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Community news for Ballina and The Plateau

Issue 48 | October 2025



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As we get set to once again move our clocks forward for Daylight Saving (Sunday 5 October – don't forget!), there's an undeniable shift in the air. The sun lingers a little longer, the mornings feel brighter, and while hayfever is wreaking havoc, there's an unmistakable buzz of energy that says spring has well and truly arrived. We're standing on the precipice of the year's final stretch, ready to make the most of what's ahead.

Along the coast, our surf lifesavers are back on patrol, keeping Ballina Shire's beaches safe for swimmers and surfers alike. They're also putting out a friendly call for new members. If you've been thinking about trying something new, building your fitness, or giving back to the community, this might just be the opportunity you've been waiting for. Patrol times and details on how to get involved with your local club can be found on page 10.

For those who prefer popcorn to patrols, film lovers are in for a treat with the return of the Byron Bay International Film Festival. With screenings across the region, including at Ballina's Palace Cinema, audiences can expect stories that inspire, challenge, and spark conversation. One standout is *Nansie* - a heartfelt documentary exploring a family's courage and resilience in the face of dementia - which we're delighted to feature on pages 28–29.

Here's to longer days, brighter skies, and plenty to look forward to in the month ahead.

Kate Parry
Managing Editor

Contact us

Got a story? Get in touch.
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Email: editor@theballinawave.com.au

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The Ballina Wave acknowledges that we are here on the land of the Bundjalung people. The Bundjalung are the traditional owners of this land and are part of the oldest surviving continuous culture in the world.



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Authorised by J Elliot ALP 107 Minjungbal Drive Tweed Heads South NSW 2486

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What: Oceania Cup - Female Football Tournament
When: Saturday 4 October
Where: Alstonville

Cheer on talented female footballers from across Australia at the Oceania Cup. Two action-packed days, ages 10 to adult, culminating in thrilling finals for the trophy. Info at: alstonvillefc.com.au



What: Dave Hughes Live
When: Saturday 11 October
Where: Ballina RSL

Comedy legend Dave Hughes brings his new show *WTF?* to the stage - an hour of sharp Aussie humour turning life's mishaps into laugh-out-loud moments. Tickets via: ballinarsl.com.au



What: Outdoor Health Forum
When: Friday 17 October
Where: Lennox Head

Explore practices shaping outdoor health through workshops, spotlight sessions, and immersive learning. Nurturing, nature-connected experiences for practitioners and wellbeing enthusiasts. Visit: outdoorhealthforum.com.au



What: Byron Bay International Film Festival
When: Wednesday 17 - Sunday 26 October
Where: Various venues

A platform for outstanding independent film and talent, showcasing a uniquely rich and diverse program of entertaining, inspiring and thought provoking films. For more info, see page 13.



What: Festival of Small Halls
When: Thursday, 23 October, doors at 5:30pm
Where: Wardell Memorial Hall

World-class music comes alive as Georgia Mooney, Joe H Henry and Tapestry Road come together for an unforgettable celebration of live music.

Tickets: festivalofsmallhalls.com/wardell-2025



What: Alstonville Agricultural Show
When: Friday 24 and Saturday 25 October
Where: Alstonville

Dog trials, carnival, rodeo, monster trucks, fireworks, animal shows, kids' activities, food and trade displays. Free Friday entry – don't miss it.

More info: alstonvilleshow.com

Monthly Markets

1st Saturday	Brunswick Heads
1st Sunday	Byron Bay Pottsville Beach
2nd Sunday	The Channon Tabulam Hall Chillingham Coolangatta Woodburn
3rd Saturday	Alstonville Mullumbimby Murwillumbah Salt Village, Casuarina
3rd Sunday	Federal Uki Pottsville Beach
4th Saturday	Evans Head Wilson Creek Kyogle Bazaar
4th Sunday	Bangalow Nimbin Coolangatta Murwillumbah Yamba
5th Sunday	Nimbin

Weekly Farmers Markets

Tuesday	New Brighton Organic Lismore
Wednesday	Murwillumbah Nimbin Newrybar Hall
Thursday	Byron Bay Lismore
Friday	Mullumbimby Evans Head
Saturday	Bangalow Uki Blue Knob Gallery Lismore Markets
Sunday	Ballina

For more information visit discoverballina.com.au

Bubsie stops in Ballina



A piece of motoring history stopped in Ballina last month as Bubsie, a lovingly reconstructed 1923 Citroën 5CV, made its way through town on a nationwide journey retracing the first-ever car trip around Australia.

The project, led by The Incredible Journey team, commemorates the centenary of Nevill Westwood's daring 1925 expedition. Westwood and his friend Greg Davies set off from Perth in the tiny Citroën, selling books along the way and becoming the first motorists to complete a full circumnavigation of Australia. Their adventure was marked by mechanical breakdowns, scorching conditions, and the isolation of the outback.

