

The Bangalow

HERALD

2479

Weather with you
All about Alfred

Aurora Quinn
Bluesfest debut

Hot chicks
Raising chooks



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You know you can count on me to deliver for you.

VOTE JUSTINE ELLIOT

Authorised J Elliot, ALP,
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From the Editor

You may have noticed something a little different about *The Bangalow Herald* this month. With this issue, we unveil a fresh new design that we hope is clear and vibrant, while staying true to the values that make this publication a valued part of the community.

Working closely with our talented graphic designer, Gaby Borgardts (profiled on page 8), we've reimagined the visual identity of the magazine to better reflect today's 2479. From subtle shifts in layout to a cleaner aesthetic, the update is about more than just looks - it's about clarity, accessibility, and honouring the stories we tell.

What hasn't changed is our commitment to storytelling. In these pages, you'll still find pieces that explore pressing local issues, stories that preserve and celebrate our shared history, and articles that showcase the creative, passionate individuals who make this region so special.

We take a close look at how ex-cyclone Alfred impacted farmers and residents, and how alternative power sources stepped into the spotlight when the power went out. The history of some of the town's oldest buildings is revealed this month. We've also got some cracking tips for you on the pros and cons of backyard poultry. Plus read about one high school musician's dream come true – debuting at Bluesfest. And a whole lot more.

This magazine wouldn't exist without the time, energy and creativity of our incredible team of volunteers. Writers, photographers, proofreaders, deliverers, and contributors - you are the beating heart of the *Herald*. My sincere thanks also to the members of the management committee, whose steady support ensures we keep publishing with purpose.

Thanks also go to you for reading each month.

If you have a story idea, community event or local news to share, please email me at editor@bangalowherald.com.au, or connect with us on Facebook at facebook.com/thebangalowherald

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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Printed by Lismore City Printery

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

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Roseberry Growers, a regular at Bangalow Farmers' Market, sustained significant damage on their organic farm Photos Julia Bolam

Alfred – the environmental damage

The ex-cyclone had us all hunkered down in our houses for long days and nights in March. Many of us were 'inconvenienced' for days on end - losing power, internet connection, frozen food, and possibly experiencing some damage around the garden. But pause for a moment to consider its effect on the people who grow the food we eat, and those who care for our local environment. **Christobel Munson** checked out how the storm impacted some local farmers and environmentalists.

The Bangalow Farmers Markets manager, Kylie McGregor, pointed out that four or five regular stallholders have been unable to sell their produce since the storms, their farms having been devastated.

"While we are happy to see the back of Cyclone Alfred, his effects are still being felt by our community and farmers. Our hearts go

out to those hit hard, including some of our farmers who have had crops wiped out and valuable topsoil washed away.

"Stock supplies might be down on some stalls (and overflowing on others), or some produce might look a little bruised and battered under the conditions. However, our stalls will never be empty like the supermarkets and will be replenished with locally grown and made food every week. Now more than ever is the time to get behind our farmers and support those who do have produce to sell.

"Our food and drink stalls have also taken a loss with markets being cancelled. So, if you don't ordinarily stop for breakfast at the market, please take the time to grab a bite to eat and drink.

"We are incredibly grateful for your support throughout the year, but particularly in times like this. And it's what sets our farmers' markets and community apart—as well as providing a reliable food source, the markets are also a hub for our community (both stallholders and patrons) to come together, to regroup and to be thankful for what we do have."

Julia Bolam and Taylor Jamieson have an organic farm outside Kyogle called Roseberry Growers. Taylor grows vegetables, and Julia sells her flowers at the Bangalow Farmers Markets.

"Alfred was pretty bad for our little organic farm," Julia said. "My husband and I grow vegetables and flowers. We grow next to a creek which is in the Upper Richmond catchment and the Thursday/Friday rain blanketed the catchment for our creek. It isn't a big creek, and it was just too much for it to handle.

"The creek broke the banks and caused a flash flood/flash river to travel through about 60% of our market garden - but it was the 60% that we had most of our crops in. The water was super powerful. It crushed two caterpillar tunnels. It also took a lot of topsoil and all the crops that were in that area.

"The topsoil loss is the worst part, as we had been working on the soil for years and it had started growing some really amazing vegetables.

"This means we basically have to start again crop wise, so we will likely miss five to seven



Fertile top soil and new plantings before the storm



Tunnels were inundated and destroyed by flash-flooding

weeks' worth of farmers markets, but then we will be back, initially with fast growing crops only. It is a real bummer, but we are just looking forward to getting back on track now."

From farmers to those restoring our Big Scrub rainforest, Mark Dunphy, President of the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy, added: "After Cyclone Alfred, we noticed that individual trees are far more likely to have fallen, while not much damage was observed to trees within a forest structure. A high number of the trees that went down were eucalypts or exotics such as jacarandas and poincianas.

It highlights the value of promoting appropriate riparian and habitat restoration work that restores the original ecological communities of the site – for the Big Scrub footprint, planting rainforest species to areas that were previously rainforest will ensure more resilience to the weather extremes these plant communities have evolved to withstand."

Along Byron Creek, Noelene Plummer of Bangalow Land and Rivercare observed: "We have had a look at most of our plantings and they appear to have escaped any major losses. There have been trees and branches down and some sites, like the All Souls' creek walk, are muddy under foot."

But the team was happy to take part in a planting session at Twin Creeks community in Fowlers Lane in the weeks following.



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Country roads

Farm manager and sometime *Herald* cover star **Dave Eastwell** shares his perspective of life on the land during, and after, a severe weather event.

Many farmers do a lot of the initial tree clearing off roads for access, as they are equipped with chainsaws and tractors. This mostly goes unnoticed but is worthy of mention. We were very fortunate to avoid the major flooding that was forecast, and wind damage was minimal. However, I have plenty of issues around extended power and internet outages that created the most significant problems for rural households in the area.

As the topic of most conversations seemed to revolve around the impact and aftermath of ex-cyclone Alfred, I was interested to hear many different stories about people dealing with the outages. The rural area around Bangalow seemed to be the most affected, with many homes seven to eight days without. And some were still experiencing interruptions beyond the two-week mark.

As the rural surrounds are understandably a lower priority than the populated towns and villages, we are also at higher risk of outages and road closures due to unmanaged roadside vegetation and compromised power line routes. However, I feel the impact per household can be greater with unexpected outages if the rural house can't even access water because their pumps rely on electricity.

I would be surprised if there wasn't some interest in community consultation with council, energy suppliers and other relevant trades to advise rural households on how to 'power-proof' their properties, including hard-wired generator inputs, battery back-up and off-grid systems.

We are fortunate to be off-grid completely, with a generator for back-up, but our system is sufficient that we have only used the generator four times in six years. I only mention this because these 'events' provoke conversations I have had around alternatives to mainstream power reliance.

Powering through Cyclone Alfred

Anibal Zarate lived so well thanks to his home battery and solar set up during Tropical Cyclone Alfred that even his sceptical neighbours have been convinced it's the way of the future.

The storm plunged more than 450,000 homes into darkness across Queensland and northern New South Wales, with the town of Bangalow, where Zarate lives, among the first to lose power last Wednesday.

"It's funny how people feel lost without power. It's dark, you need candles, you can't do anything," he says. "Just to have a light on is comforting. Just having milk that hasn't turned to cheese is good."

Bangalow is no stranger to power outages. A larger-than-average storm is enough to send the power offline in the town that sits at the gateway to the Byron Bay hinterland and the infamously bad mobile phone coverage makes communications difficult.

Zarate says he initially set up his solar array to be free of these problems. Since moving in, he has installed two 4 kilowatt (kW) solar arrays and two months ago added a 19.2 kilowatt-hour (kWh) modular battery by Sungrow.

When the cyclone formed and began its meandering path towards south-east Queensland, many turned to their electric car and the vehicle-to-load feature – a capability of BYD, MG and other models but not shared by Tesla – to act as an emergency generator.

Much bigger than most home batteries, batteries on wheels can provide enough power to run a fridge and smaller appliances for up to a week.

As the cyclone approached Zarate says there was some question about whether his home solar and storage system would be equipped to handle the demand from his family of five, but this proved not to be an issue.




