


# HERALD

The Bangalow

FREE | June 2024



## The wonders of winter

**Cars for Ukraine**  
One local's adventure

**Weather with you**  
Rain and resilience

**Meet Jessica Alice**  
BWF's new director



## Bangalow Sports Fields lighting upgrade – lower car park and sports fields closed

We will shortly be installing lighting at the Bangalow Sports Fields. To do this safely we will need to close the lower car park and sports fields.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Council and contractor Green Energy QLD need dry weather conditions to complete the work and we are expecting the works to be completed by the end of June 2024 (weather permitting).

### To note:

- Construction hours will be Monday to Friday 7am to 5pm. The lower carpark, footpath and fields will be closed to the public outside of work hours for safety.
- Dog walkers are encouraged to use alternative exercise areas during this time (Bangalow Showground or Piccabeen Park).
- We have spoken to sport clubs, residents and businesses near the sports fields. Sport clubs will advise on training/games arrangements for during the work period.
- Updates will be announced through Council's communication channels. For more information please visit Byron Shire Council's website [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/bangalow-sports-fields](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/bangalow-sports-fields)

### More information

-  Jamie Steel
-  [jsteel@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jsteel@byron.nsw.gov.au)
-  02 6626 7000



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

## ARTS AND ABOUT



Willie Mutton, *Layered*, 2024, acrylic on canvas, image courtesy the artist.

### 'Recognise'

Recognise is a group exhibition, curated by artist Claudie Frock and Lone Goat Gallery, that features the work of local artists Carla Davey, Mathew Daymond, Lydian Dunbar, Shirley Gibson, Nathaniel Harvey, Rebecca King, Willie Mutton, Quinlyn Seikot, Zion Levy Stewart, Gill Williams, and Lucas Wright. Running at Byron's Lone Goat Gallery throughout June, this is a fantastic opportunity to view the work of a range of artists with disabilities, who share their stories and observations of life, expressed through their unique art practices. Hailing from all corners of the Northern Rivers, the artists reflect on the rich tapestry of life in our region, using art to showcase a diverse range of perspectives, subject matter, and material processes.

Recognise is kindly supported by Redinc., Real Artworks, and The Paddock Project.

**1-29 June, Weds-Sat, 10am-4pm**  
**Lone Goat Gallery**  
**28 Lawson Street, Byron Bay**

[lonegoatgallery.com/exhibitions/recognise](http://lonegoatgallery.com/exhibitions/recognise)

### The Sunshine Club, Byron Theatre

The Sunshine Club is written and directed by proud Noonuccal Nuugi man Wesley Enoch AM, an acclaimed creative force in Australian theatre. It tells the story of Frank Doyle, an Aboriginal serviceman who has come home from World War II to find that although the wider world may have changed, attitudes back home in Brisbane are just the same. Filled with a defiant energy and ambition for a better life, Frank starts The Sunshine Club, a place where black and white folk can meet and, most importantly, dance. Here he dreams of a future where he can dance in step with Rose, the girl next door, the girl of his dreams. A thought-provoking, vibrant, and above all joyful night of theatre and music, featuring a talented cast of 10, including emerging and established First Nations artists, and a five-piece live band playing a variety of music styles, with 28 songs composed by the esteemed John Rodgers.

**29 June, 8pm**  
**Byron Theatre**  
**69 Jonson St, Byron Bay**

[byroncentre.com.au/bct/byron-theatre](http://byroncentre.com.au/bct/byron-theatre)

# HERALD

The Bangalow

## From the Editor

I was excited to hear of the geomagnetic storms bringing glimpses of the *Aurora Australis* into view for many, with streams of images flooding social media about these spectacular displays. Since it rained for most of the month here in sunny 2479 (and probably because we are too far north), we didn't get a peek of the Southern Lights. But it did get me thinking about colour, vision, and darkness (and what a rabbit hole that is).

If you are a sighted person, you can see after-images and colours when you close your eyes. These are called phosphenes and are the remnants of electrical activity between the brain and the retina, kind of like your own personal *Aurora Australis*.

Another interesting phenomenon is aphantasia, which is the inability to mentally visualise things. The idea of seeing something in 'the mind's eye', that is, imagining it inside your brain, is something that people are capable of, to different degrees. If I say, imagine an apple, what does your brain give you? A photo-realistic red delicious, or a pencil sketch of a hand holding a Granny Smith? Or nothing? No wrong answers, just different ways of seeing things.

We close our eyes to things that are too bright and, in a metaphorical sense, when things are unbearable. But what colour do you see when you close your eyes? Automatically, you'd most likely say 'black', but there's more to it than that. The German word *eigengrau* means something like 'intrinsic grey' or 'brain grey' and describes the nothingness of the colour we see in the absence of light. Last month, we were flooded with intrinsic grey from all the rain and overcast weather; it's hard to prevent it seeping into our mood as well. Winter is here, and with it a chance to see the world anew. Reflect, refocus, and reframe – perspective is everything.

**Sally Schofield**

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

Editor: Sally Schofield

[editor@bangalowherald.com.au](mailto:editor@bangalowherald.com.au)

Advertising: Pippa Vickery

[advertising@bangalowherald.com.au](mailto:advertising@bangalowherald.com.au)

What's On: Sally Schofield

[whatson@bangalowherald.com.au](mailto:whatson@bangalowherald.com.au)

Design: Gaby Borgardts - GEEBEE design

Cover image: Coopers Shoot after the rain Photo Mary Nelson

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

**Contributors:** Carolyn Adams, Jenny Bird, Kristal Byron, Dave Cribbin, Simon Field, Georgia Fox, Carole Gamble, Airdre Grant, Lyn Hand, Murray Hand, Digby Hildreth, Lyn McCarthy, Claire McLisky, Christobel Munson, Mary Nelson, Sharon Rudgey, Angela Saurine, Sally Schofield, Orly Sono, Adam Susz, Anna Vinfield, Prof Brenda Walker.

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Bangalow Public School's Ethics teachers, left to right: Angela Saurine, Jane Barker, Deborah Green and Claire McLisky Photo supplied

# Ethics in education

**Claire McLisky has been the Primary Special Education in Ethics volunteer coordinator at Bangalow Public School since 2019. She caught up with the *Bangalow Herald* to explain the role the Primary Ethics plays at the school.**

"Ethics teaching at primary school level is important for two reasons. Firstly, because it gives students an opportunity to develop skills that are essential in our complex world – such as critical thinking, giving evidence-based reasons for their opinions, being able to discuss and disagree with others respectfully, and how to make well-considered ethical decisions.

Secondly, without the Primary Ethics program, the students who have withdrawn from Special Religious Education would have to spend a half hour of their school time doing alternative meaningful activities, such as reading, private study or completing homework. They're not allowed to participate in school curriculum lessons or other extra-curricular activities during the time set aside for Special Religious Education and Special Education in Ethics.

Of course, some parents prefer for their children to do alternative meaningful activities, which is their right, but many more choose to enrol their children in the Ethics program. At Bangalow Public School, all years (K-6) have the opportunity to take part in Special Education in Ethics classes.

Ethics class at Bangalow Public School is very popular! Around 60% of all students opt for Ethics. In early stages (Kindergarten and Years 1 and 2), the classes focus on being curious and asking questions, with our trained facilitators employing storytelling and games to get the students engaged. Topics include the difference between knowing and guessing something, changing your mind, telling the truth, etc. In later stages (Year 3 and above), students explore more complex ethical questions, with stories, contemporary issues and real-life scenarios forming the basis of their discussions on ethical issues such as selfishness, how we should treat living things, voting and fairness in our society.

Thinking about and discussing ethical questions teaches children critical thinking skills and gives them the opportunity to apply these skills to everyday topics. Over time, students develop the ability to identify ethical issues and develop their own reasoned opinions and become ethical decision-makers as they engage in respectful discussion with the other children.

Primary Ethics (the sole organisation that is approved to deliver Special Education in Ethics in NSW public schools) has conducted research which shows that our teaching method - using a 'community of inquiry' approach where students sit in a circle and share their ideas with each other - improves children's general reasoning skills as well as their ethical reasoning capabilities.

Research has also shown that exposure to this teaching method has the flow-on effect of significantly improving student performance in mathematics, reading comprehension, and writing tests.

We would love to welcome some new volunteers to our team. There are so many benefits that come from teaching Ethics - from the chance to engage with young people in a meaningful way and feel connected to the local community, to the opportunity to give back, to the glow that comes from having a really good discussion and having our own assumptions challenged. Training to become an ethics teacher involves four 2.5 hour Zoom sessions with new courses starting regularly."

If you are interested, please contact Claire McLisky on 0478785191 or [clairemcclisky@hotmail.com](mailto:clairemcclisky@hotmail.com)

# Justine Elliot's Budget Update

## Federal Budget 2024

*A responsible Budget that provides big help with the cost of living and invests in a future made in Australia.*



Justine and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese officially opened the new social enterprise Bangalow Beacon Laundry. The Albanese Labor Government contributed funding for this innovative project which provides jobs for long-term unemployed locals.

- ➔ Tax cuts for every taxpayer
- ➔ \$300 power bill relief for every household
- ➔ Increasing Rent Assistance by a further 10%, after a 15% increase last year
- ➔ An extra \$6.2 billion for housing, bringing the Government's investment to \$32 billion since 2022
- ➔ Cutting \$3 billion in student debt to help 3 million people
- ➔ Freezing the maximum payment for PBS medicines
- ➔ Massive renewable energy investment through the Capacity Investment Scheme
- ➔ Securing funding for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency for a further 10 years

...and much more.

