

HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE | June 2023

Big hearts in the Hinterland



Bangalow Music Fest
2023 Program scoop

The whimsical world
of Hilary Herrmann

Stranger than fiction
Marele Day's *Reckless*

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LIFE AND TIMES



Vale Mike Dowd 1949-2023

"A community giant," "patient and calm", "a true gentleman", "an absolute one-of-a-kind" these are but a few of the tributes to Mike Dowd received by the family after we announced he had lost his battle with cancer on 22 April 2023 at the age of 73.

Michael John Dowd - AKA Mikey, Doodles, baby doodles, padre, was born in Dubbo on 22 May 1949 to Clementine and Mavis Dowd. Mike was third in line with two older brothers, John and Frank, and younger sister Mary who remembers Mike as a kind, caring brother who spent a lot of time looking after her when their mother Mavis was so sick after suffering six miscarriages.

The family grew up in Brisbane Street, Dubbo. At the age of 15, Mike was identified as a promising swimmer, and was invited to attend Oakhill College in Sydney. There he played almost every sport, captained the swim and rugby teams, was awarded numerous sports awards, age champions and set records.

After school he returned to Dubbo to work with the ANZ bank, started a family and played first grade rugby union and league across NSW.

In 1996, Mike relocated to Bangalow, immersing himself into the community by taking on the manager role at the local pub and the inaugural coaching position at the fledgling Bangalow Rebels Rugby Club. The family has been regaled over the years with the stories of Home games, Christmas raffles, Billycart Derbies, and the comings and goings of Heritage House.

It was also in Bangalow he met his life friends. Daily morning coffees with Ali, Wednesday and Friday raffles with Billy and Tony, Nashy's place for a beer and a 'punt'. These are but a few of the people he knew and loved. You know who you are!

Mikey, dad, doodles, cranky old man, padre...will leave a massive hole in the lives of not only his family, but his friends and the Bangalow community.

For those of us lucky enough to know and love this man we will raise our glass and cheer when the number 22 comes up at the pub raffles.

Rest in Peace.

Scott Dowd

HERALD

The Bangalow

From the Editor

Outside, the remnants of autumn leaves cling tight to trees, but winter is well on its way. Hopefully, you'll start to see this month's theme take shape as you leaf through these pages. Marele Day's memoir leaves a lasting impression and has me pondering the recklessness of my own youth. Meanwhile, local artist Hilary Herrmann examines the impressions left behind in old photographs, divining unexpected new visions for her latest exhibition Keepsakes. So too, a local history group will meet this month to linger over memories, near and distant, as they seek to capture and name those faces and places that have left an imprint on the town. You'll also read about local identity Mike Dowd leaving Bangalow for the last time, in a send-off that closed the main street and a memorial service that was a testament to his place in the community. The Bangalow Garden Club explores the fiery foliage of Tenterfield, ablaze in autumnal hues, and closer to home, the main street was a riot of colour as the annual Billycart Derby staged a triumphant return to the May social calendar. Finally, as festival season blooms around us, we are treated to the best in music, literature, and the arts, echoing our purpose, connection, and what we leave behind.

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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Have your say New shared path for Raftons Road, Bangalow

Council is designing a new shared path on Raftons Road and is seeking feedback from the community on two route options proposed.

- Option 1 is on the northern side of the road, mostly in the existing grassed verge.
- Option 2 is along the southern side and requires reduced road width due to widening of the verge.

Both options involve car parking losses.

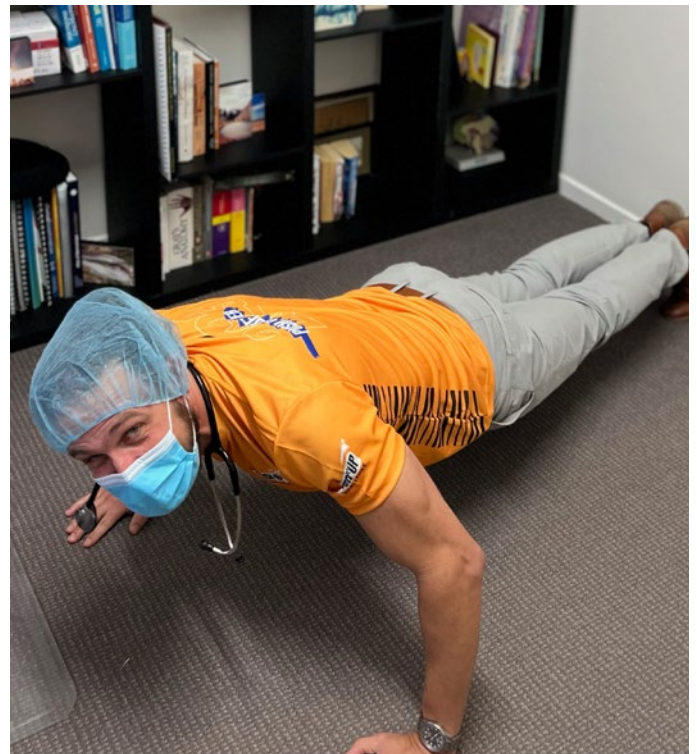
See maps of the route options online and have your say until Monday 12 June.

More information

- www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Your-Say-Byron-Shire/Raftons-Road-Bangalow-shared-path



www.byron.nsw.gov.au



Dr Scott, drop and give us 3144 pushups Photo supplied

Bangalow Medical Centre pushes for mental health

This month, staff from the Bangalow Medical Centre are participating in The Push-Up Challenge to raise funds for mental health. From June 1 to 23, each participant will complete 3,144 push ups as part of Australia's largest fitness-based mental health initiative.

Mental illness remains a huge issue across our community. Not only has COVID-19 taken a toll, previous fire and recent floods have had a massive impact on most everyone's wellbeing. It is sobering to realise that in 2021, 3144 Australians lost their lives to suicide.

The Bangalow Medical Centre is hoping the community will lend their support and donate. Funds will be raised for Lifeline, Movember and The Push for Better Foundation.

If ever you've wanted to see Dr Truswell shudder in agony, or perhaps Dr Scott paralysed with pain, now is your opportunity. Team members will be taking pledges, the most imaginative the better (perhaps for \$50 nurse Simone singing Abba's greatest hits as she completes part of her quota?). Pledge proof will be posted to their Facebook page.

Head to the pushupchallenge.com.au/fundraisers/BangalowMedicalCentre

There's more information on the Bangalow Medical Centre's website (bangalowmedicalcentre.com) and Facebook page. Otherwise, information can be found at the clinic.

Check out The Push-Up Challenge website at thepushupchallenge.com.au/home

Importantly, if you, or a loved one are suffering, there is always someone to talk to: whether it be Lifeline (13 11 14), the NSW Mental Health Line (1800 011 511) or your GP (to name a few).



Herald editor Sally Schofield's alter ego DJ Sally Sound in action
Photo Isaac Brandon

Singing along to the Sounds of the Shire Choir

Like so many multi-talented Geminis, our modest editor, Sally Schofield, is not 'just' the very competent editor of *The Bangalow Herald*. She's also a DJ, well known in the electronic music scene around Australia for 30 years as Sally Sound.

Wearing that hat, she's working as producer and – with Melia Naughton – co-collaborator, on the Sounds of the Shire Choir, a highlight of the 2023 Byron Bay Music Festival, a family-friendly, day-long event happening at Denning Park, Byron Bay on Saturday 17 June.