Ballina residents had three opportunities to see the tribute vehicle, driven by Julian Archer, during its local stopover. The day began

with a display at Ballina Fair. Later, the car moved to the ADRA Op Shop, where Mayor Sharon Cadwallader was treated to a ride around the block. The final stop was outside Ballina's Seventh Day Adventist Church where around 40 attendees gathered to hear Kevin, a member of the travelling team, recount the story of Westwood's groundbreaking journey and highlights from the modern re-enactment.

As Bubsie continues on its centenary trek, you can follow the journey at: Facebook / Right Around Australia.

Help shape Ballina's public spaces

Ballina Shire Council has prepared its Draft Place and Public Realm Framework, designed to guide the future look and feel of local streetscapes and public spaces. The framework focuses on roads and streets, open spaces, and linear corridors, aiming to create greener, cooler, and more connected environments. It also highlights the importance of local identity, storytelling, and community vibrancy to bring each town and village to life.

Council is inviting residents to play a role in shaping this vision. Locals can provide feedback by completing an online form or by sharing photos of inspiring public spaces they've experienced locally or while travelling, along with ideas for

how they could work in Ballina Shire. Suggestions could range from unique pathways and bike routes to green parks or community gathering spaces.

Feedback will be reviewed by Council staff and reported to a future Council meeting. Once finalised, the framework will guide the development of a design manual, setting out practical standards such as colour palettes and design elements to ensure Ballina's public spaces remain functional, attractive, and uniquely local.

Visit: yoursayballina.com.au/place-public-realm-framework

Submissions close 10 October.

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Nominate a local hero



Pictured: Australia Day Ceremony 2025 - Citizen of the Year Ezekiel Knight (centre). Source: Supplied.

Behind every strong community are people who give their time, dedication and compassion to make a difference - and Ballina Shire is calling for nominations to recognise them in the 2026 Australia Day Awards.

The annual Awards shine a light on the many individuals and groups whose contributions strengthen the region. From volunteers saving lives in emergencies to locals rallying behind fundraisers and community events, young leaders driving change, and environmental champions restoring the coast, nominees reflect the spirit of community service.

'They might be humble and selfless, or well-known for their energy and passion. What unites them is their commitment

to others and the positive change they bring to Ballina Shire,' Mayor Sharon Cadwallader said.

'When selecting recipients, we consider not just what they've accomplished in the past year, but also their ongoing contribution over time. These awards recognise remarkable groups and individual achievements, and the enduring commitment that helps shape our community,' she said.

Nominations are now open, with community members encouraged to put forward individuals and organisations whose efforts inspire others and make Ballina a better place to live.

Help recognise local heroes by nominating in the following categories:

- Young Citizen of the Year (30 years or under)
- Senior Citizen of the Year (60 years or over)
- Volunteer Award (open age)
- Sports Award (individual, team, coach, sports administrator)
- Arts and Culture Award (individual or group)
- Environmental Award (individual or group)
- Community Event of the Year (event held during 2025)

The 2026 Ballina Shire Citizen of the Year will be chosen from all nominees across all categories.

To nominate an individual or group visit:
ballina.nsw.gov.au/2026Awards

Nominations are open until Monday 27 October.

The 2026 Ballina Shire Australia Day Awards ceremony will be held on Monday 26 January at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre.

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Surf Lifesavers back on patrol



With the weather warming up, Ballina, Evans Head, Lennox Head, Byron Bay and Brunswick Surf Lifesaving Clubs are back on patrol, keeping a watchful eye over our beaches. Their return is a timely reminder to always swim between the flags and be aware of the safest places to enter the water.

Across the country, more than 45,000 volunteers are preparing for patrols as the latest *National Coastal Safety Report* highlights a sobering reality. The *2025 National Drowning Report*, released by Royal Life Saving Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia, recorded 357 drowning deaths in the past year - the highest number since records began and 27% above the 10-year average.

Surf Life Saving Australia CEO, Adam Weir, said coastal drowning remains one of the nation’s biggest safety challenges. ‘Beaches, ocean and rocks account for 43% of drowning deaths, with rip currents alone responsible for more than one in three - claiming more lives than sharks, floods or cyclones combined,’ he said.

Despite the challenges, surf lifesavers continue to make an extraordinary difference. Last year alone, they carried out almost 2.2 million preventative actions and more than 8,000 rescues. ‘Never have our surf lifesavers and lifeguards worked harder. More is being asked of them as beach usage grows,’ Mr Weir added.