Foster carers urgently needed

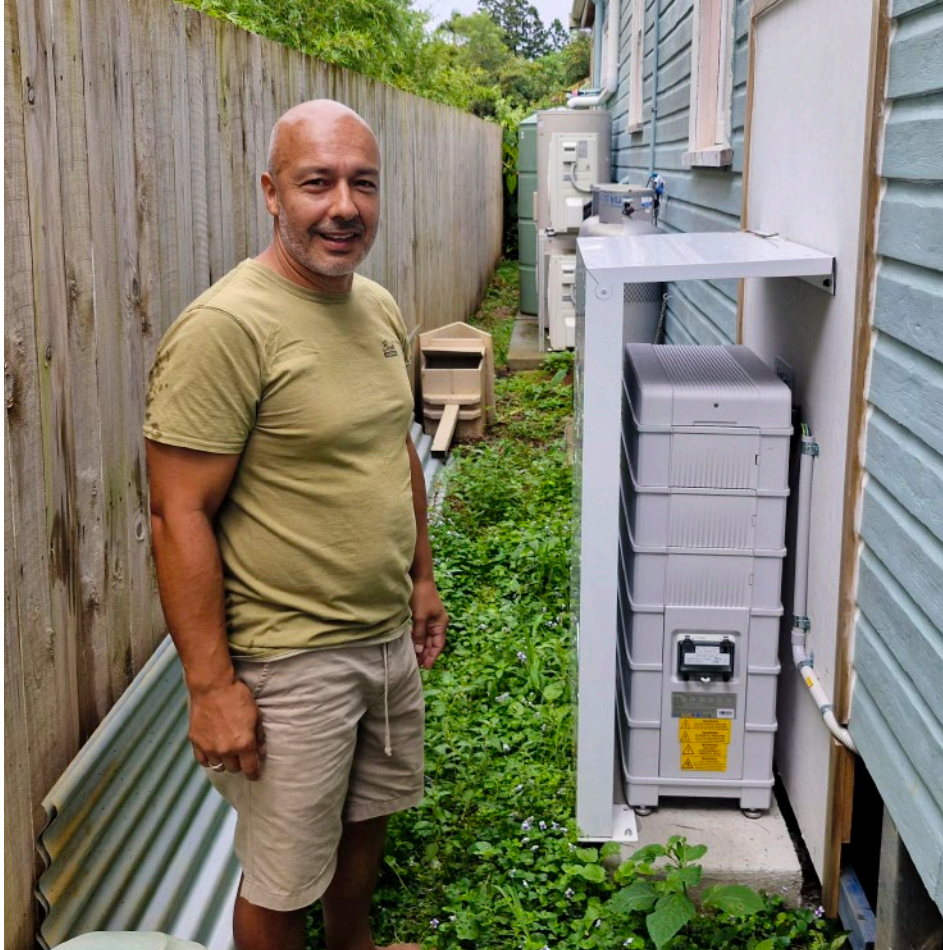


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A modular battery and solar combo paid off for Bangalow's Anibal Zarate during the power outages
Photo Royce Kurlmelovs

The system was robust enough that he was even able to help out neighbours.

Zarate says he slung a cable over his neighbour's fence so they could keep their fridge running, and set up a bar fridge on his front porch for neighbours across the street to store milk and essentials.

He says helping each other in times of crisis is a natural part of life in the area – other people shared portable generators and Zarate says he offered neighbours who required power to manage health issues the opportunity to draw on his system if they needed.

The experience has taught some of his neighbours who initially balked at the cost of investing in solar and battery storage to investigate options for themselves.

"I've had a couple of neighbours say they're looking at it themselves, getting quotes," he says.

"For us, it was quite an expensive set up, there's no question, but we would do it over again. The cyclone confirmed we made the right decision for us."

Royce Kurlmelovs

This article was originally published as "100 pct useful:" How solar and battery helped one family – and neighbours – power through Cyclone Alfred' in Renew Economy reneweconomy.com.au

"We had uninterrupted power through the whole weekend, so it's big enough to power
"We had uninterrupted power through the whole weekend, so it's big enough to power us overnight and during the day.

"Despite the fact we had cloudy weather, the solar was enough to feed the house and charge the battery," he says.

"And if you don't have a battery, you can't use your solar. People put solar on the roof

thinking you can power through things, but once the grid cuts out, you don't have access anymore. It completes the system so it becomes 100% useful.

"If we had lost power, for us, it's not the end of the world, but it's all the little things you normally take for granted. We can do a bit of cooking, the refrigeration doesn't go out, so things don't spoil – we don't miss a heartbeat."



Despite the fact we had cloudy weather, the solar was enough to feed the house and charge the battery

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Do you want to know what consultations are open, how to get involved and provide feedback? Or perhaps you want to learn about Council projects and where they are happening.

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More information

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**BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

Meet the team: Gaby Borgardts



Each month, we find out a bit about the people who make *The Herald* happen.

Describe your role at *The Bangalow Herald* in a single sentence:

Graphic designer, creating the layout of the entire magazine as well as developing the new masthead and refreshed design.

What is (or was) your 'day job'?

I'm a self-employed graphic designer and product photographer. I've worked with Temple of the Sun Jewellery since the business began, and I also do occasional design work for Byron Shire Council and other clients.

What career would you have chosen in another lifetime?

Honestly, I think I would've chosen exactly the same path.

Who or what inspires you?

Minimalist and "out of the box" design and art always inspire me.

What motivates you to work with a community publication?

It's a lovely team - and it's work I genuinely love doing.

What's one local spot or event you think everyone should experience at least once?

The lighthouse walk - its beauty blows me away every time.

If your day today had a theme song, what would it be?

Into the Mystic by Van Morrison.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?

Always be kind - you never know what the other person is going through.

What's one skill, talent or achievement that most people don't know you have?

I'm also a singer and guitarist, and I've just started a trio called 3GEES. Watch this space for news of our future gigs.



Aurora Quinn is ready to shine at Bluesfest
Photo Lyn McCarthy Niche Pictures



Ewingsdale Koala Tree Planting

Wed 9th April 2025

Time 9.00am start

Where Ewingsdale - 1000 trees

RSVP Bookings are essential, email to book your spot today at:

president@bangalowkoalas.com.au

Coraki Koala Tree Planting

Wed 23rd April 2025

Time 10.00am start

Where Coraki - 1000 trees

RSVP Bookings are essential, email to book your spot today at:

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Landholder & Koala Health Workshop

Bangalow Koalas is running a Landholder & Koala Health Workshop for interested landholders in the Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shires.

- Interested in joining our wildlife corridor
- Planting koala food trees and other native species
- How to distinguish between a sick and healthy koala

Date – Sat 12th April 2024 - 12 noon - 2.00pm

Where – Bangalow

RSVP – Bookings are essential with limited spaces. So book your spot today by emailing president@bangalowkoalas.com.au

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Aurora Quinn lights up Bluesfest

For as long as she can remember, Heidi Keller's life has been filled with music. Growing up in a family where music filled the home, it seems inevitable that she would find her own voice. "We always listened to a wide variety of music, but I especially remember Skinny Genes by Eliza Doolittle. It used to wake me up in the car as a baby, much to my parents annoyance if they were trying to get me to stay asleep!"

Her musical journey began at Bangalow Public School, where she participated in school musicals and took piano lessons with her teacher, Dan, through the Music in Schools program.

"I was always pretty confident performing," she recalls. "I did my first live singing performance solo at a music in schools showcase with many other Bangalow students, before being asked to play at assembly and the teachers were always supportive of my ambitions from there onwards."

Her passion continued to grow through high school, and an unexpected win at Byron High's Battle of the Bands became a turning point.

"I just thought the prize was to play within your school. I was waiting for them to announce the winner—it was down to me and a band called No Commitment. Then they said the winner gets to perform at Bluesfest, and then they said my name. It was a double shock. Now it kind of feels like a bit of a daydream."

With influences like Pink and fellow local musician Yorke (Grace Hughes), Heidi's music falls under the independent pop umbrella, home to many strong female singer-songwriters. She began writing her own songs at nine, drawing inspiration from personal experiences and even the books she reads.

This year, she's stepping onto the Bluesfest stage not as a fan, but as an artist. Having attended the festival with her family in the past and admired acts like Melody Angel and All Our Exes Live in Texas, she now finds herself among the performers. She's especially excited for the return of Melody Angel and to see local talent Tones and I.

"I would love to support Gracie Abrams or Yorke on tour. Supporting Madilyn Mei or Clairo would also be really fun! These are all artists I really look up to."

Yorke, in particular, has played a significant role in Heidi's musical journey. "When I was four, my mum played me her song after hearing it on the radio. She told me that one day, perhaps I would be like her. Fast forward to when I was 11, I got to meet her, and now she's my friend and mentor. Her writing style has really influenced my own, and she has taught me a lot of what I know."

Embracing a stage name that embodied Heidi's musical style was the next step in her transformation from talented youngster to rising star. "My mum considered the name Aurora for me when I was a baby, before

going with Heidi," she says. The word means 'dawn' in Latin and is used to describe a captivating display of natural lights in our atmosphere. "Aurora feels like a powerful name, yet also beautiful—that's the feeling I want people to get from my music." The surname Quinn was inspired by a character in Heartbreak High, whose energy and style have influenced Heidi's stage presence. And with that, Aurora Quinn was born.

At Bluesfest, Aurora Quinn will be part of the High School Showcase, performing a 10-minute set alongside other talented students. It's a milestone Heidi doesn't take for granted.

"I would really like to thank my teachers, especially Mr Black, Mr Baker, and Ms Museth from the CAPAL department at school, for providing this amazing opportunity that has made my dream of playing Bluesfest a reality."

With her first major festival performance just around the corner, Heidi is stepping into the future with confidence, ready to shine.

Catch Aurora Quinn in the 'Local area High School Showcase' at Bluesfest, Saturday 19 April, 11.30am to 12.30pm

Sally Schofield

“

...they said the winner gets to perform at Bluesfest, and then they said my name. It was a double shock.



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Butler St Reserve

REAL FARMERS, REAL FOOD



BANGALOW
Saturdays 7-11am
Piccabeen Park



Yeah the girls!