Melia and friends established the Shire Choir in 2018 as “a pop-up choir with the aim of bringing the joy of collective singing to venues around the Northern Rivers.” They have since formed a ‘vocal supergroup’ connecting a number of singers and choir members from throughout the shire.

“Sounds of the Shire Choir is an all-star ensemble of voices from the Byron Shire who feel love for disco, have groove in their hearts and are passionate about pop music,” Sally explains. “I get to bring my background in DJing to a completely different setting, working with Melia to arrange vocal parts for our amazing choir.”

The Sounds of the Shire Choir will be singing backup for a live DJ set from internationally acclaimed, now Byron-based DJ GT (Groove Terminator). Their set is described as ‘a dancefloor-exploding sing-fest celebration, belting out the best disco in town, the top of the pops and the coolest of classic house music hits.’

“To pair this with some awesome beats and a DJ of this calibre will be an enormous amount of fun!” says Melia.

Tickets available at byronmusicfestival.com.au

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'Carrot Man' Linsey Pollak
Photo supplied

Sound and vision splendid

From the sublime to the seemingly ridiculous, from Beethoven's transcendent 'Moonlight' Sonata to the sight of a man making an instrument out of a carrot – and playing it – the 20th Bangalow Chamber Music Festival promises to explore a wide range of musical expression.

What is guaranteed throughout is the exceptionally high quality of the performances: Carrot Man, for instance, is Linsey Pollak, a

world-famous clarinetist and instrument maker with a background in sharing an idiosyncratic history of the clarinet, complete with practical demonstrations.

And the performer at the keyboard bringing the Beethoven to life is none other than Konstantin Shamray, described by the Festival's artistic director, Tania Frazer, as the finest pianist in Australia.

They are just two of the world-class talents

providing a rich and varied programme designed to both entertain and inform, carefully curated for such a significant anniversary.

This year's Emerald event also features an unusually large number of 'home-grown' performers, Tania says.

"Many came back to Australia from big careers overseas during the COVID pandemic and stayed. The cultural landscape has changed in the past two decades, so that such top talents can now find a place where they are able to pursue a decent career."

Among them is Rachel Siu, a Sydney-based cellist whose playing has been described as 'fearless' by Yo-Yo Ma, himself famous for his extraordinary technique. Other virtuoso performers include those who began their careers exceptionally young: Alexandra Osborne was the youngest member of the violin section of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC when she joined; flautist Emma Sholl was one of the most youthful musicians ever appointed to Sydney Symphony; and cellist Guillaume Wang made his solo debut with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra aged 15.

These and other young stars will appear alongside the Festival's more seasoned resident ensemble, the Southern Cross Soloists (SXS), the even fresher faced SXS Next Gen Artists, and another group of Festival regulars, the Orava Quartet.

The programme mixes the familiar – the Beethoven Sonata, Elgar's Enigma Variations, Brahms' Clarinet Quintet in B minor – with the less well known, including Erwin Schulhoff's eclectic Five Pieces for String Quartet, Charles Ives' philosophical The Unanswered Question and the World Premiere of a work by SXS International Ambassador Sean O'Boyle, written especially for young violinist Courtenay Cleary, who will perform it on the Friday night.

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Konstantin Shamray with Courtenay Cleary and Guillaume Wang Photo Darren Thomas Photography

The Festival's pinnacle performance comes on the Sunday afternoon, with Konstantin Shamray playing Rachmaninov's piano extravaganza, Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.

With the word 'chamber' inserted into the event's title for the first time, the 2023 Festival can truly consider itself as having come of age in, Tania says.

She was there at the beginning: in fact, a Bangalow festival was the brainchild of her husband, professional musician David Schneideman. The couple had returned to Australia from Europe and Israel, where they had worked with virtuoso artists such as

operatic soprano Jessye Norman, violin great Itzhak Perlman and the electrifying conductor Zubin Mehta, and wanted to bring something of that experience home.

In 2002, helped by such eminent contacts, they were able to lure some of the world's top soloists to the fledgling Bangalow festival.

"That was the beginning of Bangalow's relationship with audiences from all over Australia who were hungry for more," Tania says. "The Bangalow Festival provided – and still provides – the perfect combination of high culture and country comfort."

She sees this year's programme as a reflection of a growth in audience discernment.

"It is not art for art's sake, but it resists any moves to become more populist. As always, the plan is to provide music that stirs emotions and creates atmosphere – forging connection between performers and audiences that the intimacy of the Bangalow concerts has become famous for.

"We now have an audience whose expectations of excellence have been nurtured over two decades, which makes the performers' jobs both more challenging and more rewarding."

Coupled with that professional satisfaction is the simple pleasure of being able to visit Bangalow, she says: "One of the most pleasing aspects of managing this festival is the enjoyment of the artists, most of whom are eager to return to the simple, unpretentious charms of a rural town."

And while the emphasis on delivering artistic excellence hasn't changed over 20 years, the setting certainly has.

"Twenty years ago, there was no backstage at the A&I Hall," Tania says. "The performers had to stack their music cases in a corner; there was no changing or warm-up room for them; they shared toilets with the audience."

The hall and the Festival have blossomed since those early days – as has Bangalow, a small town now firmly located on the nation's cultural map.

Digby Hildreth

The 20th Bangalow Chamber Music Festival runs from Thursday 17 August to Sunday 20 August at the Bangalow A&I Hall.

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Zac recovering in the Gold Coast Hospital from his serious injuries
Photo supplied



Some likely lads, from Jan Hulbert's collection

Fundraising for injured local teen

In the early hours of Sunday 30 April, a number of Bangalow residents noticed the sound of helicopters landing at the sports field. Later that day, we learned that local teen Zac and his friends had been involved in a single car accident resulting in terrible injuries. Zac has compound fractures to his leg and hip, and fractures to his vertebrae, and will need hospitalisation, rehabilitation, and ongoing care for a very long time. The accident has put an intense emotional stress on his mum, Elissa, as well as the financial strain and practicalities of daily drives from Bangalow to the Gold Coast to be with her son. "Zac is the sixth generation of our family in Bangalow," Elissa says. He attended Bangalow Community Preschool, Bangalow Primary School and is now currently Year 11 at Byron High. "He loves bike riding and mechanics, and is looking to get a mechanics apprenticeship when he is back on his feet," says Elissa. "He's always been a very funny character, and loves music, playing guitar, art and drawing." Elissa's friends have swung into action to set up a Go Fund Me [gofund.me/392278bc](https://www.gofundme.com/392278bc) to help support Elissa, a single parent, during this distressing time.

Who's who and when was that

Test your memory of late 20th century Bangalow at the 'Who is who and when was that?' evening at the Moller Pavilion from 6pm Monday 12 June. Take a squizz at the photographic collection of the late Jan Hulbert and try to put names to the many unidentified faces in the pictures, as part of this local history project. Organiser Neville Maloney hopes people who resided in town in the 1970s and 1980s will come along and enjoy a night of nostalgia, catching up with old friends and enjoying the refreshments provided, while solving a few unanswered questions about the people and places captured or collected by Jan. The project is also seeking assistance with digitising and storage of the original images. "Come along and help identify who and what are in the photos. And if you have photos of your own and you are not sure who is in them or if they could be of interest as historical photos of Bangalow and the surrounding area bring them along so we can make a copy for our records," says Nev. The collection includes sporting team photos that are over 100 years old, the opening of the railway bridge, ANZAC marches and much more.