For full details visit [budget.gov.au](https://budget.gov.au)



**Justine Elliot MP**  
Federal Member for Richmond



(07) 5523 4371  
[justineelliot.com.au](https://justineelliot.com.au)  
[justine.elliot.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:justine.elliot.mp@aph.gov.au)  
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Authorised J Elliot, ALP, Tweed Heads South



**Justine Elliot MP**

Federal Member for Richmond

**Anthony Albanese**

Prime Minister



The inaugural

# Furry Friends Festival 2024

Come along and bring your pet dogs on lead for a morning of furry fun and frivolity!

**When:** Saturday 15 June, 9am to 12pm  
**Where:** Bangalow Showgrounds

- Face painting
- Great prizes
- Photo booth
- Community sausage sizzle
- Vet advice
- Dog trainer talks
- Freebies
- And more!

## More information

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



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## LOCAL ADVENTURERS



Claire's son Cooper and Claire at the workshop in Lviv inspecting the armoring of utes for the front Photo Dexter Oelrichs

# From Coopers Shoot, with Love

**Claire Oelrichs OAM has recently returned from a trip to Ukraine as part of her ongoing involvement with a grassroots initiative supporting the fight against the Russian invasion. Georgia Fox spoke with her to learn more.**

Most of us feel powerless and overwhelmed in the face of larger world forces, seemingly beyond our control. Few, like local conservationist and retired veterinarian Claire Oelrichs OAM, run full-steam towards them, determined that they can, and must, make a difference. Whether it be tirelessly regenerating the 100 acres of Coopers Shoot land she and her late husband, Ian, purchased in the early 1990s, or working to protect the threatened elephants, tigers, and rhinoceros of southern Sumatra, Claire is giving it her all. She might try to downplay her decades of



in the British Navy as a Russian-speaking spy during the 1950s, one might beg to differ.

Her horror at the unfolding catastrophe in Ukraine prompted a deep dive into the subject, impressed beyond measure with the resolve of the people she witnessed in the documentary, *Winter on Fire* which examines the 2013 Maidan Uprising that instigated the current Russo-Ukrainian war. Further digging left her aghast, finding little-discussed but verified reports of widespread war crimes, including the abduction of thousands of Ukrainian children, and the common practice of genital mutilation of prisoners of war. "It's an abomination, and offends every sense of right and wrong!" she says.

Determined to find a means in which to contribute in a substantial way, she became aware of a campaign called 'Car for Ukraine' (C4U), which sees a network of volunteers across the UK and Europe procure vehicles for the Ukrainian army. Second-hand dual-cab 4x4 utes, most often sourced from the UK due to their cheaper cost and more plentiful supply, are purchased by members of the public and transported by expat Ukrainians to C4U's armoury in Lviv, where they are transformed into battle-ready trucks and sent off to the frontline.

She started following C4U's progress—who have so far delivered 411 trucks worth around five million dollars—and inspired by their

tenacious grassroots approach, began fundraising with friends to purchase their first vehicle. Over the next couple of years, a further two vehicles were secured, liaising with London-based Ukrainian Sergiy, who facilitates the process.

With her 70th birthday approaching in March of this year, Claire and her Berlin-based sons, Dexter and Cooper, were discussing ideas for a birthday holiday get-together when the possibility of personally transporting a fourth vehicle to

Ukraine was floated. The 1900km journey, usually squeezed into a punishing weekend of 18-hour days for the volunteers who transport the vehicles, was plotted as a less arduous five-day family road trip, and by the time they converged in London this past Easter weekend, one ute had become one each, taking the total of supplied vehicles to six. Fitted out with BYO CB radios, the Oelrichs family convoy hit the road to Lviv.

The post-Brexit hard UK/EU border crossing from Dover to Calais got them off to a

challenging start. Travelling as 'cargo,' their utes were dwarfed by a wall-to-wall flotilla of giant freight trucks, with the three Oelrichs packed into carriages alongside an army of drivers from every corner of Europe. The unusual convoy, emblazoned with Ukrainian stickers and bound for a conflict zone, garnered extra thorough searches and x-rays, sending pulses racing amongst the Australians who realised they had put themselves in a potentially vulnerable position. "We've all seen *The Mule!*" Claire laughs. Passing with flying colours and their faith in C4U confirmed, they were free to begin their adventure across Europe.

Whizzing through previously visited countries, their pace slowed in Poland to enjoy some sightseeing and hiking, before the mood changed considerably crossing through Ukraine's wartime border and travelling the two hours into Lviv on its dilapidated major highway.

After delivering the vehicles and seeing the armoury, the Oelrichs visited the Field of Mars—named for the God of War—an "unbelievably moving" cemetery struggling to cope with the ever-increasing number of graves of the region's fallen, brightly decorated in flags and flowers, each bearing their photo, as well as the emotionally charged treasures left by loved ones—often their children.

Before heading back to Poland, they shared dinner at a restaurant with C4U members, including the founder, Roman, during which an app on the Oelrichs' phones started blaring in unison, warning of imminent attack. The locals were unfazed, reassuring them, despite the scars peppering the city from a series of missile strikes in 2022 and 2023, "they never bomb Lviv". Its standing as one of Ukraine's safest cities, furthest away from the frontlines, is all relative for a country living under the most difficult of circumstances.

Energised by the experience and determined to do even more to help, Claire is drawing on her expertise as a seasoned conservation tour guide to lead a larger convoy of between five to 10 vehicles this September/October for keen travellers looking for an adventure with purpose. Groups can come together to purchase a vehicle, costing on average around £4000/\$8000, with between two to four drivers of each vehicle self-funding a week-long road trip through the UK, France, Belgium, Germany and Poland, with a day trip into and out of Lviv. While the convoy would start and finish, as well as cross the UK/France and Poland/Ukraine borders together, vehicles can branch off as desired, or remain in tow with Claire, staying at strategically located Airbnbs and visiting sightseeing destinations along the way.

Claire would love to hear from anyone interested in joining: [claireoelrichs@gmail.com](mailto:claireoelrichs@gmail.com)

For more information about C4U, visit [car4ukraine.com](http://car4ukraine.com)



**From left; Ivan, from Car for Ukraine, with Cooper, Dexter, and Claire Oelrichs, in Lviv, Ukraine Photo Ivan Oleksii**

frontline activism as being almost accidental, but her actions speak for themselves as to the level of dedication involved.

Though she continues to be busy tackling her last hill at Coopers Shoot, and is still heavily engaged in international wildlife conservation efforts, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, her heart has been in Eastern Europe. She says there is no personal connection to either Ukraine or Russia that would explain the degree to which she has been affected by the developments there, but learning of her father's life-risking secret ops



Eco Tsadik and Justin Wall, two members of the local SES based in Mullumbimby Photo Christobel Munson

# Rain, rain

**After such a lot of rain, the ground was so soggy that the April monthly markets were cancelled (the first time since October 2022), as well as some soccer games, and the condition of local roads is being impacted. We're all affected. Christobel Munson explores the impact the months of heavy rain are having on our local community, and asks, what can individuals do to help?**

The State Emergency Service (SES) unit covering the entire Byron Shire is located in Mullumbimby. When a call for help comes into the SES headquarters in Wollongong via 132500, the job is logged, then allocated to the appropriate duty officer's phone at the nearest location. That person reviews it, assesses the job and what's required to handle it, then submits a call-out for a volunteer team. "If there's a storm, the call may be to deal with

a tree down blocking a road that could be dangerous, or a branch over a leaking roof, or a need for sandbags; it depends on the individual situation," explains SES volunteer Justin Wall. "Everything can be dangerous; it's knowing what the dangers are, and that's why training is so important."

Whether simple or complex, first, the team does an assessment. What equipment will be needed for that job, such as what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is needed for volunteers to protect themselves.

What part volunteers play in each situation depends on their individual skills. "You might be interested in either Admin or Field Ops," explains Duty Officer of the day, Eco Tsadik. Within Admin, there are roles for planning officers, people who work out logistics, and others who capture requests for assessment. In Field Ops, people are needed to work chainsaws or drive boats through floods. Eco and Justin are two of the 40 volunteers with the Byron SES unit. Of that number, 15 are "very active".

The State Government provides appropriate training—initial, and ongoing. That could cover First Aid or working within other departments such as Land Search. "The training is

structured to support members, to offer proper skills in the field. There's a role for everyone, young and old, male and female," said Eco. Both Justin and Eco stress that all volunteer help is important, at any level people care to provide. "We have a volunteer who's a Vietnam vet; all he does is take out the bins. Another sharpens the chainsaws. One volunteer has only one arm and one leg—yet can participate in a way that supports the team. Someone else simply drives the cars to be serviced. That's just as vital!"

Asked what was the biggest problem that the SES faces, Eco said: "The biggest problem isn't just one heavy rain; it's the ground saturation levels. When the ground is so soggy, it doesn't need much rain to heighten the situation."

Causeways, in particular, can be extremely dangerous to attempt to cross. Any depth of greater than 10cm of water is very risky. "When we did our training at Penrith, one part relates to dealing with swift water. Undertaking that day's training—for instance, just trying to walk through 10cm of flowing water—opens your eyes to the real danger."