With supermarket egg prices hitting record highs, getting a few chooks seems like the perfect solution. Or is it? **Marin Simpson** told **Sally Schofield** some hard-boiled truths about keeping backyard chooks.

I bet you can already picture it: a quaint coop, a few feathered friends, and an endless supply of golden-yolked eggs for your Sunday morning sourdough.

But not so fast. There's a bit more to keeping poultry than purchasing a few pullets.

First, you'll be needing a coop. One that will protect your flock from foxes, snakes, your dogs, the neighbours' dogs, wild dogs, and the list goes on. The cute coop you saw on Insta is not going to cut it when it comes to housing your feathered investment.

Yes, chickens love to free-range, but consider

your edible garden bed. Those delicate heirloom seedlings, lovingly planted in your new veggie patch? Your chickens will scratch, peck, and dig with zero regard for what you've just planted.

Of course, a chicken tractor or such will be the ultimate solution for this problem, allowing you to reposition the birds and make use of their poo as you cycle their enclosure around your garden.

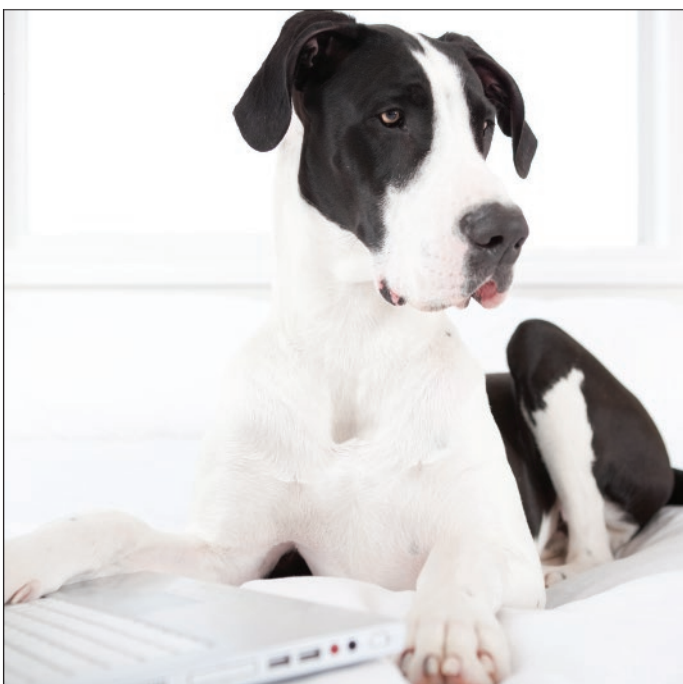
The next step is deciding what type of birds you're going to keep. Here's is where research and expert advice is essential (a good thing the Bangalow Poultry Club auction is coming up this month – see What's On for more details).

Marin Simpson, a backyard chook enthusiast from Eureka, adores her diverse flock. "We started off with just your garden variety Rhode Island Reds and Leghorns, but then we decided to get some heritage chooks -

Plymouth Rocks, Sussex, Wyandottes, and the buffest of the Buff Orpingtons. At the moment, we have around 25 chooks, including nine chicks. Warning: the peril of having a rooster is having more roosters!"

For Marin, who once raised chickens in an inner-city Brisbane backyard, it's about much more than just the eggs (though she admits "that is definitely a bonus... especially when you see them in the shops for \$10 or more a dozen!").

There's something deeply satisfying, says Marin, about watching your girls potter about, gossiping in their little chicky way. "I love the way they spend their days just pecking around, digging in the earth looking for worms and bugs, scratching around for whatever they can find to eat. Watching the pecking order play out is fascinating—who's in, who's out—and then the way the rooster plays his part protecting the flock... and the drama of it all."



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Fine feathered friends Photo supplied

As anyone who has a few feathered friends will tell you, chooks have their own personalities. Every flock has a bossy one, a henpecked one, a curious one, and at least one slightly unhinged escape artist.

If you spend enough time with your flock, you may even find a favourite hen or two. "We don't name all of our chooks, but the ones that we do name are because they're special in some way," Marin says.

Take Apricot, for example. "She was part of a clutch of around eight eggs that one of our hens was sitting on to hatch. When only four of the eggs hatched, the mother hen abandoned the others and happily wandered off with her new chicks. By the afternoon, the remaining eggs were cold in the nest. As I was discarding them into nearby bushes, I heard a little cheep cheep coming from inside one of them."

Her then-seven-year-old daughter, Peach,

stepped in. "Peach took the chick inside, put a heat lamp on her, and raised her into a magnificent Buff Orpington hen called Apricot, who is now a family pet with free rein of the house (with boundaries!). She waits for my daughter at the front door every morning."

Keeping chooks is more work than you'd imagine. It's sometimes heartbreaking, frequently delightful, but ultimately rewarding in dozens of ways.

In the chook business, it's a rookie error to assume hens will be laying from day one, or even every day. Pullets take around six months to start laying. And the birds can be temperamental too—too hot, too cold, too stressed, or just feeling a bit off? No eggs for you.

If you're keen, the key is preparation. "Regardless of where you live, you need to get their living arrangements well sorted—cozy,



Apricot making herself at home Photo supplied

dry, private nesting boxes, a perch to roost on, and snake-proofing," Marin advises. "If you raise them from chicks or pullets with lots of handling, they are more likely to be receptive to being picked up and patted—all the kids love that! And, of course, the feedback loop (getting a few eggs a day) is a bonus."

“

I love the way they spend their days just pecking around, digging in the earth looking for worms and bugs, scratching around for whatever they can find to eat.

TAMARA SMITH MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

THE GREENS

TAKING ACTION FOR OUR COMMUNITY

02 6686 7522 tamarasmith.org.au ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au Tamara Smith MP

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

Advocating for agriculture

With a history dating back over 60 years, *The Land Sydney Royal AgShows Young Woman* competition celebrates the community spirit and leadership of young women in rural and regional NSW. *The Bangalow Herald* caught up with Summer Chaselng, Bangalow's Young Woman of the Year, is an ambassador for all things agriculture and regional living.

You were named Young Woman at the Bangalow Show in 2024. Tell us a bit about where that has taken you since.

I have just won at Zone alongside Phoebe Southwell (Kempsey Young Woman). We will represent Zone 1 at the Sydney Royal Show 2025 in The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman competition.

What or who inspired you to enter the Young Woman competition?

My passion for agriculture is the driving force behind entering the Young Woman of the Show competition. Seeing friends go through this experience and hearing about their incredible journeys encouraged me to give it a go. For me, this competition is about more than just personal growth—it's an opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and help raise awareness of the agricultural sector.



Summer Chaselng at the 2024 Bangalow Show Photo Lyn McCarthy Niche Pictures



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Experience, Expertise, Integrity

As you progress through the competition, what has been the most rewarding experience so far?

The most rewarding part of this journey has been the opportunity to connect with such a diverse range of people. From my fellow competitors to the judges, sponsors and supporters, this experience has opened doors to invaluable networking opportunities within the industry. Building these relationships and engaging in meaningful conversations about agriculture has been a highlight of my experience so far.

The competition celebrates the leadership and community involvement of young rural women. Can you share an example of the ways you demonstrate these qualities?

Giving back to the community is something I believe in deeply, no matter where I am in the world.

In 2014, my family lived on a boat, travelling through Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia, where we supported local schools by donating much-needed supplies.

In 2022, alongside my father, I assisted in the Lismore flood evacuation and clean-up, witnessing firsthand the strength and resilience of the Northern Rivers community.

I've been a long-time member of Summerland Dressage Club and Brunswick Valley Pony Club, always keen to lend a hand where needed.

Currently, I'm in Canberra, participating in March On, a charity walk supporting Australian veterans by symbolising the distance of the Kokoda Trail. By walking, we raise funds and awareness for our brave heroes' mental health.

I hope to continue contributing to more community initiatives throughout the year. To me, leadership in this industry means being

a role model—encouraging young people to support their communities and inspiring the next generation to step up in times of need. In a rapidly changing world, fostering leadership in young people is more important than ever.

What is one message or cause you are passionate about, and how does/will the Young Woman title allow you to raise awareness or create change?

I am incredibly passionate about creating pathways into agriculture for young people. Growing up in Byron Bay, without direct ties to a farm, I had to navigate my way into the industry on my own. Thankfully, I had an inspiring agricultural teacher in high school who encouraged me to chase my dream and study AgBusiness.

So, I took a leap—moving to the University of New England without knowing a soul, driven purely by my passion for agriculture. That decision changed my life. I spent three incredible years learning about the industry, met my wonderful fiancé, and built friendships that now span across Australia and the world.

Through this competition, I hope to share my story and inspire other young people—especially those without traditional farm backgrounds—to step outside their comfort zones, explore opportunities in agriculture and pursue their passion with confidence.

What is one skill you have gained through being part of this event, and how can you see this experience shaping your future goals and aspirations?

Through this competition, both at the local and zone levels, I have truly come to appreciate the power of storytelling and advocacy. Being able to share my experiences and engage with industry leaders has reinforced my belief in the importance of

effective communication in agriculture.

This experience has given me the confidence to continue using my voice to promote careers in agriculture, highlight the diversity of our industry and inspire the next generation. Moving forward, I hope to build on these skills and further contribute to the future of Australian agriculture.

