin, (brother of Macaulay, was in **Home Alone** at the age of eight), is twisted, perverse and full of acidic, snarky one liners. Messed up,

duplicitous brother Kendall (Jeremy Strong) plans to overthrow his father. Brother Connor (Alan Ruck) is a libertine whose grandiose fantasies include seeing himself as a potential president of the US. They bring an extra level of meaning to the phrase 'messed up family dynamics'. This series is a modern-day *King Lear* tale. The King (Logan), plays an unbelievably ruthless game where the family are pitted against each other as they strive for the riches and approval that elude them. Here is a rich, compelling drama where we see the darkneses of power and the extent people will go for parental love. The humiliations and plotting make ghastly, compelling viewing.

The production values and the cast are excellent. It is no surprise it has been lauded and won many awards including a Grammy, 13 Emmys, nine Golden Globes, and more.

But if you prefer something lighter, then you can't beat a good old fashioned cooking show. There are many cooking shows available and they vary a great deal in quality. It really depends how chatty you want your presenter and how complicated/organic/earth friendly/international your theme. Some are very earnest, too clever about food for words, or on the dull side. Do we really need foam in our cooking practice? How many more surfing males do we need to show us that men can use a barbecue? Two charming shows are presented by Justine Schofield (**Everyday Gourmet**), bringing reliable, simple, achievable recipes and Maeve O'Meara (**Food Safari** SBS) who brings the world into our homes, sharing food and cuisines made by immigrants to Australia. From the likes of competitive **MasterChef**, (Channel 10), formidable Gordon Ramsay (**Hell's Kitchen**, Binge, Foxtel) to the affable Rick Stein (**Long Weekends** Foxtel SBS). There's plenty to devour.

Dr Airdre Grant

If you enjoy watching stories about rich people behaving badly, and have already seen **White Lotus** (Binge), then **Succession** (Binge, Foxtel) will satisfy you. This Emmy-winning four-series show is based around the mega-wealthy, hugely influential Roy family (possibly inspired by Murdoch family). The children of patriarch Logan Roy (expert depiction of horribleness played by Brian Cox) vie for his approval and position in the Waystar Royco publishing empire. We watch with fascination as these thoroughly dislikeable people misbehave, misuse power and money, backstab, curse, and betray as they try to gain clout and some tiny trickle of parental love. Golden Globe-winning Australian



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Caranzac Slice

We all recall the story of how Anzac biscuits came about. Or do we really? Soldier's biscuits or 'hard tack', were a staple war food. Hard as rocks, they would often break soldiers' teeth. They were so durable they were not only used for food but for creative, non-culinary purposes. Soldiers wrote messages on them as Christmas cards and even painted on them.

We don't really know if the oat biscuits baked in Australia by volunteers reached the soldiers at Gallipoli, but they may well have been included in small care parcels sent to those serving, as they lasted a long time. A little-known fact is that they

were originally square. The popularity of the Anzac biscuit will always remind us of the bravery and spirit of the ANZACs. Remembering as we bake and passing their stories to the next generation. This is a twist on the traditional recipe.

INGREDIENTS

Base Recipe

- 125g butter
- 1 tbsp boiling water
- 1/4 tsp carb soda
- 90g rolled oats
- 150g plain flour
- 60g desiccated coconut

Caramel

- 1 x 395g can condensed milk
- 60g golden syrup
- 50g butter

Topping

- 35g shredded coconut
- 40g rolled oats
- 50g brown sugar
- 30g softened butter
- 80g dark chocolate (optional)

METHOD

For the Biscuits

1. Preheat oven to 160°C
2. Line a 20cm x 30cm pan with baking paper (extend paper 5cm over sides)
3. Melt butter and golden syrup in a pan over low heat
4. Combine oats, flour, brown sugar and coconut in a bowl
5. Dissolve bicarb soda in boiling water, add to saucepan
6. Combine wet and dry ingredients
7. Press into in and bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. Cool for 10 minutes.