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Bangalow Public School Pit Stop fundraiser Photo Lyn McCarthy



Life is a cabaret in 2479 Photo supplied

Fun(draising) in the sun

The sun shone, there was laughter and dancing, and lots of cakes consumed at this year's Pit Stop on Sunday 21 May.

Bangalow P&C President Anna Vinfield said all the behind-the-scenes work was worth it to see the school grounds buzzing and everyone having a great time. It was also a great chance to have a stickybeak at the building works busily taking place at the school.

"We've had such lovely feedback on this year's Pit Stop - it was such a joy to see our Bangalow kids dancing to Poppy Galactic (this month's cover star!) and the Beat, being amazed at Spaghetti Circus strength and testing their own strength on the games like whack a rat!

"We sold out on record time of our jar tombolas, choc shot and 400 sushi rolls! A massive thanks to everyone for coming to support Bangalow Public School.

"And a special shout out to all the helpers, bakers, jar tombola-creators, donators, raffle ticket sellers, and set up and pack down crews.

"We are also thankful for our generous stallholders donating a portion of their profits to our school. We have a vision for a new nature playspace and every dollar raised at Pit Stop goes directly towards it."

Get your sparkle on at Cabaret BanGala

Time to dust off the sequins and get ready for a night of the old razzle dazzle as Cabaret BanGala returns to 2479. Filling the hole left behind by the demise of much-loved original Bangalow cabaret extravaganza, Cabaret DaDesh, BanGala is a home-grown variety show featuring the region's most entertaining performers, be they experienced or emerging. This month BanGala is holding auditions for the 2023 line-up, which for the first time, will be held over two fun-filled nights – Friday 4 and Saturday 5 August. Save those dates! Auditions for the on-stage antics will be held on Wednesday 28 June from 5pm in Bangalow. Jazz hands up if you sing, dance, perform circus arts or play the nose flute? Are you a tap dancer, break dancer, pole dancer, or spoon bender? A thigh-slapping comedian, ventriloquist, contortionist, or illusionist? Cabaret BanGala needs you! Solo acts, duos, trios, groups, businesses and community organisations are all welcome to audition, and no prior experience required. A great team bonding opportunity or chance for you to shake off your performance anxiety and shine under the spotlight. So, grab your tutu and your piano accordion (or not), and email bangalowtheatrecompany@gmail.com to register your interest.

Sally Schofield

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Brushing up on memories



Hilary at her home studio and two of the works in the Keepsakes exhibition
Photos Suzi Novak

‘Life is short but art is long’ could be a motto for the latest collection of works from local artist Hilary Herrmann, on exhibition at the Tweed Regional Gallery from this month until the end of August.

Named Keepsakes, the 28 paintings are evidence that art can conquer time, by giving new life to those who have passed away.

The collection is based upon a trunkful of old photographs that Hilary had stored away. When she dug them out to see if they had been affected by the endless weeks of rain last year she says she “stumbled upon memories, vague and half-forgotten. The same faces emerged, places too, known and disremembered. I realised there was no one left to tell me who they were”.

So began a visual conversation, “a filling in of the gaps and the cracks and the shaky in-between places. Maybe an homage, maybe just a keepsake”.

“Keepsakes are things you treasure and want to hold on to, and that’s what memories are: it’s all about memory and forgetting, and all those important things. Otherwise they disappear.”

Her paintings, often described as dreamlike and ephemeral, thus have a robust, real-world purpose and meaning to them, resurrecting the dead, some of them forgotten, some never known, and giving them a permanence, or at least some longevity beyond the grave.

They are gone, lost in time, but Hilary conjures them up again, compensating for frail memory.

“The exhibition has evolved into a beautiful reminder that the memories we keep and revisit provide us with some of the most valuable aspects of life,” says Tina Wilson, the Tweed Gallery’s Exhibitions Curator. “The paintings ... tenderly capture significant

moments of other people’s lives.”

The photo-based approach is a new one for Hilary, who says she usually begins a piece with an idea or emotion to express. Tina notes that despite the fresh starting point, Hilary “continues to paint with her heart as much as her hand, which is shown through her consideration for the stories of unknown people”.

The memories might be personal, but the subjects often evolve once committed to canvas, made into archetypes or characters in stories Hilary hopes will communicate to others something that is meaningful to them.

She makes them her own, sometimes from elements she would never normally use, such as an old man with a pram. A photo of her father and another man on a horse became two girls.

“I usually use my own language to make it into a story,” she says.

Another photo showed a woman with a bunch of flowers in a field in Hilary’s childhood home of Kenya. She doesn’t know who the person was – perhaps she was one of the German Jews who were accepted into East Africa before World War Two. Among them were Hilary’s parents, who left Kenya during the Mau Mau uprising to come to Australia, refugees twice in their lives.

The paintings have another deeply humane theme running through them, again giving substance to the wispy, whimsical figures depicted, leaping out from the muted shades of the thickly applied oil surfaces, sometimes in a bouquet of brilliant colour or signalled by the gold-leaf crowns adorning the heads of many of her subjects.

It is the endowment of dignity – glory even – shining out of the canvas, expressing the idea that everyone has a specialness about them



which deserves to be recognised, and celebrated. “No one wants to be diminished. Everyone wants to be seen. You don’t have to be the star, the show-pony, but we all need to be seen and listened to ... and often people aren’t,” Hilary says.

The animals have this dignity too, even the needy chickens, bad tempered ducks and her large and lolloping rescue pup, Shelley.

It is there even in the playfulness, the quirky look of the birds, many of them Hilary’s companions in the forest and farmland that surround her home, which sometimes sit and watch her paint on her deck. The message is: be kind, show compassion; every creature deserves respect. “These qualities are increasingly rare,” she says.

The Tweed show is the biggest that Hilary has had, though her work has shown and sold well for decades in galleries in Sydney and Melbourne, where she has a reputation as an artist of considerable accomplishment. She is, however, impatient with formal constraints. “I don’t obey the rules. It’s about the aesthetic. Sometimes I paint over things 20 or 30 times because it hasn’t got to where I wanted it to be.

“As soon as you make a mark on your canvas or paper, you’re

going to have to start to resolve it. Sometimes it’s straightforward and sometimes it’s a curse. I often ruin things because I go too far.”

How a painting finishes up might be nowhere near how she wanted it to be, and she accepts that. She calls it “the intelligence of paint”.

“I like where it takes me. One mark responds to another mark, and because you’ve done that compositionally, it needs this or that it’s just muddling along.

“I don’t think painting is any different to life: you start something, it can be full of doubts, sometimes splendour. You just have to trust.”

Digby Hildreth

Keepsakes will be on display at
Tweed Regional Gallery
 from 2 June to 27 August, 2023.






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Follow the lead



Council cracks down on rowdy hounds and leashless surfers Photo Taylor Deas-Melesh

Byron Council is taking a stand on two issues we commonly hear being discussed in our community. The first is the use of off-lead dog areas especially when it comes to dogs who have poor recall, are not well socialised, or are untrained.

The second issue relates to leashes of the humankind, with council mandating that all Shire surfers must now wear a leg rope when in the water. Both new rules are designed to enhance safety and enjoyment for those enjoying the great outdoors, and fines will be issued if the rules are ignored.

Council rangers are stepping up patrols in response to rising complaints about dog behaviour in the Byron Shire.

“As the owner or carer of a dog, and as a dog walker, you are liable for the actions of the dogs under your control and you can be prosecuted and even jailed if injuries are caused by your dogs,” Council’s Manager Public and Environmental Services, Sarah Nagel said.