So, what can we do to prepare for a rainy season? "Clean gutters. Look at the trees

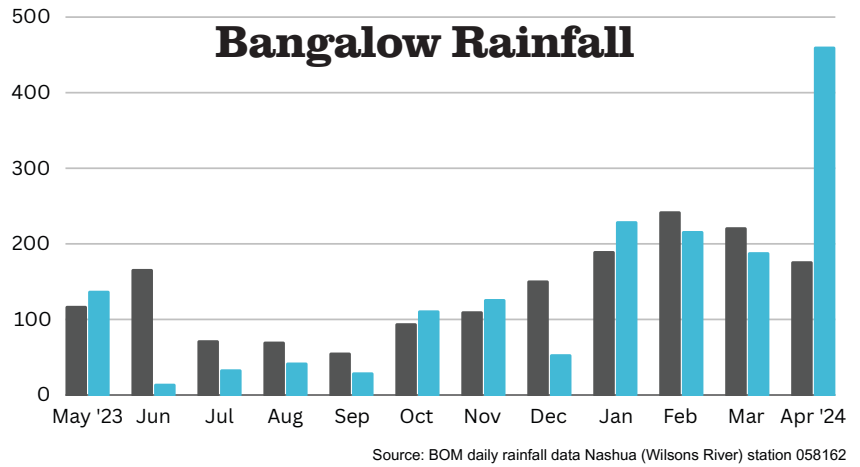
around your property and do any necessary maintenance—before a storm. If there are old trees, check to see if they're waterlogged, and need branches to be felled ahead of a storm. Get to know your neighbours, talk with them, and support each other," Eco added. "That way, it becomes less of a drama to make contact when a big storm hits. The point of preparation is to know yourself and your property, and what's the trigger to have to leave," he continued.

If you live in a low-lying area, leave at the yellow warning level; for another person, it may be at the orange level. That's the point of Person Centred Emergency Preparedness, or PCEP, covering four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Some local halls are being nominated as 'safe havens' that could be used for people to sleep overnight if they need to leave home during an emergency.

What if you are new to the neighbourhood? How can newcomers get involved? "Sometimes we have pizza nights for volunteers and newcomers, so they can see how they can get involved with their local community; things like that really strengthen the social fabric," says Justin.

Both Justin and Eco stressed the ongoing need for volunteers in a highly valued community organisation like the SES. "There's a role for everyone," says Eco. "Not everyone has to leap into flood water to perform a rescue. There's a real drive for behind-the-scenes help. Without those people, the guys outside can't do their work."

"During a recent flood, one girl, new to the area, jumped in and operated the radio. She was invaluable. It's great when people can utilise their professional skills to help the unit. It gives them a chance to share their skills with the wider community."



Checking back through the BOM data, Adam Susz, who provides our monthly rainfall graph, pointed out that: "We've just had our wettest April on record, including the highest daily April total on 4 April. The month also saw triple the usual (median) April rainfall." (Our records only go back to 2001.)

"With climate change making rainfall events in our region both more extreme and less predictable, it's imperative that we come together and plan for the 'new normal' of flash flooding in our town," added Bangalow resident Claire McLisky, a Plan C Board member. "One way to do this is to join the Bangalow Resilience Network, founded to help the 2479 community prepare for natural disasters." Read more about the Bangalow Resilience Network on page 10, find them on Facebook, or contact Ruth on 0413 261 011 or ruth@reclaimingjoy.com

"Yes, things are tough, but if you have skills, perhaps you're retired—this is a great cause to be involved in. It might only be a couple of hours a week, it shares the load. What we volunteers have in common is our passion to care for the community. We need to be ready, whether to face water or fire. The community needs to be ready."

**"What we volunteers have in common is our passion to care for the community. We need to be ready, whether to face water or fire."**



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# Rain, Rain, Beautiful Rain

I am writing this story on one of the first sunny Mondays we have had for a long time. Sunshine after almost two weeks of rain. I'm thinking of the song 'Rain, Rain, Beautiful Rain' by Ladysmith Black Mambazo, that celebrates the natural beauty and life-giving qualities of rain, capturing the essence of renewal and harmony with nature.

My water tanks are full, and the garden replenished to the point of sodden. Grazing paddocks in view look like a muddy quagmire and we are all longing for a run of sunshine. Rain, rain, go away.

Well, it's almost June and if the records for the past three years run true to form, the extensive rainfall should start to dissipate by now.

Last year, the final rainfall of any significance in the first half of the year was recorded in mid-May. Similarly in 2022 significant rainfall stopped falling in mid-May.

I diligently check my rain gauge, which is never exact but 'exacting', every morning on my way down to feed the chickens.

I'm in Coopers Shoot where the total rain to mid-May 2024 was 1353 mm – and we are only in the fifth month! That's over a metre of rain and more rain than the annual totals for 2014, 2015, 2017 and double the rain of 2019. 2022 was our wettest year, with 3188mm and last year's annual total was 1762 mm with 1120mm already recorded by the end of May.

Living close to the coast, I think we experience fleeting showers more often than the areas slightly west. Having said that, on occasions I can drive to Bangalow and find it's raining there, and the rain has missed us in Coopers Shoot, 130 metres above sea level. Our mornings for the month of April and May have mostly been fog bound and a quick drive down the hill to Byron and the sun could be shining and the roads looking like rain hasn't touched them in days.

It's interesting that rainfall is measured in millimetres rather than millilitres for reasons best left to the experts. Chin up, let's be grateful for the rain we've had – and look forward to a drier winter.

Mary Nelson

# The First Three Days

Planning for the first three days after a natural disaster has been highlighted as a priority for the Bangalow Resilience Network. The group, which consists of members of local non-profit organisations including Bangalow CWA, Bangalow Anglican Op Shop, and Bangalow Park Trust, formed to help the community prepare for natural disasters in the wake of climate change. As part of the plan, 20 members of Bangalow CWA are creating recipes for five dishes that can be prepared quickly using non-perishable items to help the community get by until outside help arrives.

At its meeting at Bangalow Heritage House and Museum last month, the group heard from chef Wal Foster, from Brunswick Heads-based Natural Ice-Cream Australia, and local resident Rosemary Hill, who played an instrumental role in cooking and delivering food to those in need immediately after the 2022 floods. Wal, who worked alongside his good friend Pip Sumbak from catering company Pip's Plate and a team of volunteers to prepare thousands of meals for flood victims, said the commercial kitchen at Bangalow Lions Club's kiosk in Bangalow Showground was the perfect venue for the large-scale operation. He had been searching for a suitable facility throughout the Byron Shire before coming across the kiosk, which also includes a storeroom and a large cool room, when he was dropping off food at the Showground.



Chef Wal Foster at Bangalow Kiosk during the 2022 floods  
Photo supplied

**TAMARA SMITH MP**  
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

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**THE GREENS**

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



The production line at Bangalow Kiosk during the 2022 floods Photo Greg Nash

“This thing was built for the apocalypse,” he joked. The infrastructure places Bangalow in a strong position to act as a hub to help communities throughout the region during natural disasters.

Bangalow Resilience Network plans to compile a database of contacts who can be called on in an emergency and come up with designated roles for volunteers so efforts to help are more streamlined. As well as a large team of trained counsellors, the need to have a supply of cash to buy fresh produce, water, and petrol was also identified. Bangalow General Store owners Anthony and Abbie Macdonald have offered to reserve 1,000 litres of petrol for emergency services and volunteers helping in rescue and recovery efforts during emergencies.

Bangalow Resilience Network is also in the process of buying two-way radios for communication within the local community. The group has divided the 2479 postcode into 11 precincts and plans to appoint community coordinators for each region to manage the network, followed by street coordinators. The town has also been included in the rollout of Starlink satellite system equipment as part of Byron Shire Council’s Community Emergency Communications project, which will be used in conjunction with the radios. The equipment includes a portable dish and roaming service, portable back-up battery power station, and a portable solar panel. Council will loan the Starlink equipment to the group and other community groups in the region for a period of two years via a hire agreement. The groups take responsibility for storing the equipment and developing a plan to ensure community representatives can access it during a disaster.

The group is still looking for community coordinators for Nashua, Brooklet, and McLeods Shoot. Anyone who could volunteer and receive training for operating radios in these areas, please contact Andy Winton-Brown on 0438 243 666.

**Angela Saurine**

## Free Emergency Communications Workshop

Disaster resilience expert Dr Jean Renouf from Plan C is leading a free emergency communications workshop for Bangalow residents this month. The workshop, which is limited to 25 people, will focus on learning how to use alternative communication and back-up power technologies such as UHF radios, Starlink, and portable power stations. “This event is particularly relevant given the frequent connectivity issues experienced in Bangalow,” Dr Renouf says. “Preparing for emergencies by learning how to use these tools can be an invaluable skill. Not only will you gain practical knowledge in managing emergency communications during disruptions, but you’ll also have a lot of fun interacting with fellow attendees.”

The workshop, which is courtesy of the Byron Shire Council and brought to you by Safer Future, will be held at Bangalow Heritage House Museum on Sunday, June 9 from 1-4pm.

To register, go to [events.humanitix.com/bangalow-communications](https://events.humanitix.com/bangalow-communications)

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Byron Writers Festival director Jessica Alice Photo Lyn McCarthy

# Weaving a writers festival

**Programming a literary event such as the Byron Writers Festival (BWF) is a little like weaving, says the festival's new artistic director, Jessica Alice.**

"At the start, you have all these disparate threads: the artists, their books, diverse subject matters and themes. There's so much. And as you're going through the process, you're

weaving it all together and the picture starts to appear," Jessica says.