For the Caramel and Topping

1. Melt condensed milk, syrup and butter in a small saucepan over low heat. Stir for about 15 minutes until thick and golden
2. Set aside for 10 minutes to cool
3. Combine oats, sugar and butter in a bowl
4. Pour caramel over baked slice, spreading to edges
5. Sprinkle topping over caramel, gently pressing into caramel
6. Bake for 15-20 minutes more until golden and bubbly
7. Cool before refrigerating until caramel is set
8. Drizzle melted chocolate, if using, and refrigerate. Cut into squares.

Lyn Hand

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Major revamp for newsagency



The Berry family bringing fun and games back to Bangalow Newsagency
Photo Murray Hand

Unlike most rural towns, when you look down the main street of Bangalow, there are only a few businesses that have been there for more than a generation. However, one business that has been in the same spot since 1942 is the Bangalow Newsagency.

The newsagency has slowly evolved over the years, most notably when previous operators, Carolyn and Richard, extended its business into a bookshop and art materials supplier, supplementing the dry cleaning service and parcel collection. Now it is about to undergo a major refurbishment to make it an even more important cog in our community.

Nick and Sasha Berry bought the business a year ago with an eye to the future. The traditional newsagency's core business of selling papers and magazines is a thing of the past. The sale of these items has dropped by 25% per annum for the past five years. To survive, the newsagency has to pivot to remain relevant and hence profitable.

Nick points to the item in last month's *The Herald*, showing that the data from the last census revealed that we have more kids in our community than average, and the number of those attending childhood centres are nearly double the state average. "To us the future of the Bangalow Newsagency is as a fun, vibrant

destination store for kids and their families, whilst also providing great-priced office supplies to surrounding businesses. We are going to provide boutique toys that are usually hard to find, fun to play with and produced in an environmentally conscious manner. We will also have beautiful hand-crafted clothing for toddlers and puzzles that stimulate and educate."

About half the shop will be given over to items for kids, the rest will have a large supply of business supplies such as stationery and technology. These are sourced from a large supplier so prices will be competitive with major retailers. A new website is being launched that will enable purchases of stationery items and education supplies, supplementing the stock in the store. Already the town's biggest stationery user, the local school has switched to buying through the newsagency.

Nick and Sasha are keen to receive feedback from the community as to what people want from the newsagency. To facilitate this you, they have created a QR code that you can scan in-store to submit your feedback. bangalownewsagency.com.au

Murray Hand

Chop, chop!

The Firewood Project is on!

The Firewood Project with Bangalow Men's Shed, Bangalow Lion Club and Byron Shire Rebels Rugby Club has prepared for another winter season. We have been extremely fortunate to source plenty of local quality hardwood for this year's firewood drive. Last month, we completed two working bees in preparation for this year's winter wood stash. Deliveries will start immediately after Easter, and we will

cover areas north to Brunswick Heads and Mullum, south to Lennox Heads, and west to Clunes.

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Big Swedish Store Run	0401 880 170