Surf lifesaving clubs are always looking for new members, and there’s a role for everyone. Volunteers form close bonds while contributing in many ways - from radio operations, first aid, and administration to gear maintenance, Nippers, or the weekend BBQ. For those keen to get amongst the surf, opportunities include crewing IRBs, driving jet skis or joining emergency call-out teams.

For more information, contact your local club.

Ballina Shire patrol times

Location	Starts	Ends	Details
Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Head	27/09/2025	26/04/2026	9am to 3pm or 5pm
Lighthouse Beach, East Ballina	27/09/2025	26/04/2026	9am to 3pm or 5pm
Flat Rock, East Ballina	22/12/2025 07/04/2026	25/01/2025 19/04/2026	9am to 5pm
Sharpes Beach, Skennars Head	22/12/2025 07/04/2026	25/01/2025 19/04/2026	9am to 5pm
Shelly Beach, East Ballina	22/12/2025 07/04/2026	25/01/2025 19/04/2026	9am to 5pm

Note: Seven Mile Beach, Lighthouse Beach and Flat Rock are patrolled by professional lifeguards Monday to Friday, and by volunteers on weekends and public holidays. Sharpes Beach and Shelly Beach are patrolled by professional lifeguards Monday to Sunday.

And remember: swim between the flags.



COMMUNITY BOWLS DAY

Sunday October 26th
3 - 5pm
Club Lennox Sports

- Prizes
- Raffles
- Fun activities for the whole family

Heart of Dance World Line Dancing Team will be hosting a Bowls Day Fundraiser to raise \$\$\$ for the World Championships in the UK, July 2026.

Put a team together now! Groups of 4 or 8

Email heartofdance2@gmail.com to book



Thrills and traditions at Alstonville Show



The countdown is on for the 2025 Alstonville Show, an event promising two jam-packed days of family fun and entertainment.

The festivities begin early on Friday 24 October with the always popular dog trials, before sideshow alley lights up in the evening with carnival rides, games, and plenty of entertainment for the kids.

Day two, Saturday 25 October, brings a full program of traditional show favourites, including pavilion displays, animal exhibits, children's activities, and the impressive poultry and cattle shows. Horse ring events will keep the crowds cheering, while food trucks and trade displays ensure there's something for every taste and interest.

As the sun sets, the adrenaline kicks in with a blockbuster night of entertainment. Returning crowd favourites, the Monster Trucks and Aussie FMX freestyle motocross riders, will deliver jaw-dropping stunts and high-octane thrills, alongside the excitement of the rodeo. The evening finishes with a fireworks display at around 8.15pm, lighting up the sky in a spectacular grand finale.

The Alstonville Show has long been a highlight on the community calendar, combining country traditions with entertainment that appeals to all ages. Organisers are excited to showcase another year of fun, connection, and memorable moments for locals and visitors alike.

For more information and program updates, visit: alstonvilleshow.com

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Ballina Big Band Blow-In



Pictured: Ballina Concert Band. Source: Facebook.

The Ballina Shire Concert Band is striking up something special next month with the Ballina Big Band Blow-In, a single day event inviting musicians from across the Northern Rivers to come together and make music. The event will be held on Sunday 2 November, at the Richmond Room, Ballina.

Players from community bands in Ballina, Lismore, Tweed and beyond will join forces with younger musicians from local schools for a day of music-making. Open to anyone who plays woodwind, brass, or percussion, the Blow-In is a fun and supportive opportunity to perform in a large concert band setting. All ability levels are welcome (music reading required), with the repertoire set at Grade 1–3 to suit a mix of players.

Participants will receive their sheet music in advance, then gather on the day for a full band rehearsal, morning tea, and a BBQ lunch, before performing in a public concert from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. For just \$25 per participant, it's a great chance to learn, connect, and enjoy the buzz of being part of a big band.

Not a player? The community is invited to enjoy the afternoon concert - tickets \$10 at the door.

Registrations close Sunday 19 October via Eventbrite (Big Band Blow-In registrations).

For details email: ballinaconcertband@gmail.com or visit Facebook/BallinaConcertBand



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Salvage Shed's creative challenge



Pictured, clockwise from above: 2024 winners - Open (18 years of age +); 12 to 18 years of age; Group.



The Ballina Salvage Shed is inviting you to get creative, with the return of its Recycled Art Competition. The event encourages participants of all ages to transform discarded materials into imaginative, practical works of art - proving that what might be considered waste can have a second life.

Entries must be made from at least 80% recycled materials and include an Artist Statement outlining the process, materials used, and inspiration behind the piece. Works can be submitted in two themes: Backyard Animal Habitat - such as kennels, bird baths, or bee hotels - or Outdoor Furniture and Décor, from garden seating to inventive decorations.