"You can't be too proscriptive about it, you've got to trust the process and let those themes emerge. And they do. It becomes clear very quickly."

The theme that surfaced for 2024 is 'From the Ground Up', a phrase Jessica says denotes connection to country and the environment, to grassroots, community and activist movements,

to politics, and the idea of building things from scratch. "Part of that is about recovery and repair and resilience—very relevant in this area after the floods—but it is also about being forward-thinking: what legacy are we creating today?"

It also expresses the festival's perennial responsibility to nurture writers who are just setting out, to provide a space where artists of different ages and backgrounds and places in their careers can mix and learn from each other.

An author and published poet in her own right, Jessica's literary career began after a false start studying fashion design at RMIT. Quickly seeing it wasn't the right fit for her, she enrolled for a diploma in professional writing and editing at TAFE.

The course was a revelation. Its vocational emphasis helped her understand that people could make a career out of writing, and that there was a plethora of poetry and literary events available to support them.

After TAFE she went back to RMIT to learn "the theory" in a bachelor's degree in creative writing, followed by an honours degree in feminist poetry, then a Master of Fine Arts in Cultural Leadership from NIDA.

The "amazing" TAFE course doesn't exist any more, she notes.

"It's such a shame because if you don't have a family that can support you to find those things, it can be really hard to access culture and find careers."

Her own upbringing, in Werribee in Melbourne's west, was not especially literary, but it was in "a creative household", she says. Her mother paints and draws and is a skilled textile artist. There were loads of books, and the family would sit around the table and discuss world affairs at dinner time.

Her first literary job was directing the National Young Writers' Festival in Newcastle—"a really wonderful radical, experimental festival"—where she combined fun with learning how to put a festival together.

From there she went to Melbourne Writers Festival and began to specialise in literary programming. Her regional experience includes

a “fantastic” job as publicity manager at Regional Arts Victoria. There followed positions as Chair of the Arts Industry Council of South Australia and most recently as CEO of Writers SA.

When she saw the BWF job advertised she was aware of the Byron festival’s “extraordinary reputation” as the place where the artists had the best time, with great programming and a stunning location.

It struck her as a perfect opportunity, and upon securing the role she moved from Adelaide to become a Bangalow resident. “It was not a difficult move to make,” she says.

“I love that I can just walk down to the Showground—and I frequently do—and visualise how we’re going to set up the stages and stalls and artworks. I love it that the Showground is so green, so leafy, and has the feeling of being a little bit away from the world. Under the shade of the trees is the perfect space for a weekend of deep thinking and reading. It’s magical.”

Last year’s festival audience felt the same: “We’ve had the most incredible response to the Showground from 2023, and universal love for the site.”

She is keen that BWF not become a “parachuted” event, where guests pop up and then are gone. She sees the festival as being “from the community and of the community, with strong local foundations.

“Which is why it’s so important for me to be here. It couldn’t be a remote job or a FIFO for me. I felt I had to be here, to be part of the community.

“It’s a real joy working in a regional space because you get real personality, which means that with programming you can give it real personality too. I love the fact that there is such a strong interest in the environment here, and in

politics, and the media—things that also interest me.”

Poetry is another of her “particular passions” and her personal reading tastes include literary fiction and narrative non-fiction, but she says “festival programming has to be broad, to include all forms and genres because you really want to appeal to everyone. It’s a matter of finding authors who are doing the best work in whatever form or genre they choose”.

There are fundamental similarities between readers everywhere, she says: “Whether in cities or regions, people who read are going to be intelligent, inquisitive ... and quite expert on what they read, but also open to discovering new things. That is common to all writers’ festivals.”

She hopes the 2024 festival resonates with more people than ever but that it reaches new audiences as well, and that they will be drawn back next year after experiencing a program that is “absolutely bursting with talent”.

“We have around 130 authors over about 120 sessions; some of the most exciting, high-profile, high-calibre writers alongside some incredible new voices.”

Among announced guests is Irish writer Caoilinn Hughes in an exclusive Australian appearance. Her novel, *The Alternatives*, is “a beautiful book, very funny” but with serious underlying themes, Jessica says.

Australian guests include the hugely successful Trent Dalton and lauded novelist Richard Flanagan, who will speak about his memoir *Question 7* and his deep connection to Tasmania and concern about its environmental issues and troubled history.

A “really incredible line-up” of First Nations’ writers includes Mykaela Saunders presenting *Always Will Be*, a “very smart and cool” collection of short pieces of speculative fiction

imagining 16 alternate futures for the Tweed region in which Indigenous sovereignty is fully asserted.

Another re-imagining of a different future for Australia is offered by Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood in *Black Duck*. “Uncle Bruce is a special guest, someone who has been changing the way many people in Australia have been thinking about Aboriginal culture,” Jessica says.

Also a game-changer is Vietnamese-Australian writer Nam Le, whose 2008 collection of short stories, *The Boat*, “altered the way the world thought about refugees”. He will discuss his recent highly-praised work, *36 Ways of Writing a Vietnamese Poem*.

Renowned investigative reporter turned novelist, Louise Milligan, will present her fictional deep-dive into crime, *Pheasants Nest*.

Other guests and ticket options are being announced this month.

Jessica says she feels like the BWF team are working to make a gift for the community, something she is thrilled to be able to deliver. “It’s something that we can all join in to celebrate, and I think it will be very special.”

**Digby Hildreth**

**Bangalow Writers Festival  
9-11 August  
Bangalow Showgrounds  
[byronwritersfestival.com](http://byronwritersfestival.com)**

**“ It’s a real joy working in a regional space because you get real personality, which means that with programming you can give it real personality too.”**



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# Gather

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**Where** All Souls' Anglican Church Hall  
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**Info** Karen 0413621224

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## KWT Thursday Social Club

**When** 1st Thursday of the month, 5.30-7.30pm

**Where** The Bangalow Hotel - on the restaurant deck

**RSVP** kindredwomentogether.com

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## Bangalow Bridge Club

**When** Friday afternoon

**Where** Bangalow Anglican Church Hall

**Entry** \$7 including afternoon tea

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



Mahjong, a game for all seasons Photo Murray Hand

## Picking up the pieces

The Bangalow Mahjong group is keen to have more players for their Friday weekly session. The group has been playing in various locations, including groups at the Bangalow Bowlo, and editor Sally Schofield's house, for some years. But there is an open, mixed group, well settled at the Bangalow Men's Shed who meet on Fridays at 12.30pm and play until 3.30pm. This is not as arduous as it sounds as, according to organiser, Cathy Dall, the time flies. Cathy says "part of the appeal of mahjong is that, unlike bridge, you don't have a partner who you worry you might let down. Your own mistakes are your own mistakes."

The game was developed in southern China in the mid 1800s, Mahjong means "sparrow", which refers to the bird-like clacking sound the tiles make when shuffling. Four players play the game with 144 tiles, with the objective of assembling specific combinations of tiles through drawing, discarding and exchanging tiles in a battle of wits and luck.

Studies have found that it is beneficial to those suffering from dementia or cognitive memory difficulties.

Whilst the Men's Shed Bangalow group doesn't have the capacity to teach new players, anyone interested in learning is welcome to come and watch and get to understand the game. Interested players can contact Cathy Dall on 6687 1575.

Murray Hand

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**2024 National Champion rider (Large Pony Division) Emmy Savage**  
Photo Darren Tindale

## Emmy Savage rides to victory

Local youngster, 12-year-old Emelia ‘Emmy’ Savage, recently competed at Royal Randwick, Sydney in the 2024 National Champion - Large Pony Division, representing the Bangalow Pony Club on her mount ‘Bobby’ (Aspen View Aylan). They took first place in the race. It was a dismal, drizzly day at Randwick, but that didn’t bother Emmy (she’s used to a bit of a sprinkle, coming from these parts). With five years of jockeying experience, the young rider had a great start in the race and held her place in the field, riding ‘Bobby’ home to victory. Emmy is very proud to be supported by local businesses, the Eltham Pub (Ciao Mate and You Beauty), McGregor Gourlay Alstonville, and the Bangalow Lions Club.

*Sally Schofield*

## Leah takes third place in Australia’s Greatest Horsewoman

Leah Van Ewijk secured third place in Australia’s Greatest Horsewoman competition, despite lacking access to an arena. Competing against 25 accomplished horsewomen, Leah’s skills and determination earned her a spot among the top contenders.

Without facilities to train her horse or cattle for practice, Leah transported her horses daily, seeking borrowed and hired arenas, local showgrounds, and even training on the beach. These methods highlighted her resourcefulness and dedication.

Training performance horses typically requires carefully curated surfaces for optimal performance and safety. Leah had to adapt and choose manoeuvres carefully, sacrificing some elements due to her limited resources.

Despite these challenges, Leah’s fundamental training and strong bond with her horse, Oakie, laid the foundation for their success. Their versatility and resilience enabled them to tackle any obstacle.

Leah’s journey in Australia’s Greatest Horsewoman competition is just the beginning. She will continue to showcase her skills in future events, including the Tropicana Classic at Caboolture Equestrian Centre in July and the Australian Reined Cow Horse Association National Finals 2024 at White Park, Scone.