Community		
AA (5.30pm Tues)	Karen Mc	0403 735 678
ADFAS	Dianne	0412 370 372
Al-Anon (2pm Fri)		1300 252 666
Bangalow Koalas	Linda	0411 491 991
Bridge	Dennis	6687 1574
Chamber of Commerce		admin@bangalow.biz
Community Children's Centre	Kerry	6687 1552
Co-dependents Anonymous	Gye	0421 583 321
CWA (Wed)	Lorraine	0417 705 439
Garden Club (1st Wed)	Diana	0418 288 428
George the snake man	George	0407 965 092
Historical Society/Museum/Cafe	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 (7pm 2nd/4th Tues)	Chris	0416 005 700
Market (4th Sun)	Jeff	6687 1911
Men's Shed	John	0427 130 177
Op Shop (Mon to Thurs 10am-2.00pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm)		6687 2228
Parklands	Lynn	0429 644 659
Park Trust Committee	Shane	0475 732 551
Police – DCI Matt Kehoe	Fax: 6629 7501	6629 7500
Pool Trust	Jo	6687 1297
Progress Association	Ian	0414 959 936
Poultry Club	Hector	6687 1322
Quilters (2nd/4th Thur)	Karen	0413 621 224
Red Cross (1st Fri)	Liz	0409 832 001
Show Society	Anne	6687 1033
Sport		
Bowls men (1pm Wed & Sat)	Gerry	6687 1142
Bowls women (9.30am Wed)	Frances	6687 1339
Cricket	Anthony	0429 306 529
Karate self-defence	Jean	0458 245 123
Netball (3.30pm Wed)	Ellie	0429 855 399
Rugby Union (Rebels)	Dave	0412 080 614
Soccer (Bluedogs)		0434 559 700
Tennis court hire	Bernie	0433 970 800
Venues		
A&I Hall	Brian	0427 157 565
All Souls' Anglican Hall		6684 3552
Bowling Club	Chris	6687 2741
Coorabell Hall		coorabellhall@gmail.com
Heritage House	Trisha	0429 882 525
Moller Pavilion		6687 1035
Newrybar Hall	Blair	0404 880 382
RSL Hall	Charlotte	0418 107 448
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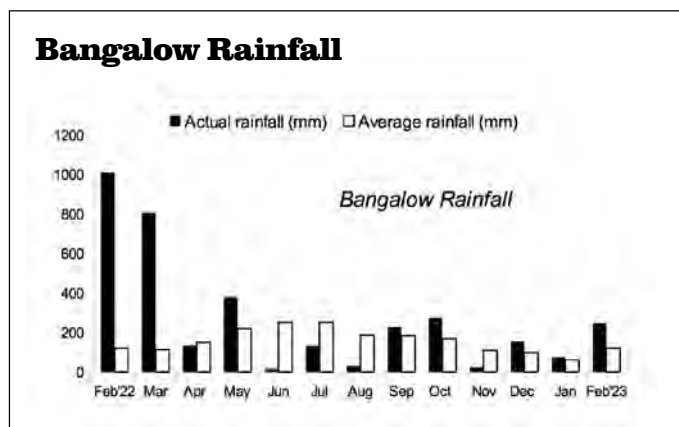
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WHAT'S ON

There's a whole host of events to keep you occupied in 2479 and surrounds in the coming month.

Bangalow Show General Meeting

When Monday 3 April, 7pm

Where: Show Office, Bangalow Showgrounds

Contact Anne 0409 890 858, bangalowshow.com.au or bangalowshow@outlook.com

Come along to the next meeting for the 2023 Bangalow Show. We are always looking for new members to join our dynamic team of volunteers dedicated to bringing the community the best Show on the North Coast. All welcome.

Bangalow Business Coffee Meetup

When Tuesday 4 April, 7.30-9am

Where Woods Café, Bangalow

Info byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au

If you think the Business Breakfasts are lovely and relaxed, try the informal Coffee Meetups. Even less hard sell and more great conversation. We always have a stimulating and lively topic of conversation at these events.

Potters Easter Market

When Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 April, 9am-3pm

Where Newrybar Hall Newrybar

Contact Catherine at cathlane1@gmail.com

Looking for something local to do at Easter? This one-off event is presented by artists from the popular North Coast Mud Trail and there are nine different studios participating. From useful, earthy functional pots to fun sculptures all works are for sale and there will be something to suit everyone's taste and budget. Supported by the Bangalow CWA so there'll be tea and scones.

Shire Choir Bangalow

When Thursday 13 April, 7-10pm

Where The Bangalow Hotel

Contact shirechoir.com.au
facebook.com/theshirechoir

Tickets \$20/\$12 shirechoir.eventbrite.com

Shire Choir is back and ready to ROCK! But we can't do it without you. We need all voices, great and small - yes, even yours. Melia Naughton will lead us through a spine-tingling rendition of one of the greatest Aussie rock lovesongs ever, accompanied by Jamie and his Birrell Bros Band (hang around after, as they will also be serving up an extra dose of pub rock on the night).



Potters Easter Market at Newrybar

Bangalow Poultry Club Auction

When Sunday 16 April, 8.30am viewing, 10.00am start.

Where Poultry Pavilion, Bangalow Showground

Contact

secretary@bangalowpoultryclub.com.au

The Bangalow Poultry Club has a reputation of being one of the most friendly and well organised Show and Auctions, attracting exhibitors from south-east Queensland, west of the range around Stanthorpe and Tenterfield and the Northern Rivers of NSW. Lots at the auction can sell from \$30 to \$500. Purchase poultry for all occasions including laying, showing, and as pets. It's a family day out with BBQ available. Pay by cash or EFTPOS and please bring a box to take home your bird(s).