The competition is open to four categories: Under 12s, 12-18 years, Open, and Group (three or more

participants), with prizes ranging from \$50 to \$150 VISA gift cards. A special Community Choice Award will also be decided by public vote during the exhibition.

Entries will be judged on creativity, originality, durability, practicality, and the use of recycled materials, with the judging panel including a professional visual artist, a Ballina Shire Council representative, and a registered builder.

The resulting artworks will be displayed at the Salvage Shed from 10 - 16 November, aligning with National Recycling Week.

Registration forms are available at the Salvage Shed or by emailing: salvageballina@mymomentum.org.au

For more information, visit: mymomentum.org.au

Submissions close 20 October.

Love Film at this year's BBFF



Pictured: BBFF Young Filmmers with Jaimee Skippon-Volke BBFF Director. Photo Credit: Lyn McCarthy.

The Byron Bay International Film Festival (BBFF) returns 17-26 October for its 19th edition, featuring a theme that says it all: *Love Film*. Across 10 days, audiences will discover stories that move, challenge and inspire, spanning international cinema, local voices, filmmaker Q&As and special events.

Among the documentary highlights are *Comparsa* (Guatemala), where young women use street theatre to resist violence and reclaim joy; *Journey Home*, following David Gulpilil's final wish to be laid to rest in his birthplace; and *Champions of the Golden Valley* (Afghanistan), where local skiers carve joy and resilience against the odds. Environmental works such as *Turtle Walker* and *Fool's Paradise (lost?)*, and the genre-defying *The Extraordinary Miss Flower*, are also part of the powerful line-up.

The compelling drama program includes the darkly funny Australian feature *Birthright* opening the festival; *HappyEnd*, set in near-future Tokyo, exploring politics, rebellion and friendship; and *It Was Just An Accident*, a revenge thriller that recently claimed the Palme d'Or at Cannes. Short film showcases bring bold new voices, while Festival awards honour Best Film, Best Documentary, Best Short, Young Australian Filmmaker and more.

Screenings take place across the region, in Byron Bay, Ballina, Brunswick Heads, Lismore, Coorabell and Mullumbimby. From confronting truths to celebrating resilience, to the shared experience of joining fellow film lovers, BBFF 2025 is an invitation to experience why we truly love film. For a full schedule, visit: bbff.com.au

Editor's pick

See page 28 for an in depth look at the story behind the documentary, *Nansie*, which will be showing at Palace Cinema Ballina.

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SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER



Ballina roars to life with the 2 Wheel Babes



Picture credit: Keogh's Vision Photography.

Ballina recently roared to life as more than 600 motorcyclists gathered for the 2 Wheel Babes Reunion - Australia's largest all-women's motorcycle rally. Held from 12 to 14 September, the event attracted riders from across the country and overseas for a weekend of fun, including several world record attempts.

While the group fell short of breaking the UK's record of 1,597 women at a female bike meet, they celebrated a new milestone with 32 mother-and-daughter pairs riding together – a world-first record. They also proudly retained their existing title for the most women riding together at one time, set in 2016 with 1,002 riders.

Despite these achievements, Event Organiser Deborah Geerts said the weekend was about far more than numbers.

'Over 600 women took steps, took leaps, and made an impact - not just in their own lives but in the motorcycle community and in Ballina,' she said. 'They gave other women hope, shared love and friendship, supported the community financially, and rode for themselves and each other.'

For some participants, the event marked powerful personal milestones. One woman completed her very first group ride, another overcame social anxiety to attend after years of isolation, and another honoured the memory of a friend she had recently lost. These stories, Deborah said, embodied the true spirit of the rally: connection, resilience, and joy.

According to event organisers, the weekend also had a significant impact on the town itself, delivering more than \$750,000 to the local economy through accommodation, hospitality, and fundraising for Marine Rescue, sporting groups, and other community organisations.

'We started this weekend event in Ballina in 2008,' said Deborah, 'and I am humbled to end this era here in Ballina as well.'

Dementia Symposium to spotlight connectedness



Dementia Inclusive Ballina Alliance (DIBA) is bringing together health professionals, carers, and community members for its fourth annual symposium, a major event dedicated to improving dementia support and care in the Northern Rivers.

This year's theme, Social Connectedness, reflects growing research showing the powerful impact of relationships on health

and wellbeing. Harvard University's landmark happiness study has revealed that strong social connections can delay the onset of physical health conditions by up to 15 years, while loneliness can increase the risk of developing dementia by 26%.

The symposium will feature an impressive line-up of expert speakers, including keynote presenter Professor Henry Brodaty of UNSW's Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing. Other speakers include Professor Vicki Flood, Dr Rachel Jones, Associate Professor Margaret MacAndrew, Dr Jennifer Mann, Ms Gautami Motupally, Dr Sabrina Pit, and local GP Dr Hilton Koppe. Topics will include the role of social prescribing, healthy ageing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the importance of yarning circles in fostering inclusion.