Wishing Summer all the best for the Sydney Royal Show.

The Bangalow Herald



Through this competition, I hope to share my story and inspire other young people—especially those without traditional farm backgrounds—to step outside their comfort zones, explore opportunities in agriculture and pursue their passion with confidence.

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Bring on the BillyCarts Photo Lyn McCarthy Niche Pictures

Bangalow Historical Society AGM: Shaping the Future of Local History

The Bangalow Historical Society will hold its **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, 3 May, at 2pm** at the Bangalow Historical House & Museum.

AGMs are a vital part of any community organisation, providing an opportunity for members to have a say in decision-making, hear about past achievements and contribute to shaping future projects. The Bangalow Historical Society plays an important role in preserving and sharing the town's history, making this an essential gathering for anyone interested in Bangalow's heritage.

Following the formal proceedings, attendees can enjoy engaging talks that highlight the Society's ongoing work. Team Piccabeen will lead a tour of their plantings throughout the park, offering insight into their conservation efforts. The Society's research team will also be on hand to discuss family history and other research services available to the community.

To find out more, contact Trisha Bleakley
bangalowhistorical2479@gmail.com

Get Ready for the 2025 Bangalow BillyCart Derby

One of Bangalow's biggest community events, the **Bangalow BillyCart Derby**, returns on **Sunday, 18 May, from 9am to 3pm** on Byron Street. Hosted by the Bangalow Lions Club, this much-loved tradition brings together locals and visitors for a day of old-fashioned fun, friendly competition and village spirit.

With race categories for all ages—from tiny tots to seasoned pros—now is the time to save the date and start building your billycart. Whether you're racing, cheering or just soaking up the atmosphere, the day promises plenty of excitement. The Bangalow Public School P&C's Pit Stop Festival will also be in full swing, adding to the festivities.

The success of the Derby relies on community support, and the Bangalow Lions Club is seeking volunteers to help make the day run smoothly.

To find out more, visit bangalowbillycart.com.au

Festival of the Stone 2025: A Night of Music, Community and Giving Back

Winter is set to heat up in Byron Bay as **Stone & Wood's Festival of the Stone** returns on **Saturday 14 June**, bringing an electrifying line-up of homegrown talent and a strong community focus. This year's festival will feature Old Mervs, Josh Pyke, The Belair Lip Bombs, dust, FELONY. and strayfold, setting the stage for an unforgettable night of live music, craft beer and good times. And, of course, no Festival of the Stone would be complete without the annual unveiling of Stone & Wood's latest batch of Stone Beer, brewed especially for the occasion.

More than just a celebration, the festival proudly supports Byron's Fletcher Street Cottage, a vital service providing assistance to those experiencing homelessness. With the Byron Shire now holding the highest rate of rough sleepers in NSW—surpassing even the City of Sydney—this event plays an important role in raising funds and awareness for the local community.

Early release tickets are on sale now stoneandwood.com.au

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Arts and About

'A tapestry of blood and bone' by local artist Ellen Ferrier

This is the first solo exhibition for Ellen Ferrier, a multidisciplinary installation artist, based in the Byron Bay hinterlands. Her practice focuses on the exploration and creation of regenerative materials, drawing on a diverse range of processes from pre-industrial to bio-technological. She experiments with materials like invasive weeds, reclaimed copper, fallen timber and more. Through this, she creates large-scale multi-sensory installations. Until 26 April, Wednesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Lone Goat Gallery, 28 Lawson St, Byron Bay
Admission free

lonegoatgallery.com/exhibitions/a-tapestry-of-blood-and-bone



Ellen Ferrier, Bridge between worlds, 2025
Photo James Wright

First Nations Music Program

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium is launching its First Nations Music Program, led by acclaimed Bundjalung artist Blake Rhodes. This program is designed to provide First Nations artists with a dedicated platform to share their rich cultural heritage, stories, and music with the broader community. The program will include workshops in music production, songwriting, and storytelling, with a special three-day launch event for First Nation youth aged 14–21. Commencing in April.

Northern Rivers Conservatorium
152 Keen Street, Lismore
firstnations@nrcac.edu.au
(02) 6621 2266

Tiny Beautiful Things

Bangalow Theatre Company presents *Tiny Beautiful Things*, a heartwarming and moving play based on the best-selling novel written by Cheryl Strayed. Directed by Bangalow local Anouska Gammon, this production also celebrates 10 years of theatre making in the region by the award-winning Bangalow Theatre Company. With a commitment to showcasing powerful storytelling, BTC has built a reputation for bringing intimate, emotionally charged theatre to the Northern Rivers community. The season runs from 4-12 April with various sessions times.

Drill Hall Theatre
4 Jubilee Avenue, Mullumbimby
Tickets from \$40
bangalowtheatre.com.au

Byron Clay Workers Gallery exhibition opening

The Byron Clay Workers Gallery's next exhibition introduces works by Samantha Robinson, Jenn Johnston, Amber Roberts, Carly Pascoe, Gyan Daniel Wall and Miriam Salomón in an expanded, air-conditioned floor space. New work by previous exhibitors will be included. Ceramic sculpture and tableware for sale. Food, coffee carts, refreshments and bar on site. Official opening at 2pm with a lucky door prize. Saturday 12 April from 10am - 4pm.

Byron Clay Workers Gallery
114 Stewarts Road, Clunes

Admission free

Contact John Stewart
info@johnstewartceramics.com.au
0406 404 335



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Bangalow House today Photo Christobel Munson



Bangalow House as it was Photo Bangalow Historical Society

Our Earliest Buildings

Bangalow Historical Society has two researchers on call, available to respond to enquiries from the community about the buildings they live in or those seen around the village. Fiona Smith is one of them. As part of an assignment towards her Master of History, majoring in Public History and Cultural Heritage at UNE, Fiona delved into the architectural styles of some of the town's most prominent buildings.

We pass them every day but rarely give them a second glance, yet each of these buildings emerged to fulfil a specific community need—religious or secular. Their architectural styles vary according to the original purpose of the building. Some have changed function,

but all have been shaped by their design.

The town was first settled in 1881, and over the following decades, many businesses and community amenities were established. A school was built in 1884; the Granuaille Hotel in 1898. The first church, St Kevin's, opened in 1894, followed by a bank in 1903, a hospital in 1908 and a courthouse in 1909. By 1912, Bangalow had four churches and three banks. Commercial buildings lined what would become Byron Street, housing drapers, watchmakers, general merchants, photographers, builders, clothing and footwear shops, picture-framers and undertakers.

Not all survived. The lower areas of town—Deacon, Station and Ashton Streets, and the lower end of Byron Street—were prone to flooding. Photographs filed at Heritage House show substantial floods in 1913, 1926, 1930 and 1949. Fire also left its mark in 1907 and 1939, with the hotel and six business premises destroyed. Other early wooden structures were lost to storms and tornadoes, such as those that devastated the town in 1915 and 1940.

But we have survivors. Fiona's study covers the architectural styles, construction materials and historical significance of eight buildings you see every day. This edition, we look at three of those buildings.



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St Kevin's Church today
Photo Christobel Munson



St Kevin's Church as it was
Photo Bangalow Historical Society



Bangalow Hotel today
Photo Christobel Munson



Bangalow Hotel as it was
Photo Bangalow Historical Society

Bangalow House

Location 32–34 Byron Street, Bangalow

General purpose Residence and bank

Current function Retail and café

Date of construction 1900–1903

Style Federation Bangalow

Description A timber-framed, weather-board-clad, single-storey building with a hipped gable roof, plain brick chimney, symmetrical bays, Federation detailing, a portico entrance, a cedar door, verandah space, French doors, concrete steps, a rendered concrete base, and filigree ironwork railings.

Originally a four-room family residence built in the late 1880s for Robert Campbell, one of Bangalow's earliest settlers, it is one of the oldest surviving buildings in town. In 1903, an addition was built to accommodate the English, Scottish and Australian (ES&A) Bank, the town's first bank. It later became the family home of the Draper family, who ran an auctioneering business. Today, the building houses a collection of businesses.

St Kevin's Church

Location 1 Deacon Street, Bangalow

Current function Catholic Church

Date of construction 1935

Style Romanesque

Description A red brick building with symmetrical construction, massive walls, a semi-circular entrance, recessed windows, six large columns, round-headed windows, ornamental gable ends, and a Marseille-pattern terra cotta tile roof.

The original St Kevin's was built in 1894 on Lismore Road and moved to its current location in 1908. A new building was constructed for £8,200 on what was originally the cemetery. It was used as a convent school from 1914 until its closure in 1973. The church remains in use today.

Bangalow Hotel

Location 1 Byron Street, Bangalow

General purpose Hotel and accommodation

Current function Hotel and restaurant

Date of construction 1940

Style Simplified Colonial Revival, Inter-War Functionalist, Art Deco

Description A two-storey building made of cream bricks, with a brown tiled hipped gable roof, plain brick chimney, enclosed brick verandah, cantilevered awning, light green tiles, timber doors with glass panels, and modern extensions.

The original two-storey timber pub, built in 1891, was destroyed by fire in 1939. Originally named the Byron Hotel, it was renamed the Bangalow Hotel in 1996. Over the years, several additions have been made.