Leah’s accomplishment in the face of adversity serves as an inspiration to all. Her story reminds us that passion, perseverance, and a strong bond with our equine partners can help us overcome any challenge.

*Kristal Byron*



**Miles and Ollie Field** Photo Simon Field

## Tennis twins unbeatable

Miles and Ollie Field are local Bangalow kids who are proving that twinning is winning!

After progressing through three rounds of selections Miles and Ollie secured 1st and 2nd seed positions in the North Coast Regional Tennis squad consisting of five boys and five from primary schools from Tweed to Port Macquarie.

Last month, they competed at the prestigious four-day Primary School state finals in Newcastle, stepping out in the green and gold and with perfect sunny conditions they played against the state’s top 65 boys in singles and doubles to secure points for the North Coast team. They thrived in this highly competitive environment, winning some big matches against better opponents, being graceful in defeat, and enjoying being undefeated as a doubles pairing.

The North Coast team finished 11th with their team manager being most proud of Miles’ and Ollie’s incredible skill, determination, team spirit and sportsmanship. This is a real tribute to the hard work and effort they have both put into their training.

*Simon Field*

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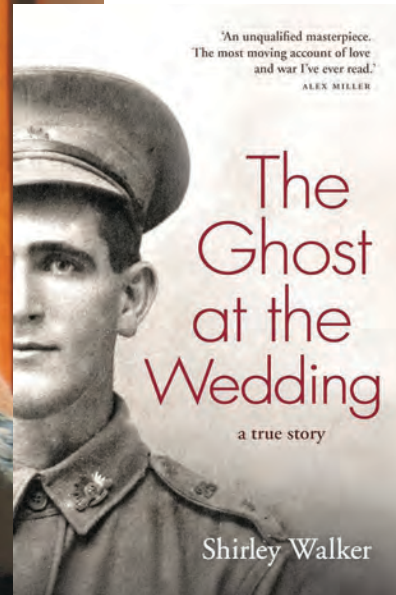
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# Vale Shirley Walker 1927-2024



The late Shirley Walker paid tribute to 2479 in her literary memoir *Roundabout at Bangalow* Photo supplied

Shirley Walker was born in Lismore in 1927 and spent her childhood in Byron Bay, the Channon, and the Keerong Valley as part of an extended family originating on the West Coast of Ireland. She died on 15 April in Florence Price Gardens aged care home in Ballina. She was a writer whose memoir, *Roundabout at Bangalow*, and the novel *The Ghost at the Wedding* brought to life the immigrants, Depression-era workers, and war-touched families of the local area with historical precision, humour, and a keen appreciation of the natural world.

Bangalow was her 'heart's last land full of ghosts of memories and the memories of ghosts,' intersected by the ancient pathways of the Bundjalung people, scored by the haulage tracks over the cedar loggers. Her precise memory could identify the history of streets, landscapes, and personalities in the local area stretching back at least 90 years. As a child, she saw a bullock team drag a felled log to a point outside her family home in the Channon, and she recalled, with great sympathy, 'red loam spilling like blood from

its centre.' She recalled the struggles of her young and conflicted parents.

She wrote *Roundabout at Bangalow* and *The Ghost at the Wedding* during her retirement. Her earlier writing formed part of her career as a Senior Lecturer at the University of New England, where she completed the first PhD in the English Department. The subject was the poetry of Judith Wright. She was a founding member and the President of the Society for the Study of Australian Literature and an international advocate for Australian writing. The poet Felicity Plunkett wrote that 'her pioneering study of Judith Wright changed the course of Australian literary studies.' The New York critic Nicholas Birns called her 'a brilliant critic, memoirist, and major figure in the rise of Australian literary studies.'

She described this academic career as her 'third life'. In her 'first life', she was a vulnerable child. Her 'second life' began at a dance hall in South Grafton, where she met her husband-to-be Les Walker. She was a 19-year-old primary school teacher, and he

was a returned soldier, nine years her senior and a very good dancer. They had met in a way years earlier when she and her fellow schoolgirls baked cakes to be sent – strictly anonymously – to soldiers. Defiantly, she included her name and address with her cake, which was passed on to Les Walker in the Middle East. He wrote a thank you note. After their courtship and wedding, Les and Shirley established a cane farm on the Burdekin River in North Queensland, then returned to a farm on the Clarence outside Grafton. After a succession of floods, this farm was lost to the family. During this period, Shirley taught and completed tertiary studies through Distance Education at the University of New England, then moved to Armidale as an internal student and staff member, joined by Les after his retirement.

The couple raised three children, Dawn, Richard, and Brenda.

**Brenda Walker**  
Emeritus Professor, UWA

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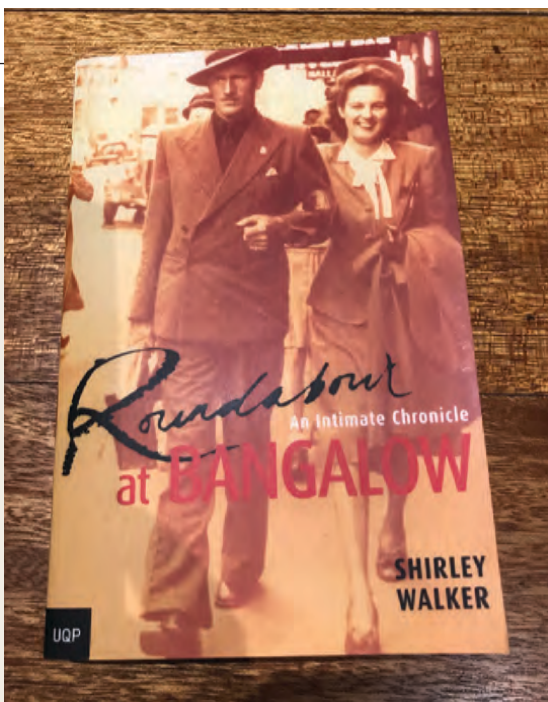


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# Roundabout at Bangalow

I return now to Bangalow, a heritage village in the hinterland behind Byron Bay. This is my heart's lost land, full of the ghosts of memories, the memories of ghosts. It was here in 1925 that my mother, a pregnant teenager, went to her marriage in a grey dress. Mesmerised by the family drama, I come here often, obsessed with the past. I usually turn east down Byron Street between the art galleries, real estate agencies and gourmet restaurants that now lie in its heritage precinct. I contemplate, once again, the old Church of England, where my parents were married, as if the bricks themselves could tell me more about their story.

At the top of Byron Street, a large roundabout has been superimposed, like an ugly concrete cap on an ancient crossroad. From the beginning of time, crossroads have been symbolic places of choice; also because of the Cross of sacrifice.

These particular crossroads are older than the first white settlement, and the roundabout cannot erase the centuries of passing, of crisscrossing, of the pursuit of desire. They were first carved out of the rainforest by the restless journeying of the Bundjalung, the Aboriginal people of this

area. Later the bullock tracks of the cedar-getters etched them deeper and deeper into the red soil. Then came the drays of the first settlers, and then the first cars and buses, and, later, the frenetic traffic of the century's end. In these last days desire takes the form of constant movement, constant change. A steady stream of traffic sweeps around the circle and spins off, as if by centrifugal force, in any one of these three directions (the fourth being a cul-de-sac).

In the summer of 1997 the roundabout is the scene of an astonishing coincidence. I sweep down from the mountains after a four-hour drive and pause at the roundabout at the very instant that my eldest son surges around it at the end of his long journey from Sydney and the south. Though we've each come a long, long way, and from different directions, not a heartbeat separates our arrival at the crossroads. Something synchronises our meeting at this precise spot, at this precise instant.

Is it a mere coincidence or is it a demonstration of the mysterious and invisible lines of memory and desire, which for me intersect here? And there's a further symmetry, for I have his teenage daughter with me, he has his brother's

daughter. My granddaughters are both the same age, the age of my mother when she first met my father and married him here. They smile a lot. No-one would dare tell them, even in jest, that their juice is too close to their eyes. No-one will need to. Their lives will be quite different.

And so, this time, I ignore the downward path to the past, spin into the roundabout behind my son, and together we take the upward way. We pass the old Bangalow cemetery high on the hill, and leave behind us the old settlements Tintenbar and Newrybar. The scarlet fingers of the coral trees flourish against the brilliant blue of the afternoon sky and the drystone walls of the pioneers meander around the hillside, dividing and portioning the land. We come down into the Bay as dusk falls and the great light begins its sweeping arcs, steady as a heartbeat, radiant as Home.

**Shirley Walker**

Extract from *Roundabout at Bangalow* (UQP) reprinted with Brenda Walker's permission



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## The Confession by Jessie Burton

Jessie Burton is the author of the bestselling novel *The Miniaturist*, which has been made into a Netflix series. *The Confession*, written in 2019, is the first Jessie Burton book I have read.

The story begins in 1980, telling the tale of Elise, a young 20-year-old living in London and employed in three jobs:

as a waitress, an usher at the National Theatre, and a life model for an art school. A chance encounter in a London park causes Elise to cross paths with Connie, an older, sophisticated woman and successful author of two books. Elise falls in love with Connie, and Connie is besotted with Elise.

There are two timelines and two central characters in the story, and the connection between them is explained in alternating chapters.