'This is a valuable opportunity for participants to obtain practical, client-focused information, engage in peer networking, and take part in discussions about creating inclusive environments for people with dementia and their carers,' said DIBA Chair Anne Moehead.

The event promises to be inspiring and practical, offering tools and insights to strengthen dementia care across the region.

When: Friday 17 October, 8am-5pm
Where: Ballina RSL Club, 1 Grant St
Register: events.humanitix.com/dementia-inclusive-ballina-annual-symposium-2025

For more information contact: Anne Moehead, ph: 0429 449 591 or email: dementiainclusiveballina@gmail.com

On-call firefighters needed



Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) is on the lookout for locals who are ready to make an extraordinary difference. Right now, there are vacancies for on-call firefighters at Ballina, Alstonville, Goonellabah, Evans Head, Bangalow and Byron Bay - and the call is going out to men and women from all walks of life.

On-call firefighters play a vital role in keeping our community safe. They respond from home or work to emergencies such as house fires, road accidents, and hazardous material spills. The role also includes educating the community on fire prevention and safety – making it as much about protecting lives before an emergency as during one.

Training is provided in advanced first aid, heavy vehicle driving, and specialist firefighting skills, with on-call firefighters working alongside full-time professionals. The position is part-time and flexible, designed to fit around family and work commitments. You don't have to be available every minute of every day – but FRNSW especially needs reliable locals who can respond during daytime hours.

Local employers are also encouraged to support staff who want to join. 'Not only will you be helping the community,' FRNSW says, 'but your staff will gain a whole range of valuable skills.'

Without community support, local fire stations simply cannot survive. If you've ever thought about giving back, this could be your chance. For more information, contact the FRNSW Ballina Zone Office on ph: 5646 2100 or visit: fire.nsw.gov.au

2025 SPRING FEST
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Mobile Library Services

by Robert Hutton, Ballina Library



Pictured: The Mobile Library makes regular stops throughout the Northern Rivers.

The Ballina Library is currently undergoing a major refurbishment and we're very excited to show everybody the final results when we re-open in November. You may have noticed that during this time we have been lucky enough to have the Mobile Library parked near the Library on Saturday afternoons and most of Sundays. For many of you, this will be your first time using the Mobile Library and I'm sure you would have been surprised at just how spacious it is inside and how big a collection it actually holds.

The Richmond Tweed Regional Library (RTRL) has been operating a Mobile Library van since 1980, offering a full range of library services to villages and rural communities right across the Northern Rivers. These days, it is a semi-trailer, rather than a van, holding over 9,500 items including a large collection of books and other items for adults, children and young adults. Regular services include loans and returns, picking up reserved items, free wi-fi, pre-school programs, school holiday activities and more.

In the Ballina region, stops include Teven-Tintenbar, Wardell, Wollongbar, Wollongbar Tennis Court, Empire Vale and Cabbage Tree Hub. There are also a large number of stops in the Lismore, Byron and Tweed shires including Bangalow, Ocean Shores, Federal, Clunes, Dunoon, Nimbin, Burringbar and many others.

A pamphlet containing the Mobile Library timetable is available from all branches. It can also be viewed online by visiting: rtrl.nsw.gov.au, clicking on the Library Services tab and then selecting Mobile Library Service.

The Mobile Library is operated by a fantastic team of people including Gary, Rod, Chris, Alan and others. On behalf of Ballina Library staff and patrons, I'd like to send a big thank-you to all the Mobile Library drivers and support staff for helping us so much during our refurbishment and also for the wonderful job you do in bringing library services to rural and remote villages across the region.

For further information, please phone the branch on the following numbers:

Ballina, ph: 6686 2831
Lennox Head, ph: 6687 6398
Alstonville, ph: 6628 5527.

Rotary in action

by Jodie Shelley, Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond



Making a difference in our community, and beyond

The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond has been busy over the past few weeks, connecting with the local community and supporting projects that reach beyond our own region.

We attended the A Ward Community Connections Expo, where more than 40 local groups came together to share their work and strengthen community ties. It was inspiring to see so many dedicated to making a difference, and we thank the A Ward Councillors for creating such a valuable event.

Closer to home, our members embraced their inner ballerinas and joined the inaugural Tutus for Our Kids fundraiser. It was a night full of colour, music, and laughter, but most importantly, it raised funds for an important cause.

Our Recycle and Reuse team has also been hard at work. With the help of the organisation Someone Who Cares, we've packed and shipped containers filled with hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches, and educational supplies. These resources have made their way to Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, where they will support hospitals and schools in under-resourced communities.