“If your dog will not reliably come when called, it should not be let off the lead at our designated off-lead areas around the Shire, or anywhere else.

“Ultimately, we want off-lead areas to be safe and friendly places for dogs, their owners and the general public.

“The majority of dog owners are doing the right thing but it’s a small percentage of people who are ruining it for everyone else and creating dangerous situations on our beaches.

“If you take your dog to a prohibited area or your dog is not on a lead when it’s supposed to be - you will be fined,” Ms Nagel said.

List of off-lead rules to remember when taking your dog to the beach or other designated off-lead area:

- Know the on-lead, off-lead and prohibited dog areas or you could get a fine – they’re all on Council’s website and it’s your responsibility to know where you can and can’t go
- Do you have voice control over your dog? If your dog won’t reliably come when called, they are not ready to be off a lead.
- Don’t let your dog run up to another dog. Check with its owner first to see if your dog can say hello
- Respect other people’s space and put your dog on a lead when arriving and leaving the off-lead dog beach.
- Take a bag and pick up your dog’s poo and place in bins provided. Do not leave on beach.

byron.nsw.gov.au/Community/Pets/Dog-owner-responsibilities

Leg ropes the go in Byron Shire

Byron Shire Council is implementing a new rule that requires leg ropes to be worn while surfing at Byron Shire beaches. The rule will come into effect once signage has been installed at Shire beaches.

At the council meeting on April 27, Cr. Cate Coorey proposed the rule as a Notice of Motion, which received unanimous approval. “The aim of requiring people to wear leg ropes when they’re surfing is to improve community safety in the water,” Byron Shire Mayor Michael Lyon said.

“The message is that we’re concerned about safety at our beaches for everyone and we’ve decided to do something about it,” the Mayor said.

“Under the Local Government Act, Councils can require the use of leg ropes for surfboards being ‘water-based recreational equipment’ and this is the lever we’re using to take action.

“Ultimately, we’d like the surfing community to take care of itself, but if this is not happening, we’ll lead the way and hope other Councils and NSW Government mandate leg ropes with the aim of greatly reducing nasty accidents in the surf,” the Mayor said.

Once National Parks and Crown Lands approve the placement of signage, it will be installed at a number of beaches around the Shire and will be launched along with an education campaign aimed at locals and visitors.

Sally Schofield

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When a path is not a path

The path you're having when you're not having a path
Photos Jenny Bird



Is the path that magically appeared alongside Lismore Road near Paddy's Creek the beginning of our project to put a shared path between Rifle Range Road and town? Sadly, no it isn't. The path has been put there to provide access to Transport for NSW vehicles to conduct maintenance work at Paddys Creek, with the aim of improving erosion control and drainage. But seeing the path there excited so many people – this is what a path would look like!

The fate of our shared path project took a turn for the worse during April. In order to progress the grant Council received to design the path, Council staff needed to seek permission from UGL, the company that manages the rail corridor throughout NSW on behalf of the NSW Government. UGL refused permission – on the basis that Byron Shire

Council cannot arrive at a consistent position on the use/s of the rail corridor. UGL insisted that the path be at least three metres from the track, and cannot go under the bridge at Granuaille Road. UGL's position makes our shared path design impossible. Cr Asren Pugh, passionate about the project because he lives here and knows what it would mean to the community, moved a motion at the April Council meeting asking Council to make a firm decision about the line west of Bangalow Station – that it be used for a rail trail only. The hope was that a resolution would allay UGL's doubts about Council, and the project design could proceed. But the motion failed, for two reasons. Some new councillors are wedded to the possibility of a train to Lismore (an argument that has never been put in the five years that this project has been 'on the books'). Other councillors requested a postponement to the June 22 meeting as reports (requested by Cr Pugh) will be tabled about the line west of Bangalow to Binna Burra, reports which may inform the decision.

This is all despite the fact that in May 2021 Council resolved unanimously the following motion:

Resolved that Council:

1. Supports further investigation of design options for a shared path from Rifle Range Road to Bangalow utilising the rail corridor, west of Bangalow Railway Station.

2. Supports staff to commence discussions with the Bangalow Showgrounds Committee regarding the possible position and placement of a shared path through the showgrounds.
3. Supports an application to TfNSW and John Holland for the construction of a shared path within the rail corridor and along the rail line west of Bangalow Railway Station.

Moved by Lyon/Cameron

"The never ending debate about how to use the rail corridor is now costing the Bangalow community real projects that would make it safe for kids to ride to school. It is time for council to make a decision and support projects like this community designed walking and riding path" says Cr Pugh.

Meanwhile our grant was due to expire on June 30. Thankfully Council has negotiated an extension to the grant. Mayor Michael Lyon and Cr Asren Pugh will enter into discussion with UGL. Now we just need Council to make a clear decision about the rail corridor.

Jenny Bird



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Stranger than fiction



Marele Day recounts her reckless younger years Photos Lyn McCarthy Niche Pictures

Novelist Marele Day's latest book is a true crime story – whose protagonist she knew so well that he called her Little Sister, writes Digby Hildreth.

As a girl, Marele Day took heed of her mother's warnings not to get into cars with strange men, "because they could be a murderer". But as a young woman in the late '70s she boarded boats bound for the high seas with men she barely knew. One of them turned out to be stranger and wilder than she could have possibly imagined.

If she had known that the charismatic Algeria-born Frenchman skipping a Sri Lanka-bound catamaran out of Darwin was a former mercenary, convicted hi-jacker and fugitive from French police for a multi-million Euro robbery, she may not have been so bold.

Then again, with the fierce independence she showed as a young girl refusing to submit to yet more surgery for her strabismus (wandering eye), and the fatalism she felt after the death of her first love, Tony, in a car crash, she may very well have still gone ahead. Certainly, today she tells the *Herald* she "would do it all again in a heartbeat".

Before learning the true history of Jean Kay, captain of the O'Cat, Marele and her Aussie companions had to survive a three-month journey in a leaky boat on the Java Sea, exposed to storms, pirates, sharks and hunger, with a cavalier Jean at the helm. As a seafarer, he was barely fit for purpose and it's a wonder they didn't all die.

Once safely ashore the crew went their separate ways and she eventually lost touch with Jean too, until he resurfaced 30 years later and asked her to tell his story. She has done that in *Reckless*, published last month, an artfully interwoven blend of memoir, true crime yarn and biography, told with a crime novelist's instinct for suspense and, courageously, a good deal of personal disclosure.

The word reckless has many meanings throughout, including Marele's own readiness for risk, something much more than a rebellion against her mother's fixation with safety and respectability, or the typical young Australian's appetite for adventure overseas.

For a year following Tony's death, she felt "wraith-like, neither living or dead, a kind of zombie at the edge of everything".

Even once she'd set off on her escape-from-grief adventure, "I didn't care if I died. It was either that or the feeling that I'm immortal because I should have been in that car.

"I'd felt the wing of death on me but I didn't die, and if I had died, that would be OK. Everything was distorted."

Recklessness was also a strong force in Jean: a mercenary turned Robin Hood after witnessing the horrors of the war in Biafra, he hijacked a passenger plane to fast-track medical supplies to the devastated population of Bangladesh during the murderous civil war there. He succeeded in getting the supplies delivered but was jailed for his efforts.

The bank robbery came later but that too was not for personal gain. As originally conceived, it involved throwing wads of the pilfered cash from the Eiffel Tower. The crime caused a huge scandal in France at the time, involving the CEO of an aerospace company and his trusted accountant, Jean's partner in crime.