In 2017, Rosie tells her story. She is in her mid-thirties and has grown up knowing that her mother abandoned her as a baby. Being raised by her loving father was fine until she went to primary school; there she embarked on a period of conjuring up fantastic stories about her mother to explain her absence to her school friends. By the time she reached 14, she decided it was time to kill her off – less complicated that way. Her father’s failure to give her any information about her mother, aside from her name, only feeds her obsession with finding out more about her. But it’s impossible, as an adult, to get her father to reveal more, and the internet has produced zilch. Her long-term partner, Joe, becomes very wary whenever the subject of her mother is raised, and her obsession is wearing a bit thin with her friends. So, it is a bit of a surprise when, on departing from a week’s holiday with her dad, he gifts her two books written by an author, Connie Holden, with the words, “This woman knew your mother.”

Without giving too much away, both the timelines in this story are interesting and intriguing in the reader’s quest to discover where Elise’s story ends, and Rosie’s begins. An enjoyable read!

Goodreads rating 3.9 stars.  
Published by Pan Macmillan

Carolyn Adams

## Advice for starting a book club

### 1. Choose the Book

Some book club members all read the same book and discuss that, while others come together to discuss the latest book they are independently reading. The Richmond Tweed Library (visit [rtrl.spydus.com](http://rtrl.spydus.com) and click on Book Club Sets) can be an invaluable (and economical) resource to getting everyone on the same page, so to speak.

### 2. Read the book. Or...

The idea is, of course, to read the book, but sometimes that just doesn’t happen. Google the title and read a summary or reviews online. This way, you can bluff your way through the discussion without actually having to turn a page.

### 3. The Art of Skimming

Master the technique of skimming the book. Focus on the first chapter, a random middle chapter, and the last few pages. This way, you can nod knowingly and contribute a comment or two when the time comes.

### 4. Hosting

Some clubs meet in public spaces, such as bars or cafes, which have their benefits and limitations. Home-hosted events seem to be the most successful. If you’re hosting, delegate as much as possible. Let someone else lead the discussion while you focus on replenishing drinks and ensuring the snack table is Instagram-ready.

### 5. Set the Scene

The atmosphere is everything. Choose a cosy spot, preferably one with dim lighting to hide your glazed-over eyes as someone drones on about thematic elements. Candles, drinks, and comfortable seating are non-negotiable.

### 6. Discussion Starters

Prepare a few generic questions in advance. “What did you think of the protagonist’s journey?” or “How did the setting influence the story?” These gems work for almost any book and make you sound like you know what you’re talking about.

### 7. Drinks selection

Let’s be honest, for many book clubs, the main event is the wine but it’s always good to have tea and other non-alcoholic options available, and you might even find a group that is happy to go booze-free.

### 8. Snack Strategically

Select snacks that are sophisticated yet easy to prepare. Avoid anything that requires actual cooking – it’s a book club, not MasterChef.

### 9. Have Fun

Remember, the book is just a pretext. The real goal is to enjoy good company, snacks and drinks, a few laughs – and with any luck, lasting friendships. Cheers to that!

Orly Sono

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# Citrus Bounty

Citrus season is here. We are seeing lots of fruits appearing on our supermarket shelves, at farmers' markets and in our own backyards. Apart from the usual methods of tackling an abundance of home produce, such as marmalades, curds, and cakes, citrus can be used in myriad ways. Here are a few suggestions.

How about candied kumquats, sliced and sprinkled with a generous amount of sugar and then slow-roasted in the oven? You can add them to sweet or savoury dishes. Place in jars for future use, the same with mandarins. Scatter caster sugar over a baking dish. Preheat the oven to 220°C. Halve mandarins and press cut side down onto the sugar. Let stand until sugar dissolves and forms a thick crust (about five minutes). Turn your mandarins cut side up and add the juice and rind of one lemon and one orange with two tablespoons of water. Pour around the mandarins and roast until juicy and beginning to caramelize. Serve with ginger custard or ice cream.

On the savoury side, citrus salsa verde is delicious with salmon. Juice and zest one lemon and one orange. Add two tablespoons of olive oil, some grated garlic, and a teaspoon of smoked paprika. Add chopped herbs, parsley and coriander. Serve with salmon that has been slow-roasted with citrus juices as a zesty side.

Citrus salts are an easy addition to your seasonings. Add an equal amount of salt flakes and micro-planed zest. Mix with your fingers to distribute the zest. Air-dry in the open and when dry, store in an airtight container. Use your imagination here: fresh herbs, chilli flakes, etc., to liven up your dishes. You can also use it to season roast



**Candied kumquats for your citrus glut**  
Illustration Lyn Hand

chicken, curries, popcorn, vegetables, etc. And lastly, don't throw out those peels. Fill up a jar and add white vinegar to cover. Leave for two weeks to infuse. Decant into a spray bottle and use as a surface spray to keep your kitchen sparkling. Can't ask for more than that!

*Lyn Hand*

## Finger Limes

The traditional name for Finger Lime (*Citrus australasica*) in Bundjalung language is Gulalung. Known for its elongated shape and caviar-like interior, finger lime is a unique citrus fruit prized for its burst of tangy flavour. Aesthetically pleasing and tasty when squeezed onto oysters or ceviche, you could also use them to garnish a cocktail or as a zesty addition to an iced cake or pavlova. One finger lime contains as much Vitamin C as a mandarin, so they are not only delicious but good for you too. They grow well in our sub-tropical climate—just watch out for their spiky thorns!



  
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# The finesse of an Italian red

As the days become shorter and the cooler temperatures sweep over the Hinterland, the sound of wood being chopped to stoke the fireplace brings warmth to our homes. With the change in weather, our eating habits shift too. Slow-cooked meals become staples during winter. This month let's focus on red varietals, particularly Italian wines, which are perfect for pairing with food, especially pastas and pizza.

First, I sampled the Cantina Tombacco Aglianico DOC. This noble wine, rooted in history, comes from three sub-regions in the south-west of Italy, with Campania leading production. Some Southern Italians passionately regard it as the 'Barolo of the South.' This Aglianico has a deep red colour with purple hues, introducing a wine of distinction with a complex aroma of cherry, plum, and red berries, accented by vanilla and spice. The taste is intense, full, and enveloping, with a great length and persistence that leaves a soft, pleasant mouthfeel. The vintage labels of Tombacco wines pay homage to the first labels designed by the great grandfather of the current owner nearly a century ago. These robust and flavoursome wines transport you to the sunny terraces of the Amalfi Coast and classic pizzerias of Naples.

Next, the Poderi dal Nespole Sangiovese Prugneto DOC, a delicious Sangiovese from Romagna, caught my attention. It has a bright ruby red colour and an intense bouquet of red fruits. On the palate there are soft tannins,



Winter is coming Photo supplied

notes of violet, cherry, and plums, and a rich, creamy mid-palate. The finish is long and spicy. A percentage of this wine is aged in oak barriques, enhancing its complexity and structure. This genuine expression of Sangiovese pairs well with hand-made pasta and mature cheeses.

From Sicily, the Barone Montalto Organic Nero d'Avola is a delightful and seductive red. The volcanic soils of sun-drenched Sicily are ideal for producing ripe, fruity wines with real authenticity. Made from the flagship varietal of the region, Nero d'Avola, this wine is a fresh and elegant example of Sicily's great reds. It displays an intense ruby colour and perfumed black cherry and wild berry fruit flavours. With depth on the mid-palate, it has a smooth tannic structure and a long, lingering finish. This medium-bodied wine is great for a midweek drink or Friday night pizza or pasta. Chilling it slightly enhances its elegant structure.

Lastly, the Luca Bosio Barbaresco from Piemonte was a profound choice to end the tasting. Often called the 'Queen of Piemonte,' the district of Barbaresco is known for producing elegant Nebbiolo wines with softer tannins and delicate perfumed notes. The Luca Bosio Barbaresco is an elegant and well-defined wine. It opens with earthy notes of forest floor, dried mushroom, and herbs, with hints of sour cherry and dried rose emerging as it breathes. The palate balances turned earth and sour red fruit, finishing with dusty tannins and tart acidity. Hints of sweet tobacco, leather, and spice coexist with freshness and jam. This rich and complex wine pairs well with lamb rack, duck, or a ragu.

**Dave Cribbin**

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# Bangkok Rose - *Mussaenda erythrophylla*

Pretty in pink, a hybrid *Mussaenda*. Photo Carole Gamble

Partly because of our crazy weather, there is little flowering near me at present, but I pass a *Mussaenda* in a neighbour's garden every morning and marvel at the fact that it is ALWAYS covered in blossom. Because it is on a slope (good drainage) and in full sun, north-facing, this is clearly a plant worth using more often.

*Mussaenda* can have large pink, white, or red bracts (these look like petals but are not) and the actual small flower is usually yellow. Butterflies love them! *M. erythrophylla* is originally from West Africa and the white varieties are mostly thought to be northern Indian in origin, but because there are so many hybrids and cultivars, opinions vary on this.

*Mussaenda* is a member of the *Rubiaceae* family, which includes gardenias, ixoras, pentas, and coffee, which is a bit surprising. Another instance of botanical groupings of plants that don't appear to be similar.

The *Mussaenda* pictured above is a hybrid, and it might be worth saying a little about hybrids because we can all get a bit confused about what is meant by 'hybrid' and 'cultivar'.

In brief, a cultivar is deliberately created through controlled breeding. This may be to improve or combine features such as longer flowering, disease resistance, or size alteration, or to diminish those features and improve adaptability. They retain the desired characteristics when propagated by division, cuttings, grafting, offsets, tissue culture, or careful seed selection, although this last method has a higher degree of variation than others.