ADFAS Collectomania

When Monday 17 April, 6.30pm

Where A&I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow

Tickets ADFAS Members free, Guests \$25. pay at the door, or book on-line

Contact adfasnorthernrivers@gmail.com

Claudia Chan Shaw, co-host of new television program Antiques DownUnder delves into the minds of collectors - from those who collect objects as a hobby to those whose desire to possess becomes a magnificent obsession. Claudia has a multi-faceted career as a fashion designer, television and radio presenter, author, public speaker, installation artist, photo artist, and curator.



LIFT workshop presented by Strings Attached Image courtesy of Academy of Music and Performing Arts (AMPA) Bachelor of Dance Students Photo Wenny Tan

LIFT

When 17-21 April (School Holidays)

Where Lismore

Apply Applications open now at norpa.org.au/lift

Join NORPA and Strings Attached for LIFT – a workshop for young people aged 14–21 that blends harness-aided aerial dance with movement-based theatre. Participants will be guided through training, improvisation and choreographic techniques to develop a dynamic performance style.

Applications close Monday 3 April.

Live Swing and Jazz

When Friday 21 April, 7-10pm

Where Mullumbimby Ex Services Club,

Contact Rhydian Lewis 0420454165

Tickets \$20 on door

58 Dalley Street Mullumbimby

Listen and/or dance to a live four piece jazz band. Local celebrity musicians appear monthly, such as Rhydian Lewis, Nicki Parrott, Steve Russel, Dave Sanders, Jamie Pattugalan, Ben Cox. This is the coolest gig to attend anywhere in Byron Shire. Great standards and swinging jazz made popular by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, Ella Fitzgerald & Nina Simone. Watch dancers from the local swing scene - maybe even join in.

CWA Cake & Produce Stall

When Saturday, 29 April, 8am-12 noon

Where CWA rooms, 31 Byron St

Contact Di 0412 376 034s

Our monthly stall offers lots of choice to satisfy your sweet tooth. Come along and see what tasty treats and produce we have on offer this month. All proceeds help us support organisations assisting women and children in our community.

Bangalow Quilters

When 2nd and 4th Thursdays
of each month

Where All Soul's Anglican Church,
Ashton St Bangalow

Contact Karen 0413 621 224

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

Diary

April 2023

3	Bangalow Show meeting
4	Bangalow Business Coffee Meet-up
8-9	Potters Easter Market Newrybar
13	Shire Choir Bangalow
16	Poultry Auction
17	ADFAS Collectomania
17-21	LIFT
21	Live Swing and Jazz
23	Bangalow Markets!
25	ANZAC Day
29	CWA Cake and Produce Stall

April deadlines

What's On 14 April

Copy 14 April

Advertising 14 April

Bangalow's Sonny Lingard is fierce and determined. In two short years, the 12-year-old has made a cracking debut in the world of Ninja competitions. Here, competitors demonstrate strength, stamina, and strategy to negotiate a variety of physical obstacles. Ninja sports is derived from a Japanese reality TV program *Sasuke*, and went on to gain worldwide attention through the *Ninja Warrior* TV franchise. Ninja sports requires a combination of agility, strength, and determination.

"Sonny was jumping off stuff before he could walk," says mum, Vanessa. "He was always the little kid at the park climbing on top of the equipment. He thrives on risk and adventure," she adds.

There's no denying the youngster's natural ability for the sport who has gone from novice to representing Australia almost overnight.

"Less than two years ago, I googled local Ninja Comps. A week later Sonny competed in Brisbane in his first ever ninja comp – and won."