To learn more about any of these buildings, make an appointment to speak with one of the Historical Society's research team.

Christobel Munson

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Hollie Azzopardi, a woman of many talents Photo Shannon Kelly

Best-selling author, writer, model, mother and Bangalow Theatre Company member **Hollie Azzopardi** shares this exclusive extract from her new book *The People Pleaser's Guide to Saying Yes to You* with **The Bangalow Herald**.

I was 18 months postpartum when I found myself scrolling social media on the hunt for local drama classes. I hadn't stepped foot in an acting class in more than 15 years, and yet somehow the emptiness I felt in postpartum had led me back to seeking pieces of me I once clung to for joy and light. I didn't feel like myself anymore, because I wasn't who I used to be. I had been through the most intense initiation of my life – I was still unravelling it, in fact – and yet, at this stage I started desiring 'more'. I was seeking

joy. Something that was 'mine', outside of being the mother or the business owner. Something that got me out of the house, that had me around people and energy that felt inspiring and fun and new, and something that I had been yearning for years and years and years.

I was stopped in my tracks when I found an advertisement for a local theatre company sharing that they were taking applications for auditions for their next play. I clicked in and out of that page countless times before

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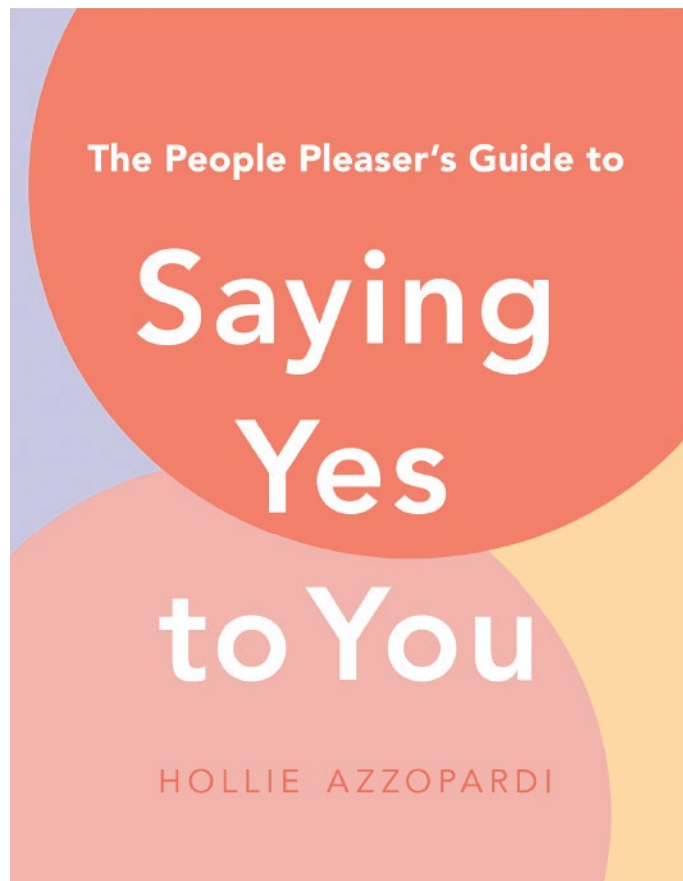
holding my breath, filling out the application, and hitting 'send'. It felt stretchy of me to even consider auditioning for something when I hadn't been on stage since my Year 12 musical (I was Marty in *Grease*, thank you very much). I didn't know of anyone up here who was part of the theatre company. And I had very little experience and was a new mother who had lost all idea of who she was. Surely I wouldn't get an audition.

When the email landed in my inbox inviting me to audition that weekend, I felt equal parts ecstatic and sick to my stomach. The morning of the audition was one of the most intense anxiety spirals I'd had in years. What was I doing? Should I just not go? The audition process was over a half-day and would involve script work (love) and improvisation (I die, I die, I die!). What the HELL was I doing?!

Finally – finally – I felt a semblance of myself returning in ways I hadn't ever realised I was longing for. The production went on to win multiple awards for best local theatre production, and one of my scenes was nominated for best moment in theatre. When the show ended, I walked away with new friends – a community of creative people I could be my whole self with. A community of people who also had big dreams, and who wanted to see one another shine. I finally understood what community felt like. And it just got better from there.

This is the gift of creative community. What lies on the other side of it is the biggest permission slip to shine. The greatest permission slip to be bright. And the celebration of creating something together, as a team. This energy becomes contagious. We want more of it. It spurs us on in all of the best ways – to seek more opportunities to shine, to be bright, to celebrate one another. It's why 'come downs' after any production are such a real thing. Because the energetic high you experience while you're in a creative community bubble is some of the greatest, most uplifting energy you can feel. And that's because we're all allowing ourselves to be big, to be bright, to shine.

I have friends in my life now who have witnessed the transformation in me following my foray into local theatre and have felt inspired to pick up their own creative projects and establish their own creative communities. One is taking DJ lessons (in her 40s, no less!), another is taking dance classes for the very first time in her life (in her 30s). Another went along to an improv class. I am of such a deep belief now that to fully shine – to fully show up in our brightness – a component of creative outlet (with a side of community) is not just a nicety. It's a necessity. We must harness



spaces where we feel entirely safe to be all of ourselves – in pure play, joy and creative flow. This is what harmonises any trepidation we have about being ourselves. Finding spaces where all of us is not only welcome, but celebrated.

This is an edited extract from *The People Pleaser's Guide to Saying Yes to You* by Hollie Azzopardi.

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The Night Watchman

by Louise Erdrich

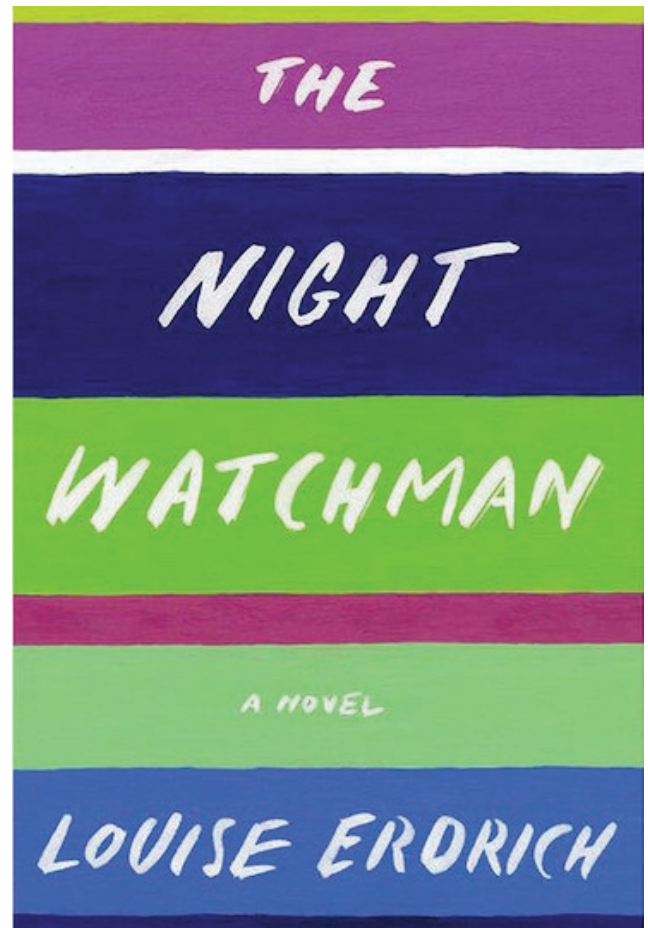
Muskrat. This is how Thomas Wazhushk signs all his letters—it is the English interpretation of his surname. During the long nights he spends as the night watchman of the local jewel bearing factory, he writes many letters: letters to his grandchildren for their birthdays, to cousins, and to other family members. But in 1953, his letter writing becomes focused on saving the Wood Mountain Reservation, home to the Chippewa Indians.

Thomas is deeply troubled by the Emancipation Bill proposed by the US Federal Government and realises that it is intended to annihilate the treaty rights of many tribal nations. He works tirelessly to enlist the help of anyone aligned with the desire to preserve the rights of Native Americans, preparing submissions and joining a delegation to Washington for the Senate hearing.

Patrice (Pixie) is the other main protagonist of this rich novel. At 19 years of age, she works at the jewel-bearing factory and is the sole breadwinner for her impoverished family. Her mother, Zhaanat, is a deeply spiritual woman and a traditional healer. Pixie and her mother go to extreme measures to protect the family from Pixie's violent father. Her sister, Vera, has escaped the violence by moving to the city, but there is great concern for her wellbeing, as she has not been heard from in several months. Eventually, Pixie travels to the city in an unsuccessful attempt to track Vera down. A younger brother, Pokey, is learning boxing from the local schoolteacher, who is love-stricken for the beautiful Pixie.

For all the responsibility she bears, Pixie is still a teenager, dealing with the angst of her first sexual experience, the dilemma of whom she should marry, and her annoying friends. Also woven into this story are the traditional tribal practices that occur when there is a birth, a death, or another significant event.