Hybrids, by comparison, are accidental or wild changes in the parent plants that may be a result of climatic conditions or a reaction to environmental changes. Sometimes these hybrids are dramatically different and can be much sought after, leading of course to horticultural enthusiasts cultivating them for

commercial rewards! These 'wild' hybrids are often more vigorous because of greater genetic variability; have more flowers, grow faster and larger, and demonstrate again the desirability of mongrel breeds.

Suited to our subtropical area, they tolerate a large range of soils and thrive in full sun or part shade and, like most plants, require good drainage, appreciate mulching and soil improvement, but don't need fertilisers. They respond well to pruning so that their natural dimensions of two metres high and two metres wide can be reduced to suit your garden.

The blooms are lovely in mixed flower arrangements and add that touch of colour when not much else is enlivening our gardens. *Mussaenda* has just joined my list of plants to fit into my garden – somewhere.

Carole Gamble

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# The future of Heritage House

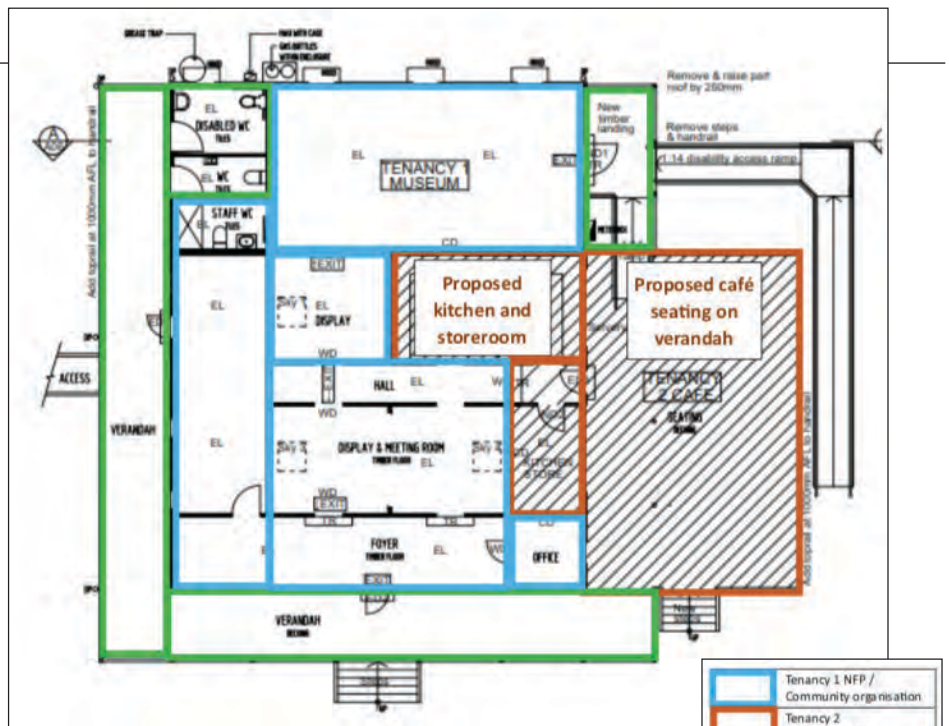
There is finally a clear path forward for Heritage House, one which has the support of both Byron Shire Council and the Bangalow Historical Society.

At its May 2024 meeting Council resolved unanimously to pursue a multipurpose lease for the building that: secures the tenancy of the Bangalow Historical Society; approves further Council investigations of a commercial lease for a café; and leaves open opportunities for other community uses of the building.

With the current lease due to expire on 30 June 2024, for the past 18 months Council (who own Heritage House) have been exploring options for its future use. The current lease will be continued on a monthly basis. It permits Heritage House to be used as a museum. But with two failed attempts at a café and with the closure of the museum during COVID uncertainty prevailed. Whilst a new committee has since breathed life back into the building, adding a coffee cart in the garden and running events like the recent Teddy Bears Picnic, the Council continued to explore new lease arrangements. Uncertainty prevailed.

The Council discussion was largely positive. Cr Asren Pugh acknowledged that both Heritage House and Piccabeen Park were being “revitalised by energy and enthusiasm, and that both are loved intensely.” Mayor Michael Lyon commended the new Heritage House committee “for taking ownership and turning finances around,” and commented that “a café can be successful and can help bring visitors to the museum.”

Two Councillors (Dey and Hunter) expressed



**Option 2 floorplan will be used as a guide towards a suitable design for the flexible use of Heritage House**

their concerns about the commercial viability of a café in that location, whether it was likely that a private business would invest up to half a million dollars on a public building to create a café which may not make a sufficient return, and whether such a private investment in a public asset would be free of expectations at the end of the commercial lease.

The tabled report from Council staff included two floor plans for a café and a museum, as well as a number of necessary renovations and upgrades related to meeting disability access and safety standards. All parties preferred Option 2 floor plan.

But Cr Pugh, who has spent time on site with the Historical Society, clearly did not want to see the outcome limited to just a cafe and museum. He added two amendments to the original staff motion that acknowledge the community’s needs and recognise that the Historical Society is still formulating its ideas about how best to redesign and use the building as a flexible multipurpose space. He argued that “Heritage House can be a community hub used for events and by community groups. We need to

welcome new ideas for the long term, like a community meeting space. I’m excited by the opportunities.”

Deputy Mayor Sarah Ndiaye also recognised that “the Heritage House group needs a bit more time to get its vision together, for example how to include local First Nations exhibition material in the museum. There is a possibility of something great that could serve the community really well. What it offers is really unique and lovely.”

After the Council meeting Trisha Bleakley, President of the Bangalow Historical Society, said “After what has been a challenging year, we now feel positive about working with Council to make Heritage House sustainable for the long term. I’m feeling relaxed and confident about the future.”

Cr Pugh made “an open offer to spend as much time with the Historical Society as needed to work out options that will work. There is space for new ideas to come forward.”

*Jenny Bird*

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The 2479 postcode sits across two local government areas – Byron Shire and Ballina Shire. Approximately 30% of the land area of 2479, to the south, sits in Ballina Shire. Newrybar, Brooklet, Fernleigh, and Knockrow are all located in either Ward B or C of Ballina Shire.

For many years now, Council Matters has been reporting solely on the activities of Byron Shire Council, a symptom of our community’s overall focus to the east and to the north. Council Matters is redressing this. Whilst it’s hard staying across two Council areas, we will do our best to report on major issues in both shires from now on.

A review of Council agendas and minutes from March and April 2024 shows no matters specific to Newrybar, Brooklet, Fernleigh, or Knockrow. From Ballina Shire Council’s point of view, 2479 communities sit at the far north of their Shire, and it does not appear that representatives from 2479 communities attend Ward B or C meetings. Are these communities on the radar?

## E-Bike Rules

In its April newsletter, Ballina Council reminds the community of the NSW Government’s rules for e-bikes – a good reminder for everyone:

- Do not ride ‘negligently, furiously or recklessly’.
- Must dismount and ‘walk your wheels’ on footpaths and crossings.
- Must keep left.
- Adjust speed to suit conditions.
- Give way to pedestrians.
- Use hand signals.
- You can ride your e-bikes on roads as long as you respect the road rules, and on wide shared paths as long as you give way to pedestrians and ride slowly. You cannot ride your e-bike on footpaths unless you are under 16 years or are supervising a child. The maximum speed for an e-bike is 25 km/h.

To find out what electric devices are/are not classified as e-bikes go to [transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/bicycle-riders/ebikes](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/bicycle-riders/ebikes)

The Northern Beaches Council in Sydney has launched an ‘E-Bike – Know the Code’ campaign from concern at the explosion of young people riding ‘fat bikes’ without helmets. Watch their video with your young people on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=Uwub02Sm594](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Uwub02Sm594)

## Byron Shire Council’s Active Transport Plan

Whilst feedback may be closed on this draft plan, if you have any interest in the rail corridor and walking and cycling around Bangalow village then it is worth taking a look at the interactive map of Bangalow village and the draft Plan. The map shows where Council is proposing new or upgraded paths, pending successful grant money. [byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Report-Requests-Feedback/Your-Say/Have-your-say-on-our-Active-Transport-Plan](http://byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/Report-Requests-Feedback/Your-Say/Have-your-say-on-our-Active-Transport-Plan)

## Alleged anti-social behaviour and crime in Bangalow

A motion was put to Council at its May meeting noting residents’ concerns about alleged anti-social behaviour and crime in Bangalow. The motion requested Police to facilitate a public meeting with Bangalow residents and relevant stakeholders to discuss their concerns and consider responses.

*Jenny Bird*



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Welcome Dr Julia Chiu Photo supplied

## Bangalow Medical Centre updates

The Bangalow Medical Centre Emergency Clinic times will now start at 8.15am instead of 9.00am. The clinic operates each morning Monday to Friday on a walk-in basis, so patients should arrive from 8.15am to have their name added to the appointment list. Additionally, the practice is now offering billable Telehealth appointments for a select list of concerns for existing patients. Please call the Bangalow Medical Centre 6687 1079 to find out more about this service.

Winter is upon us but it's not too late to book in for a flu vaccination, so please call for an appointment.

We'd also like to warmly welcome Dr Julia Chiu to the team. She is seeing new patients and has a particular interest in women's health, pregnancy shared care, Aboriginal medicine, youth health, palliative medicine, and lifestyle medicine.