Another way we've been helping our Pacific neighbours is through the assembly of birthing kits. Simple yet life-saving, these kits provide essential items such as gloves, soap, gauze, and a scalpel, all designed to support safe and hygienic childbirth in rural areas. Distributed through health workers and birthing attendants, they are making a real difference to the lives of mothers and newborns.

Back home, we've also been focussing on community safety. Our recent free CPR training course was so popular that we are hosting a free First Aid course in October, with another CPR session scheduled for 2026. Every second counts in an emergency, and equipping people with vital skills helps us all work towards a safer, more resilient community.

For more information, visit:
rotaryclubofballinaonrichmond.org.au

New faces and perspectives at Crowley Care



Pictured: Crowley Care welcomes Personal Care Workers from Papua New Guinea and congratulates its Traineeship graduates. Source: Supplied.

The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme is making a difference in Ballina, with four Personal Care Workers from Papua New Guinea recently joining Crowley Care.

The PALM program, supported by the Australian Government, connects workers from Pacific Island nations with regional Australian communities where demand for

care staff is high. For participants, it's a chance to gain skills and qualifications to take home and share with their families and communities. For Ballina, it means welcoming new colleagues with experience, passion and a strong commitment to care.

The newest arrivals at Crowley Care already hold the Australian Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing) and bring valuable professional backgrounds, including recent work in remote South Australian communities. Their combined knowledge strengthens the team supporting local residents while deepening cultural exchange within the workplace.

Crowley Care has a long history of training and developing its workforce, including running an internal traineeship that has seen 13 local graduates complete a Certificate III in Individual Support in recent years. The addition of PALM participants builds on this foundation, widening the pool of skilled care workers in the region.

As Ballina faces increasing demand for aged care services, the PALM scheme offers a vital link - bringing together communities, sharing expertise and enriching the lives of residents and workers alike.

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What's up with WCAN



Based at the Wollongbar Community Hall, the Wollongbar Community Action Network (WCAN) is a passionate and dedicated group of residents committed to enhancing the quality of local life. They are a network of volunteers, driven by a shared

vision to make Wollongbar a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving place to live.

WCAN elected a new committee at their AGM in August and are thrilled with the new 12-person team. New secretary, Veronica Lovejoy said, 'The committee reflects a broad age range of Wollongbar residents who share a great energy and enthusiasm for the future.'

The second annual Spring Market was held on 13 September at the Hall. With live music, clothing and plant stalls, face painting and kids messy play by Daisy Dayz, it was a delight for all. Daisy Dayz also runs a regular sensory play space at the venue.

WCAN is working with Ballina Shire Council to freshen up the Hall with an interior makeover and the installation of much needed acoustic treatment

for the benefit of the community. 'The space will then be more versatile to attract more live entertainment such as music and theatre,' said Veronica.

Wollongbar Community Hall is available for hire and is an affordable and welcoming space to host events, meetings, and activities. WCAN is proud to maintain this important community asset, ensuring it remains a vibrant hub.

Future events

A Halloween party will be held on 31 October at the Hall. Some other regular activities include the Wollongbar Community Garden every Friday morning, 9am to 11am, and Stitch and Yarn held on the fourth Tuesday of each month 9.30am-12pm. All welcome. See website for details: wollongbarhall.com.au



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Ballina Shire

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Alstonville Probus Club

October is officially Probus month. Probus is an abbreviation of the words 'professional' and 'business'. The criteria to become an Alstonville Probian is to be retired or semi-retired, still very much active and wanting to enjoy the company of others with similar interests, develop new interests and meet new friends. The group do not engage in fundraising nor are they political – they are all about learning new things and enjoying different outings to keep one's mind and self active. The Probus motto is 'Fun, friendship and fellowship, in retirement'.

Alstonville Probus is a mixed Club and has been in existence for over 40 years. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month from 10am, at the Alstonville Sports Club. The morning starts off with a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit or two and lots of

mingling and chatter. Although there is an agenda for the meetings, which include a guest speaker, gatherings are always relaxed and informal, often with lots of laughs. Alstonville Probus is one of the friendliest Clubs around, offering a variety of guests, outings and activities.

Why not join a Probus Club this month? You won't regret it.

Alstonville RSL Day Club

The Alstonville RSL Day Club, also known as the Tibouchina Day Club, meets every Wednesday at Rous Mill Hall, offering seniors friendship, fun and support. The Club is currently seeking volunteers to help with a range of roles, from welcoming members and assisting with morning tea to helping with gentle exercise or providing mentally stimulating activities. Volunteers are supported by a Co-ordinator and Administrator, with plenty of opportunities to engage and

enjoy the day alongside members. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Co-ordinator Marett on ph: 0421 272 643.