Marele has a good number of books to her name, and a history of mentorship with the Byron Writers Festival. *Reckless's* weaving of separate narratives is her ideal approach, she says. Jean's story "caught fire" for her when she first heard it. She wanted to examine what it took for such people as the respectable accountant to cross the line. And the tale of the heist gone wrong despite impeccable planning was



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compelling. There was also a real bonus in her being close to the protagonist, after their three months at sea together, with a sisterly familiarity.

When she first met Jean on the dock in Darwin, they held each other's gaze: "There was never anything romantic or sexual, but there was an 'elemental empathy' between us," she says. "It may be that we recognised each other's damage."

He introduced her to his family and she got to know him better during two visits to France to research the book. At times, however, despite his handing over "everything" to do with the case, including material that showed him in a poor light, he could be elusive.

At times she asked herself 'what am I getting into here?', and wondered if she was being manipulated, but when they met again she felt safe in the friendship.

"We all live with contradictions. It's bizarre how we accommodate that," she says.

She had to write herself into the story – to explain how she had got all the inside information.

"That's where I had to be brave." But she could go in "with my armoury of words",

shaping the story as she chose, employing a past/present structure as opposed to a linear narrative: "Memory doesn't work like that," she says.

She took risks pursuing the story, travelling, when no longer young, to one of the most dangerous cities in the world, Sao Paulo, to interview the long-exiled accountant: "That's my writing self, my brave self, following the story wherever it goes. I look like a nice quiet person but I have travelled to the edges, and looked over."

While Jean is the central character, and larger than life, his escapades carried out on the world stage, much of Marele's own story in *Reckless* is equally memorable, the details intimate and vividly true.

"I have come forward for the first time from behind the curtain," she says. "I finally decided to write this as if to a trusted friend, which I'd never thought of (doing) before. I've always wanted to tell the characters' stories as best as I could, but this is one for the reader. The trusted friend who holds the book. I can be honest then. I'm putting the true emotions into words. Literally into words."

***Reckless* is in bookshops now.**

Marele Day will appear at the Byron Writers Festival, 11-13 August at Bangalow Showground.

Early Bird tickets on sale 14 June

Full programme announced and all tickets on sale 28 June.

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Limberlost

by Robbie Arnott

Once again, I have the honour of reviewing some of the authors attending this year's Byron Writer's Festival. I hope to tell you about some excellent books, including this one.

As the 2023 line-up for the Writer's Festival is a closely held secret, I'm relying on your discretion to keep Arnott's attendance to yourself – right?

Limberlost is the name of the apple orchard owned by the narrator's father. The closest town to Limberlost is the small Tasmanian town of Beaconsfield.

The novel begins with Ned recalling a day when he was five years old. His father is fed up with Ned and his two older brothers, Bill and Toby, repeating gossip about a whale gone rogue at the river's mouth, thrashing about, and destroying boats with its tail. In an effort to stop their malarkey, he borrows a boat and takes his sons to the river mouth at dusk to dispel their fears. You can only imagine how exhilarating that would be for a five-year-old, and it is some way through the book before you find out what happened that night.

Chapter two begins a decade later, and young Ned is trapping rabbits and selling the pelts, telling his father that his endeavours are for the sole purpose of providing the army with skins to produce slouch hats. But, in truth, since the night at the river mouth a decade earlier, Ned has wanted his own boat, a dream so important to him that he is afraid to declare the real reason for saving money to anyone, including his best friend 'Jackbird'.

It was a long hot summer that year, and I assumed it was the final year of the Second World War. Ned's sister has abandoned her nursing studies in Hobart to come home and help her father and Ned in the orchard. Toby and Bill have enlisted, and their absence is a heavy presence in the story. Dialogue is sparse in this book, but the storytelling is so good that the lack of conversation gives authenticity to the simple life of country folk and gravitas to the deepness of their concerns for the boys at war and the precariousness of the farm's finances.

I really enjoyed this literary exploration of a life told in flashbacks as Ned progressively reaches middle age, and the events of that summer are recalled as a defining moment in his life.

Published by Text Publishing

Good Reads rating 4.3 stars

Carolyn Adams

Robbie Arnott will be appearing
at the 2023 Byron Writers Festival
byronwritersfestival.com.au

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STREAMING

At the market, I bumped into a chap I once worked with.

“Are you still writing your columns?” he asked. “Why, yes,” I said, getting ready to modestly brush aside his praise.

“Never read them!” he said cheerfully. “Chuck the whole bloody thing in the bin!” And laughing at his hilarity, he gave me a friendly smile and walked off. My vanity suitably punctured, I went back to looking at jams and handmade chopping boards.

‘Vanity’, I thought. ‘Pride’. Which leads me to Reality Shows and the endless stream of people willing to exposé themselves to public ridicule and scorn in order to get their 15 minutes of fame. People make money out of this self-promotion. They become influencers, which is apparently a profession.

What a mad world we live in. Yet the pursuit of celebrity and attention is not new; it’s just that social media has amplified it.

Reality shows abound. From *Married at First Sight*, *Big Brother* (can’t believe that’s still going), *Love Island*, *Survivor*, *Ninja Warrior*, *MasterChef*, *The Block*.

People I know (and I may run with a tatty crowd) get a lot of enjoyment out of watching them and shouting rude remarks at the screen. *MAFS* is another favourite. “Look at those eyebrows! Idiot! Get rid of him/her! Put some more clothes on! It’s a cold day and the woman is wearing shorts and the man is wearing puffer jacket! Har! Har! Har.”

It’s a strange kind of sport. The programs are deliberately designed to create situations where people tear each other down, betray and generally mistreat each other. The viewing audience is invited to mock them and cast judgement.

But the reality show setup is animalistic (and maybe that’s an insult to animals). A friend was on a well-known cooking show and told me how at a dinner party in a participant’s house, a producer would crouch down next to the table, and coach people to make snide comments, catty remarks. Although there is editing and manipulation, and we know it’s contrived, the shows are madly popular. We enjoy it when people go off script and