*Sharon Rudgley, Practice Manager*

## Free hearing screening clinic

Hearing Australia is the largest provider of government-funded hearing services. Through the Community Service Obligations program, they are the sole provider of specialist hearing services for children, adults under 26, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over 50, and adults who require high-level specialist services.

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## A winter warmup

### Jamu - Turmeric and Ginger Tonic

#### Ingredients

- 100 grams fresh turmeric root (or 2 tablespoons turmeric powder)
- 50 grams fresh ginger root
- 2 cups of water
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 2 tablespoons honey (or to taste)
- A pinch of black pepper (optional)

#### To make

1. Wash and peel the ginger root and tumeric root (you can skip this step if using tumeric powder).
2. Slice the turmeric and ginger into thin pieces.
3. In a large pot, bring the water to a boil and turmeric root or powder and ginger.
4. Reduce the heat and let it simmer for about 10 minutes. Allow to cool.
5. Using a stick mixer or blender to combine the mixture.
6. Strain into a large bowl or jug using a fine mesh strainer.
7. Add lemon juice and honey, to your taste, stirring well to combine.
8. Store in a clean glass bottle in the fridge for up to a week. Shake before serving either warm or cold.

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### Bangalow Business Networking Breakfast

**When** Thursday 4 June, 7.30-9.00am

**Where** Woods at Bangalow

**Info** byronandbeyondnetworking.com.au

This month's speaker is Shane Robins from Mullum Mac - Apple Sales and Support. Shane is telling us all about cyber security and how to avoid those scammers that are out there to target you.

### Zentveld's Coffee Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

**When** Tuesday 4 June, 9.30-11.30am

**Where** 193 Broken Head Road, Newrybar

**Info** sales@zentvelds.com.au

The Zentveld's Biggest Morning Tea will have loads of giveaways, fabulous food, and the best coffee in town. This is an annual Community Event with monies raised for a worthy cause.

### Bangalow Garden Club

**When** Wednesday 5 June, 1.30pm

**Where** Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground

**Info** bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com  
Diana Harden 0418 288428

This month some of our members will be the speaker of the month, giving us their favourite gardening, tips and tricks and 'Pearls of Wisdom'. Come along it will be fun. New members welcome.

### Red Cross Cake Stall and Raffle

**When** Friday 7 June

**Where** In front of Bangalow Newsagency

The Red Cross is setting up a stall outside the Bangalow Newsagency with a raffle, delicious homemade cakes, jams, biscuits and more. Bangalow Red Cross is the oldest and longest-running service in Australia and appreciates the support of the local community.

### ArtsNational Lecture: Wonders of the Alhambra

**When** Monday 17 June, 6.00pm for 6.30pm start

**Where** A&I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow

**Info** ArtsNational on Facebook and Instagram

**Tickets** Non-members \$25 via  
Trybooking.com/CNJROS

'Symmetry and Patterns in Islamic Art and Design' presented by Australian lecturer, David Banney. For over 700 years the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain, has delighted and

inspired by its geometric symmetry. This lecture examines the extraordinary techniques of design and construction that lie behind the Alhambra's tessellations.

### Bangalow Community Association (BCA) General Meeting

**When** Tuesday 18 June, 6pm

**Where** Bangalow Men's Shed, off Station St carpark

**Info** 0414 959 936

All 2479 postcode dwellers are invited to attend our next BCA general meeting to discuss current Bangalow development and infrastructure matters that will benefit from constructive community feedback. An engaged and collaborative community will help to achieve significantly better outcomes for our village.

### Better Business, Thriving Community

**When** Wednesday 26 June, 4.30-7.30pm

**Where** Stone & Wood Brewery, 100 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

**Info** byronbaychamber.com

**Tickets** \$25+ b.f via events.humanitix.com/  
better-business-thriving-community

Join Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce and B Local Northern Rivers for a panel discussion with INGRAINED Foundation, Beacon Laundry, Byron Wildlife Sanctuary, and SPELL. Learn how these local enterprises successfully integrated social responsibility into their business models, and how your business can make impactful changes to enrich our community.

### CWA Cake and Produce Stall

**When** Saturday 29 June, 8am-12pm

**Where** CWA rooms, 31 Byron St, Bangalow

**Info**  
cwasecbangalow@gmail.com

There's something for everyone at CWA cake and produce stalls. Sweet, savoury, jams and pickles we have it all. Call in and pick up something just for you or something to share, school lunches or to gift to a friend. Don't miss out.



The Wonders of the Alhambra Photo Diego Allen

## Newrybar Hall Markets

**When** Wednesdays 3pm-7pm  
**Where** Newrybar Community Hall,  
 15 Old Pacific Hwy, Newrybar  
**Info** Fabia 0412 345 529 | info@  
 newrybarhall.com

A weekly Produce and eats market featuring local produce from Eltham Valley Fresh Bulk Foods, Tierra Muesli from Musellie, Northern Rivers Mushrooms, cakes and treats from Baked with Benefits, curries from Beverley Singh, burgers from Samburger, pizzas from Il Carretto Pizza, doughnuts from OMG Donuts, Bubble Tea from The Boba Lab and more. Shop Local, Support Local.

## COMING UP

### Meditation at the Men's Shed

**When** 25 July - 29 August, from 6.15pm  
**Where** Bangalow Men's Shed,  
 off Station St carpark  
**Cost** \$30 for the term

A six-week introduction course to Buddhist mindfulness meditation on a Thursday evening. Suitable for beginner and experienced meditators. Contact Anna [anna@annamckay.com.au](mailto:anna@annamckay.com.au) or [heartwoodcentre.com.au](http://heartwoodcentre.com.au) to register.

# Diary

## June 2024

	Bangalow Business Networking Breakfast
4	Zentveld's Coffee Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
5	Bangalow Garden Club
7	Red Cross Cake Stall and Raffle
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18	Bangalow Community Association (BCA) General Meeting
26	Better Business, Thriving Community
29	CWA Cake and Produce Stall

## July edition deadlines

What's On 13 June

Copy 13 June

Advertising 13 June



## Pit Stop Wrap Up

"The ground was muddy, but the sun was shining and the looks on children's faces was all worth it!," said Anna Vinfield, P&C president.

"It was another great year at Bangalow Public School's fair - the Pit Stop. Special thanks to our parent community who worked on a stall, set up a marquee, baked a cake, made a jar tombola, sold a raffle ticket and donated second hand treasures.

"And how great that In the Pink, Abracadabra, Foodworks, Yullis,

Smokey Pete, Chef in the Hood, King Catering (pizza) and Shoyza Goyza and our performers The Gumboots, Spaghetti Circus, CAPE performing arts and The Cassettes who donated their time, product or a percentage of profits. Much appreciated.

"We are still doing the final count on fundraising efforts, but importantly the day was about friend-raising and community. And I think that certainly shone through."

I have just done a quick trip to a busy, grey city and have realised that it is imperative that we display as much colour, creativity, and acceptance of flamboyance as we can. It was so very glum and dreary. Very sophisticated but oh so dull. I longed for splashes of colour, outrageous style. Coincidentally, the fashion industry has finally recognised the kaftan as great to wear (bless). This is great news. Is this an end to the tyranny of the stick insect model and that those poor creatures will now be able to eat more than a single lettuce leaf? Does this signal that it's game over for slender young girls selling anti-aging creams and tighty-tight so-called 'mum jeans'? Please say yes.

The acceptance of vibrant, comfortable clothing may be one of the few glimmers of light in a world drenched in out-of-control, rabid social media, and horrid, alarming news.

Which brings me to kaftans. My daughter and I were strolling along the shops when we passed a place selling kaftans. We were immediately attracted by the rainbow glitter and dazzling selection of colours. Huzzah! we thought, perfect for the quirky and ever-accepting Northern Rivers, and very suitable in a humid climate. We nearly fainted at the cost. These kaftans were pricey! Then we saw the sale rack and quickly scuttled over. We do love a sale rack. Well, excuse me while I larf. Their version of a sale and mine were hundreds and hundreds of dollars apart. We sidled our low-brow, shabby, cheap no-good butts out of there.

Our commitment to colour and comfort remained. We know women, men, and non-specific gender people of all ages who favour the brightly-coloured-verging-on-outrageous kaftan, and I must say, they look utterly fabulous. Comfy AND glamorous. That's more like it.

So where will you shop for your kaftans and quirky clothing and not go broke or feel shamed in an expensive shop? Fear not, fellow seeker of a reasonably priced kaftan—op shops, markets, and good old FB marketplace are places to shop inexpensively, and not contribute to the HUGE amount of clothing waste. Here you can display that perfect combo of virtue, thrift, and style.

Note well that despite the darkness at the edges, the Interweb can be used for good as well as evil. If that means unleashing a wave

# Skylarking



Cause a kerfuffle in your kaftan Photo supplied

of people dressed comfortably in vibrant, glamorous, glittering colours into a grey old world, why then, let's go. Nothing to lose! Smiles, laughter, and acceptance all around.

I am convinced we need more laughter, joy, and delight. Recently I saw a sign at a swimming pool that said: 'No Skylarking!' What an instruction. As if we all long to sit

primly on our chairs and be obedient. Hell no! That kind of talk only brings out the brat in us. My thinking is this: pop on your brightest kaftan (you will be on trend, remember) and start skylarking immediately.

**Dr Airdre Grant**