Australian Independent Retirees

The next meeting of Australian Independent Retirees will be held on Friday 3 October, commencing with fellowship at 9.30am for a 10am start. This meeting will be held as usual at the Ballina RSL Club. A meeting fee of \$5 will be collected from all members to go towards the morning tea, which will be followed by a guest speaker.

Last month's guest was Kim Thomas who is the manager of St Andrews Retirement Village and she provided an overview of retirement village living, home care services and the next step. The decision to move into a retirement living village should not be looked at as an investment - it is a lifestyle choice. This month's guest speakers will be Wendy Synott and



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Jacqueline Loader on behalf of Baptist Care Home Services. These ladies will provide information on how to apply for services from special providers to help stay in one's own home for a longer period, before having to move into the facilities discussed last month.

A lunch table has been booked for those who wish to join the group for a meal in the Boardwalk Restaurant after the meeting, with lunch at own expense.

Any enquiries contact the President, Jill Huxley on ph: 6686 8958. All retirees welcome.

Ballina CWA

The Ballina CWA will be holding their River Street stall on Friday 10 October, from 8am, outside The Greater Bank. Cooking and craft items will be available.

The next monthly meeting will be 20 October from 9am to 10am, with morning tea before the AGM at 10.30am. All are welcome. Contact details on page 22.

Ballina Ladies Probus

Probus Clubs offer a wonderful variety of activities for retirees, including enjoyable day trips, social outings, and regular monthly gatherings. They're a great way to stay active, meet like-minded people, and enjoy engaging talks from guest speakers. The Ballina Ladies Probus Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10am, at the Ballina RSL Club. They currently have vacancies and warmly welcome new members and visitors to come along and experience the fun, friendship, and fellowship for which the Club is known.

All are invited to lunch at Wok Star in West Ballina on Wednesday 15 October at 12pm - it'll be a chance to enjoy good food and great company. The group is also planning an exciting shopping trip to Robina on Wednesday 12 November – a day all are anticipating.

To learn more about the Club or upcoming events, please contact President, Jeanette, on ph: 0407 417 470.

Probus Club of Ballina Waters

The Ballina Probus Club continues to offer a varied social program with something for everyone. October is Probus Month across Australia, giving clubs the chance to showcase what Probus is all about - fun, friendship and fellowship for retired or semi-retired men and women. To mark the occasion, the Ballina Club will host an information stand at Ballina Fair and feature in an interview on *Paradise FM*.

Regular activities continue, including the monthly lunch on the last Friday, Happy Hour by the river on the second Tuesday (resuming with daylight saving), and an outing to a coffee plantation and wildlife sanctuary. Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday, featuring guest speakers on engaging local and general topics.

The Club welcomes new members to join its relaxed social activities, with no service or fundraising commitments - just friendship and good company.

Wollongbar Probus Club

The guest speaker at August's meeting was the Club's very own Guest Speaker Officer, Gordon King. He shared about a WW1 hero named Lt Commander Hugh Henry Gordon Dacre Stoker. Little is known about him and his historic journey as Captain on the AE2 Submarine in the Gallipoli Campaign. His treacherous journey through the Dardanelle's Strait, certainly proved why he was a hero.

For the August outing, 10 members visited the 2024 Archibald Prize Exhibition. It was a progressive day beginning with morning tea at La Baracca in Lismore before heading off to the Gallery for a guided tour of the Archibald artworks. Here the group were informed about the stories behind five pieces, which of course included the winning artwork by Laura Jones with the portrait of Tim Winton. The day concluded with lunch at Goonellabah Workers Club before returning to Alstonville.

In October members will be heading to Tweed Heads for an Eco Cruise up the river to celebrate Probus Month.

If anyone is looking for fun and friendship in their retirement, please take note of the meeting times on the following page.

BALLINA BRIDGE DUPLICATION *building a more resilient road network*

Planning and design works are progressing for the duplication of Fishery Creek and Canal bridges to improve evacuation routes during floods and ease congestion. Pre-construction work continues, including underground service relocations and embankment earthworks. Bridge construction is anticipated to start later this year.