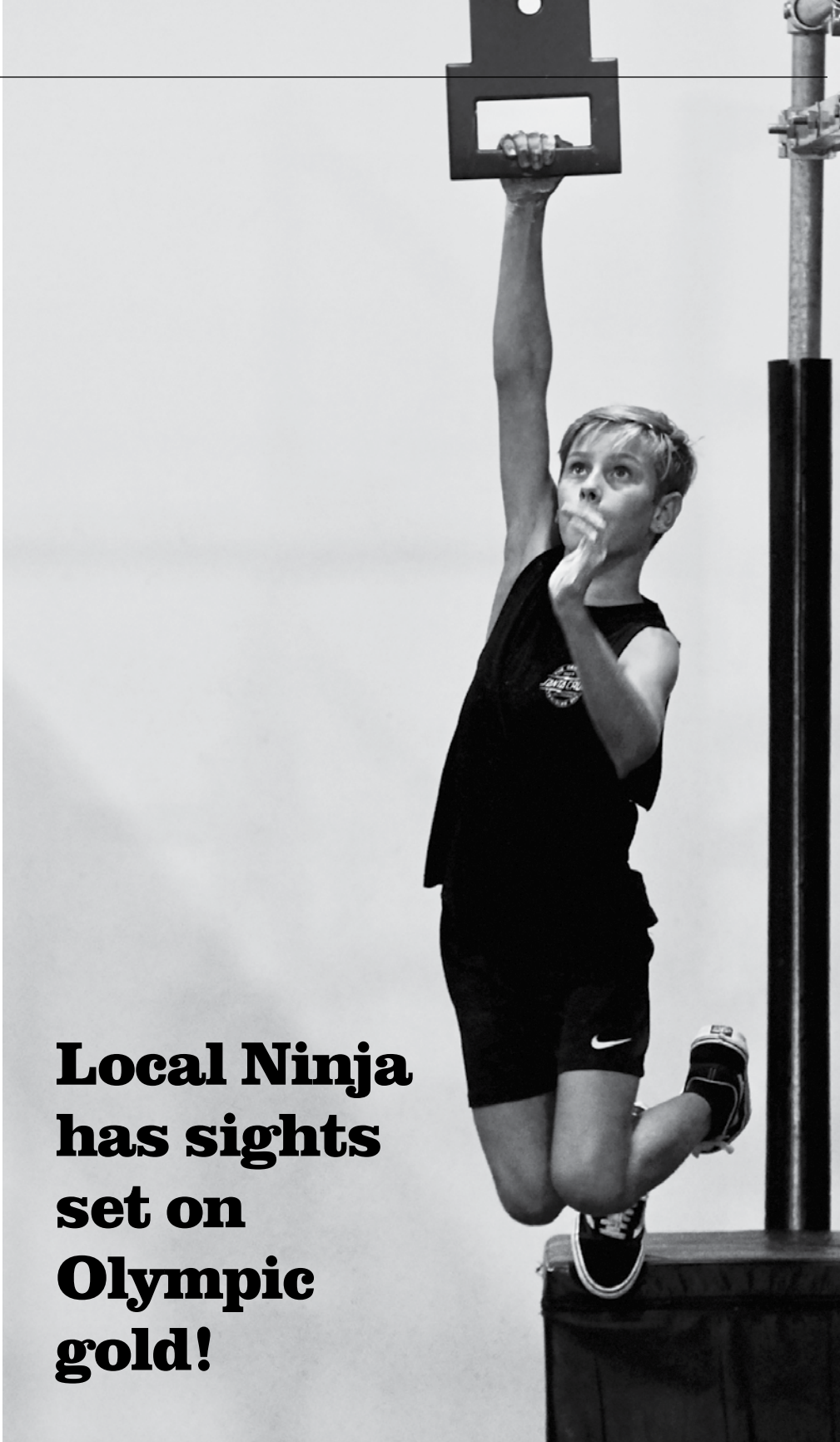
Brisbane has the closest training facility for the sport, and Sonny has been training and competing regularly over the last 18 months. He has competed in Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane.

"We found Sonny a coach and his dad Adam takes him to Brisbane to train fortnightly. It's a monumental commitment."

In January, all of Sonny's hard work and commitment paid off, with him winning the 11 years Australian National Ninja Championship. He outperformed 72 kids from around the country with an astonishingly fast time of one 1 minute and 10 seconds to complete the Ninja course.

"We're taking Sonny to the World Ninja championships in Orlando, Florida where he will represent Australia. It's the first step toward achieving his goal of winning Ninja gold at the Brisbane Olympics."

Sally Schofield



Local Ninja has sights set on Olympic gold!



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