This wonderful book originates from the letters written by the author's grandfather and pertains to her own native tribe. Erdrich slowly builds the characters, revealing their strengths and flaws,



their love and humour, moments of joy and terrible sadness, to the point where I did not want it to end. Highly recommended.

Goodreads rating: 4.1 stars

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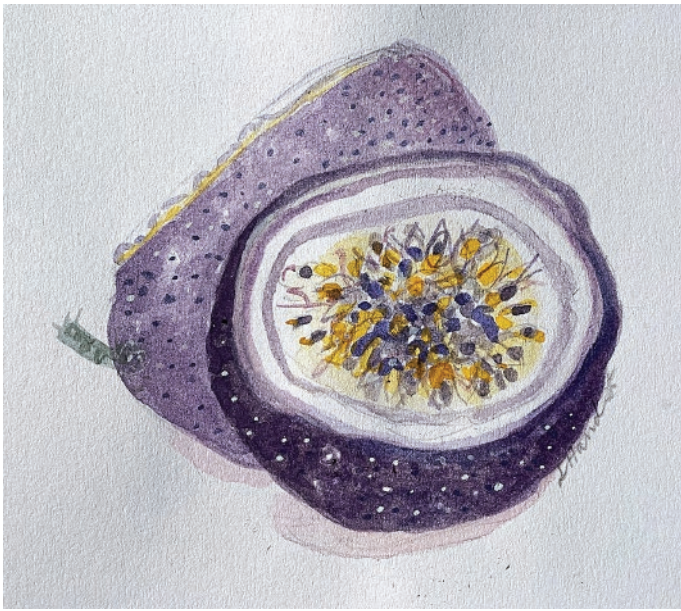
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Passionfruit cake with fluffy chocolate frosting

I was recently gifted a bag of beautiful Panama passionfruit. This variety is big, juicy and in season. After our brush with Cyclone Alfred last month, I think we deserve a comforting piece of cake. This one is made in one bowl—packed with passionfruit flavour, it is mouth-puckeringly tart but balanced by large swirls of chocolate frosting. If you prefer this cake tart, floral and tropical as is, layer on seeds and pulp of fresh passionfruit or drizzle with a little icing sugar glaze.

INGREDIENTS

Cake

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup granulated sugar (*for a less tart cake, use a whole cup of sugar*)
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup passionfruit purée (*sieved*)
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sour cream
- 4 tbsp melted unsalted butter
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups plain cake flour
- 2 tsp baking powder

Frosting

- 55 g bittersweet chocolate (*about half a block*), melted and cooled
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups powdered sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsalted butter (*room temperature*)
- 1 tbsp milk (*more if needed*)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 170°C. Grease and flour a 20 cm × 20 cm baking pan.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together sugar, passionfruit purée, sour cream, melted butter, eggs, vanilla and salt until smooth.
3. In a separate bowl, combine flour and baking powder. Sift into wet ingredients and whisk until smooth.
4. Pour into prepared pan and bake for 20–25 minutes, or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.
5. Cool cake on a wire rack.
6. Make the frosting by beating all the ingredients together until smooth and fluffy. You can use a food processor for this.
7. Spread frosting on the cooled cake, using a spoon to create large swirls.
8. Decorate with passionfruit seeds or freeze-dried raspberries if available.

Best eaten on the same day, but will keep for a couple of days.

Recipe and image Lyn Hand



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The former Pool is still a popular spot to refresh the senses Photo Lynn Smith

The photo above was taken on 14 March 2025, exactly 100 years after the official opening of what was then known as the Bangalow Swimming Pool, in Byron Creek, in what is now Piccabeen Park.

On Thursday 26 March 1925, *The Northern Star* printed a report of the grand launch event which celebrated the official opening of the pool.

According to the newspaper article, heavy rain had been falling all day, however a large crowd turned up to witness a 'Venetian Carnival' parade, starting at the memorial stone near the railway bridge, opposite the pub, which made its way down Byron Street to what's now Piccabeen Park.

The carnival was organised by members of the Bangalow Swimming Club and the Citizens Band, with many appearing in fancy costume, some described as 'weird and very cleverly got up.' A "comical" procession of cars paraded including some "decorated cars filled with young ladies, in the height of fashion, who threw streamers to all and sundry en route".

When the parade reached the park, a large gathering was addressed by the president



The Bangalow Pool was officially opened on 14 March 1925 Photo Bangalow Historical Society

of the Swimming Club, Mr Peter L'Estrange, Councillor Snow, and Mr Billy McGrath, of the Kelly Reyne Company. A special stage had been built "in the stream", and a blue ribbon was suspended across the pool. To the accompaniment of loud cheers, Mrs McGrath cut the blue ribbon and declared the swimming pool open, and was presented with a "beautiful pair of scissors to mark the occasion".

Competitive swimming events (and some novelty competitions) followed, including Walking (with greasy pole), Egg and Spoon race, and Most Efficient Lady Swimmer.

Lynn Smith, from Team Piccabeen, took the above photograph at the exact time of the official opening 100 years earlier.

Christobel Munson



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Around the Wicket

In a small town like Bangalow, it really does 'take a village' to make things happen, especially with our sports.

Our U16s cricket team has been together for six years. Starting in the U12s (with many young players being closer to ten years of age), this group of boys has stuck by each other, and as a club, we have watched them grow into young men and fine cricketers, with most of this group going on to play representative cricket and all now playing in our senior sides.

This can only happen with the help and commitment of their parents, drivers, coaches, volunteers and the community, so thanks to:

The coaches Dave Mills, Ben Redden, Dean Bohn and Matty Coles—teaching them sportsmanship, mateship and enjoyment.

To dads like Simon Wooldridge, who had to learn how to bat after copping body blow after body blow from Arlo as he started to bowl faster and faster.

To the Hussey family for remembering which one of their many kids played cricket.

To the mums who sit through the summer heat to score the game, wash the uniforms, and find the lost shoe on Saturday morning.

To those organising carpooling to drive here, there and everywhere.

With their last game of junior cricket on a Saturday morning in March, it was with a tinge of sadness and pride that this community could sit back and say... we did this.

The hairstyles changed, the shoe sizes increased, the food bill got bigger, but that Saturday cricket smile will always be there.

It's now time for them to find their own lost shoe.

Well done, team.

Anne Bowled



The team in March 2019 Photo supplied



Many of the original U12 players were members of the U16 team, pictured here, playing their final juniors match Photo supplied

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The colourful coleus

Sometimes known as the 'painted nettle' or *Plectranthus scutellarioides*, the coleus—a fantastically colourful perennial—is an important inclusion in my gardens, even though it is quite widely derided.

Amongst gardeners, there is often a 'wow factor' attached to rare and difficult-to-grow specimens, which can mean missing the bleeding obvious. The coleus is one such example.

In our conditions, it is a hands-down success for hardiness, adaptability and year-round colour, relieving the green-on-green landscape beyond their short flowering periods.

I bought my first coleus about 15 years ago from the auction offerings that are a monthly treat at Bangalow Garden Club meetings. At that time, the founding members were all experienced locals who generously shared not only their expertise but also specimens from their own gardens that had consistently performed well. As a 'blow-in', I was experimenting and learning the hard way what thrived, and I was incredibly grateful to be one of the recipients of the accumulated gardening knowledge from this wonderful group of people.

From the first four pots I purchased, I have grown hundreds of plants because they are so easy to propagate from cuttings. So much so that the foliage I include in flower arrangements taken to friends often ends up taking root in the vases and later in their gardens.

It's a wonderful way to share my favourites and gain followers for a plant that *Searles Garden Magazine* described as "the humble coleus that is making a revival in the gardens of Australia". Interestingly, when I was last in the Hamptons, New York State, I was delighted to see them in gardens great and small, as well as in public spaces. I won't hold my breath, but my potted specimens



Coleus scutellarioides

might yet be popular at the Garden Club auctions.

If you're unfamiliar with them, coleus foliage comes in all colours created by natural pigments, with velvety, serrated leaves. They are quite fleshy, growing up to about a metre in semi-shaded areas, with many having a lower form—perfect for interplanting and ground cover. They are shallow-rooted, so don't disturb them. Mulch carefully and ideally replant new stock every year or so, as they can become quite woody. With the cyclonic winds in our area at present, several have been uprooted, but I have plenty of replacements ready to plant.

Every year, I have a garden full of butterflies so I am happy to share the foliage with their caterpillar form, regarding it as nature's pruning. Please don't spray—accept the seasonal feeding and development, as our

biodiversity and pollinators are all under threat.

There are an unknown number of cultivars, all from the original coleus family that originated in Southeast Asia. Colours range from a citrusy lime green through pinks, reds and purples, to oranges and creams. Plants grown from cuttings will always be true to the parent, but seed-grown coleus can show different characteristics altogether.

They are easy to care for—the growing tips can be pinched out regularly to encourage branching. The flower spikes, which are the typical small, pale blue *Plectranthus* type, may be left or removed. Take plenty of cuttings for the spaces that you might also fill with lovely, colourful, old-fashioned coleus.

Words and photo Carole Gamble

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Is your home energy efficient?



Photo Nicolas Gras

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, in partnership with CSIRO, is trialling a software tool that assesses the energy and thermal performance of existing homes. They are looking for households to participate in a free assessment of their home as a key part of this trial. The results will help shape the "expansion of a national scheme to lower household energy bills and emissions."