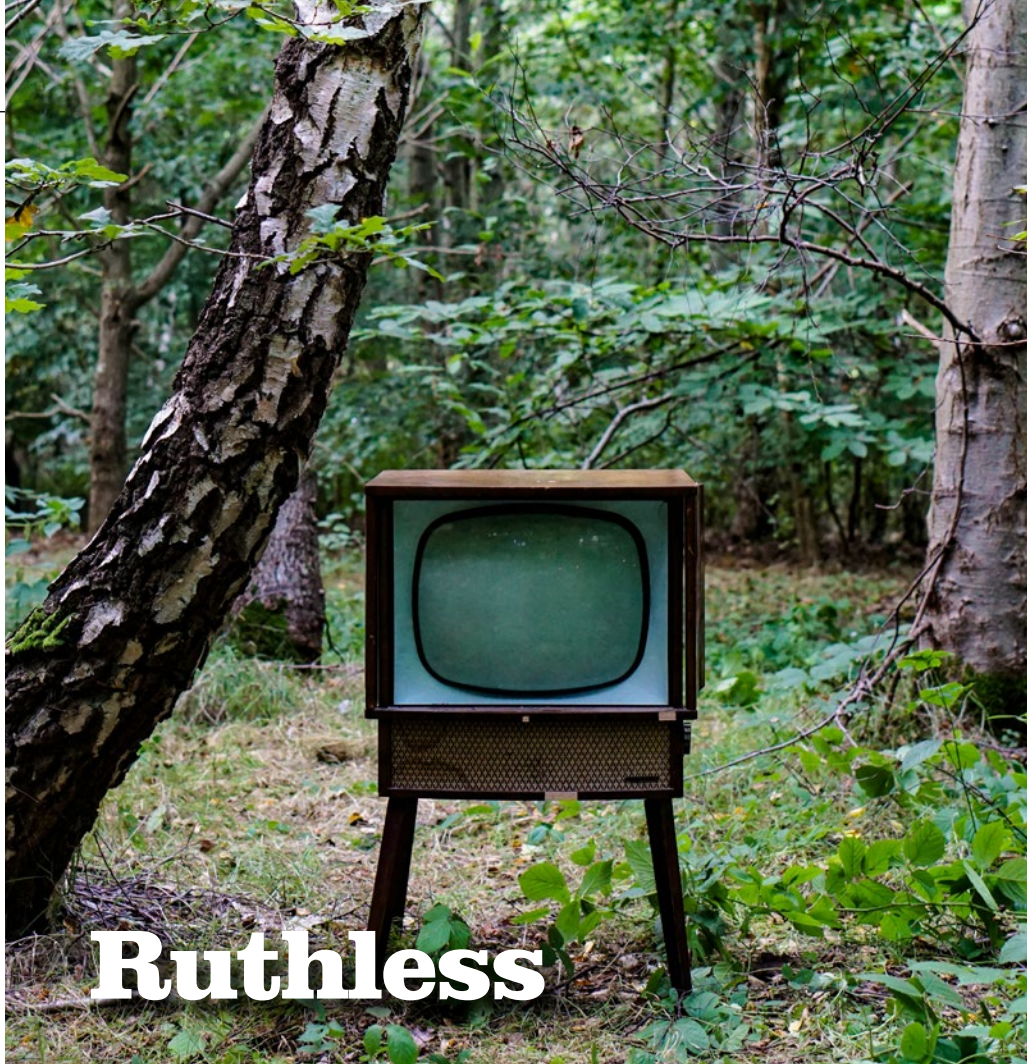


Photo Tom Wheatley

misbehave. That’s when the fun begins!

Outlast (Netflix) is set in the freezing Alaskan wilderness. Sixteen contestants compete for a one-million-dollar prize. The people are self-identified ‘lone wolves.’ The rule is that they cannot win alone, and so they must work together, even though they may dislike people or working in teams. They are given basic equipment, including bows and arrows, a tarp and sleeping bags. They can leave the ‘game’ at any time by lighting a flare, and of course the whole thing is filmed, so there must be warmly dressed camera people close by. I watched with growing interest as the weather worsened. The participants were cold, hungry, and often wet. The show began to take on a *Lord of the Flies/The Hunger Games* flavour.

Which made me think: it’s easy to be kind and noble when you are fed, watered, warm, loved, solvent, but what would it take for any one of us to start behaving ruthlessly in order to survive?

So, I don’t know what to think about Reality Shows. They raise good questions about our own values and conceits. I can sit in judgement very comfortably. Happy to make smart remarks. But I wonder, just how thin is this veneer of civilisation? How would I behave if somebody stole my sleeping bag in the freezing Alaskan winter? Would I betray a team member if I thought I would get one million dollars? Might I behave badly? Very badly?

Dr Airdre Grant

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Pastel de Nata

Inspired by my travels last month, I give you the Pastel de Nata or Portuguese egg tart, a 19th century small tart with a crispy puff pastry crust and a custard pastry cream filling. This is a shortcut recipe that tastes like the traditional treat without all the preparation time. A hot oven and a couple of pizza stones or equivalent are the secret to these caramelised little beauties. Don't worry if you don't have the pizza stones.



Illustration Lyn Hand

INGREDIENTS

- 2 large whole eggs
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/2 cup castor sugar
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup whole milk
- 2/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- Puff pastry pre-made sheets

Enjoy with...

Delish for a mid-morning treat accompanied by a good, strong black coffee, or, if serving as a dessert, a classic wine match would be a fortified wine that complements the rich, creamy flavours of the tart. One excellent choice is the Portuguese dessert wine Moscatel de Setúbal, with notes of orange blossom and honey that marries well with the custard's caramelised crust. A classic sherry such as a Pedro Jiménez would also be delightful, or closer to home, a more widely available Tawny Port, with nutty and caramel undertones, would pair nicely with this pastry.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. To make the tarts, prepare the custard. Whisk the whole eggs and yolks together in a medium bowl, add sugar, milk, heavy cream and vanilla extract. Whisk together.
2. Cover bowl and refrigerate for at least an hour until the sugar is dissolved.
3. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 250°C. Take out pre-made puff pastry sheets and sprinkle a little flour over.
4. Roll up the short side of the dough tightly into a log. Cut off edges and cut into 12 pieces.
5. Press each piece of dough into a greased tart mould 7.5cm diameter, forming a thin crust that is 1cm higher than the pan (the crusts will shrink when baked). Prick bottom and sides with fork to prevent too much puff.
6. Cover the pan with foil and chill for 10-15 minutes. Gently pour in the custard filling (70% full). Bake on the middle rack for 15-25 minutes until dough is cooked and golden brown and custard is set.
7. Caramelised burnt spots are good! To achieve that beautiful browning and caramelisation make sure your oven is hot (pre-heat). If you have pizza stones, place one directly on top shelf over the tin and the other underneath.
8. When baked, sprinkle with powdered sugar or cinnamon or leave just as they are.

Adapted from a recipe @easy and delish

Lyn Hand

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Golden Penda

Xanthostemon chrysanthus is a rainforest tree that occurs naturally in northern Queensland, reaching 30 metres in height.

It is part of the vast *Myrtaceae* (myrtle) family and was first described by the Victorian Government botanist Ferdinand von Mueller as *Metrosideros chrysantha* in 1864. It was reclassified shortly afterwards in Flora *Australiensis* as part of the genus *Xanthostemon*. The name is derived from the Ancient Greek *chrysos* meaning 'golden' and *anthos* meaning 'flower'.

Funnily enough, the name *Metrosideros* persists and is still used by some nurseries.

In cultivation, it is much smaller with a bushy form and beautiful glossy leaves, deep green in maturity, with new, young leaves being a slightly pink, pale green.

It can be pruned to become a hedge or windbreak and is rarely more than 10 metres tall so is an ideal street tree that deserves to be more widely planted.

It mostly flowers in late summer and autumn but the trusses of brilliant yellow flowers can appear all year round.

Golden Penda is fast growing in wet or dry conditions; it doesn't drop leaves or branches and does not have an invasive root system. It has no pests or diseases and is a favourite with a large range of nectar feeders and the brilliant yellow flowers are followed by green and brown woody capsules which ripen during spring and summer providing yet more food for creatures large and small.

For best results, mulch heavily with compost or organic material and encourage more rapid



The golden splendour of the Golden Penda
Photos Carole Gamble

growth where desired by the use of good soil improver or fertiliser. It is not phosphorus sensitive, but fertilisers should be really well watered in. It can be frost tender.

For Expo 88 in Brisbane, it was renamed 'Expo Gold' and was selected as the theme tree for the Expo. Cuttings from a superior specimen north of Brisbane were propagated and planted at Southbank and in the suburbs of Brisbane with the intention of providing a golden canopy for this marvellous six-month-long festival that changed the face and fate of Brisbane, and they can still be enjoyed en masse there.

Further north, Golden Penda is also the floral emblem of Cairns.

Carole Gamble

News from the Shed

The Bangalow Men's Shed run 'Shed Mates', a men's wellbeing project, once a month morning tea event at the shed. Each month there is a guest speaker offering wisdom and insights, this month, Stan is talking about work safety at the Shed, a very important topic. Shed Members are also invited to discuss potential topic ideas with Andy or Peter to present to the group at future meetings. Phone Peter on 0414 410 406 to find out more. Shed members who are feeling a bit peckish can also hang around for the weekly Wednesday two-dollar lunch (that's not a misprint!) and a natter.



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Injured local legend on road to recovery

The scene of the accident Photo Angela Saurine

The accident has led to calls to introduce measures to encourage drivers to slow down on busy Granuaille Rd, writes Angela Saurine.

Jenny Coman was taking her dogs for an afternoon walk – just as she did every day – on Easter Sunday when her life was irrevocably changed. The 89-year-old former Byron Shire councillor and long-time Bangalow resident doesn't remember what happened, but she has been told she was hit by a car travelling north-bound on Granuaille Rd as she crossed over from Campbell St towards her home at around 4.40pm. The driver stopped and rendered assistance while waiting for an ambulance to arrive. Jenny – a retired schoolteacher who was an independent councillor in the late 1990s – was flown to

Tweed Hospital by helicopter, where she has remained confined to her bed ever since. Her injuries include three broken ribs, two broken bones in her right leg, and a break just below the knee in her left leg. Her left foot was also severely injured, and she had cuts on her head that required stitches. "At my age my body isn't in as good a state as a younger person to recover, but things are going in the right direction," she says. She has had two operations, and may require more, and it is likely she will spend at least two months in hospital. She is unsure whether she will be able to return home when she is released. Her son is looking after her two pugs, but she is looking to rehome one of them. "I have had amazing support from the Bangalow community," she says. "People I hardly know have sent cards and well wishes. They have been wonderful."

Jenny voiced her concerns about increased traffic on Granuaille Rd as far back as 2009,



Jenny Coman Photo Jeff Dawson courtesy of The Echo.

as a member of the group Bangalow Locals in Support of Safety (BLISS). Since then, traffic has increased dramatically. "I have taken for granted walking around Bangalow forever," Jenny says. "It's changed enormously. Granuaille Rd was much quieter when it was a highway than it is now." Jenny believes installing a speed camera – like the one in Clunes – would ensure cars slowed down.

Ballina Shire MP Tamara Smith, who was shocked to hear about Jenny's accident, has



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One of Jenny's beloved pugs
Photo supplied

contacted Transport for NSW to share her concerns about safety on Granuaille Rd. Her office has also raised the issue with the Local Traffic Committee.

Abbie and Anthony Macdonald, who own Bangalow General Store, have also distributed a flyer to neighbours urging them to go to the Safer Roads NSW website to request the speed limit of 50km per hour on the road be reviewed, or other deterrents, such as speed humps or a speed camera, are introduced. The couple has been concerned for a while that something like this would happen, especially with increased foot traffic with the opening of Mirabelle Early Education Centre across the road last year, and an ever-increasing number of cars and trucks using the road. "Something needs to be done," Anthony says. "There are often people driving too fast, or near misses. They should also put a children's zone sign in front of Mirabelle."

The couple has provided CCTV footage of the incident to Tweed/Byron Police District, who are investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash. Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

More than 8,000 cars and 1,000 heavy vehicles travelled on Granuaille Rd every day in 2015, according to the latest available figures from Transport for NSW's Lismore to Bangalow Road Draft Corridor Strategy 2016. To have your say about speed cameras, speed limits or other traffic calming devices on Granuaille Rd, go to the Safer Roads NSW website saferroadsnsw.com.au

Council Matters

Have your say on Raftons Road shared path

Council is seeking feedback on two options for shared paths that run down Raftons Road and along Leslie Street west. The Bangalow Community Children's Centre has been lobbying for many, many years for a path along Raftons Road. Submissions are open until Monday 12 June.

See byron.nsw.gov.au/Your-Say-Byron-Shire/Raftons-Road-Bangalow-shared-path

Village Plan Priority Projects #2

Bangalow's Place Planning representatives conducted a community consultation process recently with the aim of deciding Bangalow's next list of projects from the Village Plan. Seventeen community groups and/or individuals were consulted and nine engaged with the process. For the first time we sought ideas from Bangalow Public School's Student Representative Council.

A varied list of 10 projects will now be carried forward with Council via various funding pathways. The projects are a good mix of small and large; heritage, infrastructure and open spaces; and can be directed towards a variety of revenue streams. Advice has been sought as to which items are best placed in Council's 2023/2024 budget. But don't hold your breath - they will take time to implement.

In no order of priority, the list is:

- Heritage trails/walks with Arakwal input
- Protect and enhance heritage sites with improved landscaping, lighting, interpretive signs
- EV charging station within walking distance of town
- Prepare a street planting plan for residential streets and the industrial estate. Focus on the industrial estate.
- New ramp at showground gates, top of Station St
- Install signage to direct drivers to peripheral parking locations
- Bridge over Byron Creek linking showground to sportsfields (ongoing)
- Develop a multi-use community space/hub
- Shared path on west side of Rifle Range Road.
- Review the 'Byron Shire Community Based Heritage Study' and/or separate Bangalow-specific Heritage Assessment.

The upgrade of Market St and Station Lane was mentioned three times. This project is on our current list and we have begun to gather data on traffic and school/pedestrian activity around the school and showground so that we can submit a scoping document to Council.

Meanwhile our 'in the pipeline' projects are slowly progressing:

- Shared path on Raftons Road
- Shared path on Byron Street over bridge to sportsfields
- Long disabled carpark at RSL Hall, Station Street
- Shared path from Rifle Range Road into town (see report on page 13)
- Streetscape report including three landscaped entrances to the village.

Jenny Bird



Glen Rock Gardens, Tenterfield Photo Margaret Bruce

Tenterfield turns on the charm

The Bangalow and District Garden Club was established in 1977 and currently has 166 members, which makes it one of the largest clubs in rural NSW and certainly the largest club in Bangalow. One of its features is an annual excursion to another area of botanical interest. On the first Saturday in May, 60 members boarded a bus at 8am and travelled to Tenterfield to visit two very different gardens. Bangalow is only 59 metres above sea level and is a subtropical climate, whereas Tenterfield is 800 metres above sea level and is a cool temperate climate. 'Glenrock Gardens' was our first stop, with 10 acres of

beautifully landscaped gardens overlooking an attractive lake that mirrored the picturesque reflections of the trees. Tall Liquid Ambers, Pin Oaks, Nyssas, Poplars, Ash, Maples, Crab Apples and Ginkgos, among many others, were at the height of their autumnal splendour. The second garden 'The Ivy Leaf Chapel' was different altogether, and our group was greeted by the owner, who gave us a guided tour. The front garden is in a formal parterre style with many sculptured hedges and lavender bushes. The large back garden is a more relaxed cottage style with seemingly minimum planting with maximum impact. This

is achieved by repetitive planting of low topiary balls and spirals among attractive ground covers. There are also four large Chinese Elms, several Claret Ash, ornamental Plums, Pears and Japanese Maples. A spectacular feature in the back garden is a frame of a chapel covered in Boston Ivy, which, similar to the trees, was looking splendid in its colourful autumn glory. To conclude the day, a delicious afternoon tea was served. It was a long day but well worth the journey, and many thanks to Steve Stocker who organised the wonderful excursion in idyllic sunny weather.