Eligible dwellings include residential properties such as houses, townhouses and apartments, and the trial is open to both tenants and homeowners. If eligible, a trained energy assessor will visit your home to create a 3D floor plan and collect information relevant to your home's energy performance. This process takes about an hour, though longer for larger homes.

How does it work, and what do you get out of it? A LiDAR scan of the house is performed, and information on its construction and

fixed appliances is collected. After the assessment, you will receive a copy of the energy rating trial certificate. That certificate "will be a reliable guide to estimating your home's energy performance and will help identify opportunities to lower energy use and save on energy bills. Your involvement, along with that of other participants, will help us shape a nationwide energy rating system to help all Australians improve their homes."

According to one of Byron Shire's two accredited energy assessors, Sebastian Crangle: "Over the next couple of months, we'll be assessing the energy performance of over 40 houses in the Northern Rivers, providing advice to homeowners and helping to shape the development of this cutting-edge energy rating software."

To find out more details about the program or to register, visit brnw.ch/21wQs1i

'Roots So Deep': Film, Feed and a Future for Farming

When Thursday, 3 April, from 4.30pm

Where The Farm, 11 Ewingsdale Rd, Ewingsdale

Tickets \$22.50, includes a grass-fed beef burger and a beer

Bookings eventbrite.com.au/e/roots-so-deep-film-feed-and-a-future-for-farming-tickets-884923747567

This compelling documentary follows innovative cattle farmers, their animals and a team of maverick scientists presenting groundbreaking research and land management methods to combat climate change, increase production and improve profit margins. Join fellow local farmers, landholders and managers for an evening of education, inspiration and great conversation.

Free Workshop – How to Make Biologically Alive Compost and Compost Extract

When Saturday, 5 April, 9am–1pm

Where The Paddock Project, 64 Argyle St, Mullumbimby

Bookings events.humanitix.com/workshop-making-biologically-complete-compost-and-compost-extracts

Join John Bond from Living Earth Biology for a hands-on workshop on making nutrient-rich compost and compost extracts to boost plant and soil health. Ideal for anyone wanting to understand biology to improve plant health and production. Funded through the Byron Shire Council Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Program. Tea and coffee provided. Food available to purchase from the onsite Paddock Project Food Truck.

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Community

AA (6pm Tues)	Karen Mc	0403 735 678
ArtsNational	Dianne	0412 370 372
Al-Anon (2pm Fri)		1300 252 666
Bangalow Koalas	Linda	0411 491 991
Bridge Club	Brian	0429 311 830
Community Children's Centre	Kerry	6687 1552
Co-dependents Anonymous	Gye	0421 583 321
CWA (Wed)	Georgia	cwasecbangalow@gmail.com
Garden Club (1st Wed)	Diana	0418 288 428
George the snake man	George	0407 965 092
Historical Society/Museum	Trisha	0429 882 525
Kindred Women Together	Janice	0401 026 359
Koala rescue line (24 hr)		6622 1233
Land & Rivercare (8.30am Sat)	Noelene	0431 200 638
Lions Club (6pm 2nd/4th Tues)	Nashy	0418 440 545
Men's Shed	John	0427 130 177
Op Shop (M-F 10am-2pm, Sat 9.30am-12.30pm)		6687 2228
Piccabeen Park	Lynn	0429 644 659
Park Trust Committee	Shane	0475 732 551
Police - DCI Matt Kehoe		6629 7500
Pool Trust	Jo	6687 1297
Community Association	Ian	0414 959 936
Poultry Club	Hector	6687 1322
Quilters (2nd/4th Thur)	Karen	0413 621 224
Red Cross (1st Fri)	Liz	0409 832 001
Show Society	Anne	6687 1033

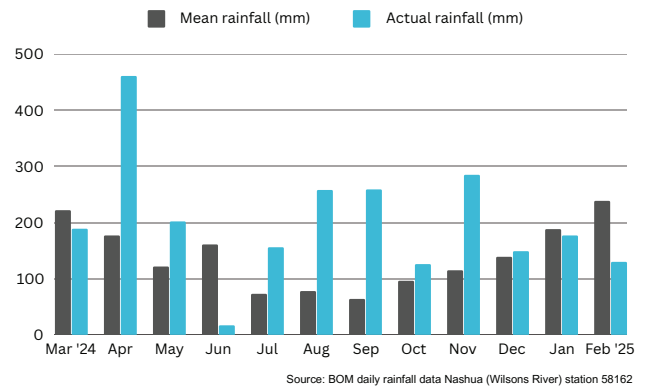
Sport

Bowls men (1pm Wed & Sat)	Gerry	6687 1142
Bowls women (9.30am Wed)	Frances	6687 1339
Cricket	Anthony	0429 306 529
Karate self-defence	Jean	0458 245 123
Netball (3.30pm Wed)	Ellie	0429 855 399
Pony Club	Rebecca	0410 706 959
Rugby Union (Rebels)	Dave	0412 080 614
Soccer (Bluedogs)		0434 559 700
Tennis court hire	Bernie	0433 970 800

Venues

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

Bangalow Rainfall



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	Wed	Hatha Yoga	6.00 to 7.15pm
	Thurs	Yogalates	9.30 to 11.00am
	Thurs	Yin Restore Yoga	5.30 to 6.30pm
	Sat	Yogalates	8.15 to 9.30am

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

What's on

From live music to arts, and community gatherings, there's always something happening.

Bangalow Garden Club

When Wednesday 2 April, 1.30pm
Where Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground
Tickets Yearly membership \$25
Contact bangalowgardenclub.com,
bangalowgardenclub@outlook.com,
Diana Harden 0418 288 428

This month's guest speaker is a member talking about their favourite plant species—come and be surprised! New members are welcome. If you're new to the area or to gardening, why not join the club and learn about gardening in the sub-tropics? Meetings feature a 'flower of the month' segment, where members showcase plants from their gardens, a Q&A session, a guest speaker covering garden-related topics, and a lively plant auction. After the meeting, we gather for afternoon tea provided by members.

Byron Writers Festival early bird tickets

When 2-6 April
Info byronwritersfestival.com

Byron Writers Festival, our leading regional celebration of storytelling, literature and ideas, returns Friday 8 August to Sunday 10 August at Bangalow Showgrounds. Early Bird three-day passes are on sale from 2-6 April. In addition to the first round of authors announced, three of the local authors set to make an appearance at the festival include Lismore's Denise Alison with her wonderful celebration of community *Humans of Lismore*. Northern Rivers based author Naima Brown who will talk about her novel *Mother Tongue*. Advocate, author and world surfing champion Pauline Menczer who will appear off the back of her autobiography *Surf Like a Woman*.



Adopt don't shop Photo Reba Spike

Pearl Jam and Smashing Pumpkins Tribute – Riot Act

When Saturday 5 April, 7pm
Where The Bowlo, Bangalow
Tickets \$31.95 at tickets.oztix.com.au

Relive the magic of Pearl Jam & Smashing Pumpkins with *Riot Act!* Sing along to grunge anthems like *Alive* and *1979* as this tribute band delivers electrifying performances that capture the essence of two of the greatest alternative rock bands of the '90s. Expect a night filled with nostalgia, energy, and community spirit.

NRAS Animal Adoption Day

When Saturday 5 April, 10am-1pm
Where NRAS Shelter, 61 Piper Drive, Ballina
Contact manager@nras.org.au
Phone 6681 1860

Northern Rivers Animal Services invites residents of Bangalow and the wider Northern Rivers region to its monthly Cat and Dog Adoption Day, held on the first Saturday of every month. All animals available for adoption have been vet-checked, desexed, vaccinated, microchipped, and treated for parasites. Consider giving a rescue pet a forever home - your new best friend might be waiting for you!

Concert Supra with Tsinskaro, Georgian vocal ensemble

When Saturday 5 April, 7pm
Where Newrybar Community Hall
Tickets \$45 + booking fee (including light supper)
eventbrite.com.au/e/concert-supra-with-tsinskaro-tickets-1231808114229

A unique Concert Supra experience enjoying a light supper served to accompany the mesmerising polyphonic sounds of Melbourne's superb Georgian vocal ensemble Tsinskaro. There will be singing, storytelling and traditional toasts: where food, drink, singing and toasting are shared to celebrate the joy of life, love, family, community and harmony.

Karena Wynn-Moylan – Scrolling (New Works)

When Sunday 6 April, 2pm-4pm
Where Station St. Co-op, 14 Station St, Bangalow
Contact wynnmoylan@gmail.com | 0414 822 196
karenawynn-moylanart.com

A flash pop-up sneak peek at brand new works from artist Karena Wynn-Moylan. Fresh from the studio, these stunning 1.5-metre oil-on-canvas scrolls capture local scenes in an Eastern-inspired format with a Western treatment. Drop in to admire or purchase these unique artworks. Entry is free and light refreshments are provided.



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Brooke Boney and Daniel Browning Photos supplied

Press Play Presents Kim Salmon's Smoked Salmon

When Sunday 6 April, 4pm
Where The Bowlo, Bangalow
Ticket \$28.60 at tickets.oztix.com.au

Kim Salmon, Australian rock icon, brings his 12-piece band Smoked Salmon to Bangalow to celebrate their debut album release. With tracks spanning his 47-year career, this show promises an unforgettable night of live music. Fans can expect a mix of classic songs and new material in a high-energy performance.