Bangalow Garden Club



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WHAT'S THAT NUMBER?

Community		
AA (6pm Tues)	Karen Mc	0403 735 678
ADFAS	Dianne	0412 370 372
Al-Anon (2pm Fri)		1300 252 666
Bangalow Koalas	Linda	0411 491 991
Bridge	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
Scout Hall	Shane	0475 732 551
St Kevin's Catholic Hall	Russell	0423 089 684

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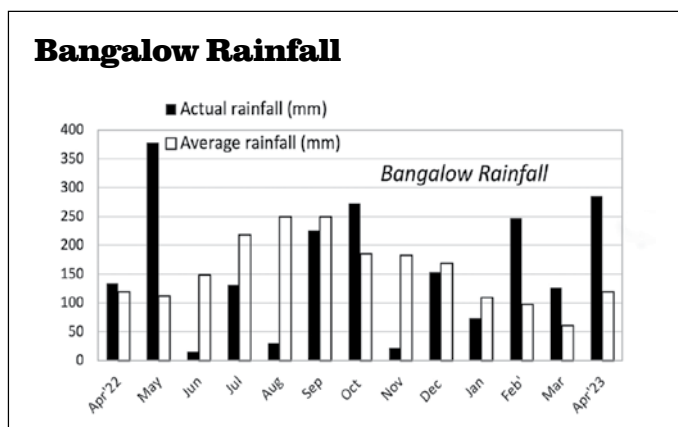
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WHAT'S ON

A chance to warm up with some indoor activities in 2479 and surrounds this June.

Mâlâ - An evening of Indian Classical Raga

When Saturday 3 June, 6:30 – 9pm
Where A&I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow
Tickets events.humanitix.com/mala-an-evening-of-indian-classical-raga

Mâlâ is a Classical Indian Music experience featuring visiting artist Sangeet Mishra, 8th Generation Sarangi player from Mumbai. Be immersed in a rich musical journey of intricate rhythm and melody, from a meditative prelude to an expansive and engaging improvised musical conversation. General admission and BYO cushion if you'd like to sit on the floor near the stage. Chai and snacks available on the night.

Bangalow Garden Club

When Wednesday 7 June, 1.30pm
Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground
Contact bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com

This month a few of our garden club members will be talking about how they got their passion for plants and gardening. Where did their love of gardens come from?

Coorabell Hall Film Club

When Wednesday 7 June, 6pm for 7.30pm screening
Where Coorabell Hall, 565 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Coorabell

Membership

At the door, temporary \$10, full \$30.

Contact Jeni 0407 552 441

Coorabell Hall's popular Film Club presents *The Producers*, one of the funniest movies ever made. A hilarious satire of the business side of Hollywood, *The Producers* is Mel Brooks at his finest, featuring standout performances from Gene Wilder and Zero Mostel. Licensed bar and food available from 6pm.



ADFAS Australian Women Artists 1880-1980

When Monday 12 June, 6.30pm (doors open at 6.00pm)
Where A & I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow
Contact adfasnorthenrivers@gmail.com
Bookings adfasc.org.au/societies/northenrivers or cash at the door \$25 (includes drinks and supper)

This illustrated lecture presented by Leigh Capel will introduce the origins of colonial art in Australia following white settlement, then focus on the earliest, most influential Australian women artists of the late 19th century. You will discover the post war artists and their associations, such as the Heide Circle and the Sydney Charm School, and the influence of Indigenous women artists shaping contemporary art.



ADFAS image courtesy Leigh Capel

Bangalow Community Association General Meeting

When Tuesday 20 June, 6pm
Where Bangalow Mens Shed, off Station St carpark
Contact Ian Holmes 0414 959 936

All citizens of the 2479 postcode area are invited to attend and comment on community wide matters relating to development and infrastructure. The key item at this meeting is the proposed development for 6-10 Station St. An engaged community can deliver better outcomes for our village so come along and become involved.

Bangalow Business Coffee MeetUp

When Thursday 22 June, 10am
Where Woods at Bangalow
Info byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au
Tickets byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au

During the coffee morning you will have the opportunity to give a 2-minute elevator pitch to promote your business and tell us what you can offer our members. The topic of discussion will be 'The effect of a business plan on small business' growth'.

Diary

May 2023

- 3 Målå - An evening of Indian Classical Raga
- 7 Coorabell Hall Film Club
- 12 ADFAS
- 20 Bangalow Community Association General Meeting
- 22 Bangalow Business Coffee MeetUp
- 24 CWA Cake & Produce Stall
- 25 Bangalow Markets

July edition deadlines

- What's On 15 June
- Copy 15 June
- Advertising 15 June

CWA Cake and Produce Stall

When Saturday 24 June, 8am – 12 noon
Where CWA Rooms, 31 Byron St
Contact Di 0412 376 034

There's something for everyone at our monthly cake and produce stall. Come on in, have a chat and pick up something from the wide selection on offer.

Bangalow Quilters

When 2nd and 4th Thursday 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 welcome.

Bangalow Brackets

When Wednesday nights 7.30pm
Where Bangalow Bowlo
Contact facebook.com/bangalowbrackets

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



Some happy customers at Bangalow Vet Photos supplied

Creature comforts

I'm no stranger to the Bangalow Vet. Living with three dogs on the edge of town with a creek at the back of the block, and a council reserve dubbed 'The Snake Path' on the other, there's been many a mad dash down Lismore Road in the past five years with a frothing, bleeding or otherwise injured animal.

There's always something spicy happening with the hounds in our backyard – usually on a Sunday – and our dogs (all rehomed and all

arriving with varying degrees of anxiety and just plain weirdness) love nothing more than rooting around in the Lomandra for ticks, cane toads, or snakes.

By now, Nurse Lisa knows me well. When I slide open the practice door, a pup in my arms, she just groans and says, "What now?" The dog (or dogs, as the case has been more recently) trot over to the weighing station and hop on, unprompted. They know the drill. I, for one, am eternally grateful for the team who have tended to more of my canine capers than I care to count (and judging by the thank you cards propped around the premises, I'm not alone).

"We've been dreaming of a bigger clinic for a while as we were simply outgrowing our



Inside the West Wing

current premises, as more clients chose to trust their animals in our care," says practice manager Silja. But as we all know, real estate is at a premium in our postcode, and the practice had all but given up hope of finding a bigger space. "Yet as we manifested a bigger clinic to spread our wings further, an opportunity presented itself that we could not turn down," she says.

Operating out of the corner suite in the Bangalow Business Centre at the Bangalow Industrial Estate in Dudgeons Lane, Bangalow Vets were thrilled to find the adjoining suite had become vacant. "We jumped at the opportunity, knocked a hole through the wall to connect the two units and spent weeks on renovations." And so, the 'West Wing' was established.

"Not only do we have more space, but we also now have broader lab facilities with a wider range of in-house lab testing, a bigger surgery with better equipment, and better recovery suites too."

The practice has two vets on staff daily during the week and offers 24-hour emergency services every weekend and every public holiday.

"Thank you to our community who have supported us over the years. We look forward to continuing to care for your beloved pets in our expanded practice," says Silja.

The Bangalow Business Centre will be adding further services for our furry friends, with a Canine Rehab Centre called 'Canine Howlistic Health' opening soon, offering Bowen therapy, hydrotherapy using an underwater treadmill, laser therapy and other therapeutic modalities still to come.

bangalovvets.com.au

Sally Schofield