Brooke Boney in Conversation with Daniel Browning

When Tuesday 8 April, 6.30-7.30pm
Where A&I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow
Ticket \$40 + booking fee from events.humanitix.com
Info info@byronwritersfestival.com
byronwritersfestival.com

Byron Writers Festival presents a special evening with journalist and proud Gamilaroi woman Brooke Boney, in conversation with award-winning Bundjalung and Kullilli writer, journalist, and broadcaster Daniel Browning. Brooke will discuss *All of It*, her candid and thoughtful collection of essays exploring love, loss, ambition, and life in the public eye. Daniel, a leading voice in Indigenous journalism, will guide the conversation in what promises to be an insightful and engaging discussion. Yum Cha available and bar open from 5.30pm.

Let's Talk Dementia

When Thursday 10 April, 6-7.30pm
Where Byron Community Centre, 69 Jonson St, Byron Bay
Ticket \$15 / \$10 concession via events.humanitix.com/let-s-talk-dementia
Info byroncentre.com.au

The fourth event in the *Let's Talk* series, this session is organised by Sabine Muschter in collaboration with Byron Seniors Club and Byron Shire Respite Service. Experts will share valuable insights into dementia from multiple perspectives. Join us for an evening of learning, discussion and community support.



Bangalow Historical Society Craft Fair

When Saturday 12 April 2025, 8am-noon
Where Bangalow Heritage House and Museum, corner Ashton and Deacon Streets, Bangalow
Contact Trisha Bleakley 0429 882 525
bangalowhistorical2479@gmail.com

The Bangalow Historical Society is hosting another of its popular craft fairs to celebrate the end of the cyclone. Visitors can browse a variety of handmade creations crafted during the long hours of the storm. The event will feature regular favourites, including the Knit and Knatter craft stall, vintage clothing, and second-hand stalls. A selection of homemade cakes and scones will be available, along with a community stall.

Bundjalung Weaving Workshop

When Saturday 12 April, 2-5pm
Where Piccabeen Park, Bangalow (meet at the Rotunda)
Tickets \$100 (materials included)
Contact Jenny 0423 635 320

Bundjalung women Tania Marlowe and Deb Cole, founders of Jugan Dandii, run weaving workshops, teaching about native fibres and traditional Bundjalung weaving techniques. Tania is an exhibiting artist whose work was included in the Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali Exhibition, recently touring regional galleries in the Northern Rivers (Tweed, Lismore and Grafton). In this workshop, Tania and Deb will use the long threads of inflorescence from the Bangalow Palm to teach weaving skills while sharing knowledge of native and introduced fibres.



Piccabeen basket by Tania Marlowe Photo supplied



Get your hands on some backyard birds at the Northern Rivers Poultry auction Photo Dean McKenzie

The Pretty Littles – Force Album Launch

When Saturday 12 April, 7:30pm

Where The Bowlo, Bangalow

Tickets \$34.70/\$37.75 at tickets.oztix.com.au

Melbourne indie rockers *The Pretty Littles* return with their seventh album, *Force*. Expect a high-energy performance featuring hit singles *Force*, *Australian Dream* and *Taking On Water*, alongside fresh new tracks. Fans of the band won't want to miss this unforgettable rock 'n' roll experience at the Bangalow Bowlo.

Northern Rivers Poultry Auction

When Sunday 20 April, viewing 8.30-10am, auction from 10am

Where Poultry Pavilion and Moller Pavilion, Bangalow Showground

Contact 0423 829 436

The Northern Rivers Poultry Auction returns to Bangalow, offering a variety of poultry, including waterfowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, peacocks, and caged birds, along with all related equipment. With the ongoing egg shortage, keeping a few backyard layers could help supply your household. Authorities have indicated that egg availability will remain limited for at least the next three years. This is a family-friendly event, so bring a carry container for any purchased birds. Payment can be made by cash or EFTPOS, and food and drinks will be available on the day.

CWA Cake and Produce Stall

When Saturday 26 April, 8am-12pm

Where CWA Rooms, 31 Byron St, Bangalow

Contact cwasecbangalow@gmail.com

Once again, CWA members will cook up a storm for our regular monthly stall. As always, there will be delicious homemade sweet and savoury goodies available, including old favourites alongside gluten-free options, pickles and jams. This is a fantastic opportunity to stock up on treats while supporting a great local cause.

ArtsNational Northern Rivers – Sisters of Tragedy: The Brontës and Their Works

When Monday 28 April, 6pm for 6.30pm start

Where A&I Hall, Station Street, Bangalow

Tickets Non-members \$25 at the door
Book at trybooking.com/CWFJA

Contact artsnational.au/societies/northernrivers

The tragic story of the Brontë sisters is one of the most fascinating tales in English literature. From their bleak Yorkshire parsonage, they produced novels filled with passion, violence and feminism. Literature expert Suzannah Fullerton explores their extraordinary legacy. There is also a raffle for a beautifully packaged box set of seven Brontë classics.

Diary

April 2025

2	Bangalow Garden Club
2-6	Byron Writers Festival early bird ticket sale
5	Pearl Jam and Smashing Pumpkins Tribute – Riot Act NRAS Animal Adoption Day Concert Supra with Tsinskaro, Georgian vocal ensemble
6	Karena Wynn-Moylan – Scrolling (New Works) Press Play Presents Kim Salmon's Smoked Salmon
8	Brooke Boney in Conversation with Daniel Browning
10	Let's Talk Dementia
12	Bangalow Historical Society Craft Fair Bundjalung Weaving Workshop The Pretty Littles – Force Album Launch
20	Northern Rivers Poultry Auction
26	CWA Cake and Produce Stall
28	ArtsNational Northern Rivers – Sisters of Tragedy: The Brontës and Their Works

May edition deadlines

What's on	13 April
Copy	13 April
Advertising	13 April

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Keeper Tegan

Despite a childhood fear of animals, Tegan Ward has found her calling as one of Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary's newest Keepers, writes **Georgia Fox**.

Tegan Ward is relishing her role helping to care for the diverse collection of animals residing at Knockrow's former Macadamia Castle - an unexpected turn of events for someone with a childhood fear of animals. Watching Steve Irwin and visiting Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary as a young teen helped her not only overcome her apprehension, but opened her eyes to the wonder and importance of Australia's unique fauna, ultimately leading the 26-year-old Ballina local to attain a Certificate III in Wildlife & Exhibited Animals at Wollongbar TAFE last year.

The Sanctuary has served as the work placement destination for TAFE for a number of years, allowing students to learn hands-on skills in caring for animals and wildlife. Students balance two days of theory with two days of practical training at the Sanctuary, allowing for invaluable insights and real-world experience. Upon completing her certification, Tegan's dedication led her to volunteer at the Sanctuary, a decision that paved the way for her current role.

Tegan's days are filled with a variety of responsibilities, beginning by ensuring all animals are accounted for and enclosures are clean—a "glorified pooper-scooper," she laughs—and replenished with fresh water. Food is prepared for over 100 animals with the assistance of volunteers. On-site composting means the gardens are some of the most well-fertilised in the Northern Rivers. Tegan is training to conduct reptile talks for visitors—a role she initially found daunting but enjoys more and more: "I love speaking to people. I love teaching people about our native wildlife as well."

Tegan's passion for reptiles is evident, with a particular fondness for the native Woma Python. Unlike other pythons, Womas lack heat-sensing pits and have adapted to hunt cold-blooded prey, such as lizards and other snakes. Remarkably, they are also immune to the venom of some of Australia's most deadly snakes, including browns, red-bellies, and inland taipans, whether through bites or ingestion.

Beyond her Keeper duties, Tegan is also a Support Worker with the Sanctuary's NDIS Meaningful Futures Program, providing participants with one-on-one programs allowing for interactions with wildlife and helping out behind the scenes, as well as opportunities to socialise in a supportive, engaging environment.

Tegan's ultimate aspiration is to work with crocodiles at some point in the future. "The fact they've been here for over two million years amazes me. I think they're absolutely beautiful," she says. She hopes to spend time in northern Australia to study and train with these ancient reptiles, aiming to deepen her understanding and contribute to their conservation. In the meantime, she gets her crocodile fix visiting Boss Hog, Currumbin's beloved five-metre-long salty.

She encourages anyone with a love of wildlife and conservation to get involved in the Sanctuary's volunteer program.

byronbaywildlifesanctuary.com.au



Keeper Tegan and a Woma python Photo Georgia Fox

“

The Woma python (*Aspidites ramsayi*) is a non-venomous snake. It lives in arid and semi-arid environments, including deserts and grasslands, where it shelters in hollow logs or animal burrows. Womas are typically golden-brown with dark bands and can grow up to two and a half metres long. They hunt small mammals, reptiles, and birds, often crushing prey against burrow walls rather than coiling.

Known for their calm nature, Womas are popular in captivity. In the wild, however, their numbers have declined in some areas due to habitat loss and introduced predators. As a result, the species is considered vulnerable and is protected under Australian law.