➔ For more information visit ballina.nsw.gov.au/major-projects

ballina
shire council



Australian Government

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government

Alstonville Plateau Historical Society

When: 2pm, third Sunday, every second month
Where: Crawford House Museum, Alstonville
Contact: aphs2477@yahoo.co.au

Alstonville Probus Club

When: 10am, last Thursday each month
Where: Alstonville Plateau Sports and Bowls Club
Contact: Arthur, President, ph: 6628 0421

Alstonville Quota Club

When: 6.30pm, first Tuesday of each month
Where: Alstonville Plateau Sports and Bowls Club
Contact: Diane Parker, ph: 0416 214 012

Alstonville RSL Day Club

When: 10am - 2pm, every Wednesday
Where: Rous Mill Hall, Rous Mill (bus available)
Contact: Murette Davison, ph: 0421 272 643

Australian Independent Retirees

When: 10am, first Friday of each month
Where: Ballina RSL Club
Contact: Jill Huxley, ph: 6686 8958

Ballina CWA

When: 9am, third Monday of each month
Where: CWA Rooms, next to Ballina RSL
Contact: Gai Mason, President, ph: 0433 129 339

Ballina East Lions Club

When: 2pm, first Tuesday of each month
Where: Cherry Street Sports
Contact: Wayne, ph: 0439 605 604

Ballina Hospital Auxiliary

When: 1.30pm, third Tuesday of each month
Where: The Solarium, Ballina Hospital
Contact: ballina.uha.secretary@gmail.com

Ballina Ladies Probus

When: 10am, first Wednesday of each month
Where: Ballina RSL Club
Contact: Jeanette Edgar, ph: 0407 417 470

Ballina Lighthouse RSL Day Club

When: 10am-2pm, every Thursday
Where: Richmond Room, Regatta Avenue, Ballina
Contact: Lorraine Fox, ph: 0439 301 249

Ballina Lions Club

When: 6:30pm, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month
Where: 2nd Tues: Richmond Room, 4th Tues: Slipway Hotel
Contact: Mary Smith 0417 412 533

Ballina VIEW Club

When: 6.30pm, second Wednesday of each month
Where: Ballina RSL Club
Contact: Julie, President, ph: 0434 988 770

Ballina Waters Probus Club

When: 10am, third Wednesday of each month
Where: Cherry Street Sports, back deck
Contact: Brian Lewis, Secretary, ph: 0432 277 170

Crowley Care Auxiliary

When: 3pm-4pm, fourth Monday of each month
Where: Crowley Care Education Centre
Contact: Margaret, President, ph: 0411 573 770

Fellowship of First Fleeters - Northern Rivers

When: 10.30am, fourth Sunday of every second month
Where: Cherry Street Sports
Contact: Roddy Jordan, ph: 6687 5339

Inner Wheel Club of Alstonville

When: 11am, third Wednesday of each month
Where: Alstonville Plateau Sports and Bowls Club
Contact: Julie Lee, ph: 0414 396 520

Inner Wheel Club of Ballina

When: 1030am, first Wednesday of each month
Where: Ballina Golf Club
Contact: Yvonne Scarrabelotti ph: 0429 813 760

Rotary Club of Alstonville

When: 6pm, second and fourth Tuesday each month
Where: Alstonville Plateau Sports and Bowls Club
Contact: Therese Crollick, President, ph. 040 307 0063

Rotary Club of Ballina-On-Richmond

When: 6pm, first three Thursdays of each month
Where: Ballina RSL
Contact: Jodie, ph: 0427 287 627

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society Inc

When: 2pm-4pm, first Saturday of each month
Where: Ballina Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina
Contact: secretaryrtfhs1@yahoo.com

Scope Club of Ballina

When: 7pm, first Monday of each month
Where: Ballina RSL
Contact: Lynne McKee. President, ph: 0478 486 778

Tough Guys Book Club

When: 7pm, first Wednesday of each month
Where: Cherry Street Sports
Contact: Greg Wilson, President, ph: 0400 438 038

Wardell Red Cross

When: 10am, first Wednesday of each month
Where: Wardell & District Memorial Hall, 49 Richmond St
Contact: Jeannee, ph: 6686 3172

Wollongbar Community Action Network (CAN)

When: 6pm, fourth Thursday each month.
Where: Wollongbar Community Hall (off Simpson Ave)
Contact: Josh, President, ph 0403 820 584

Wollongbar Probus

When: 10am, third Thursday of each month
Where: Alstonville Plateau Sports and Bowls Club
Contact: Lorraine Hunt, ph: 6628 0542

Zonta Club of Northern Rivers

When: 6pm, third Wednesday of the month
Where: Alstonville Plateau Sports and Bowls Club
Contact: Bobbi Crane, President, 0409 980 729

Changes to the First Home Guarantee Scheme

by Zain Peart, ZEP Finance

Following the federal election earlier this year, the Labor Government's campaign promises have drawn considerable attention. For First Home Owners (FHO), the commencement of the new financial year passed without the implementation of the anticipated reduction on HECS balances. Although the government has indicated that this change will occur, the process remains delayed due to the task's complexity.

Significant developments have been announced regarding one of their other promises - the First Home Guarantee scheme - with changes coming into effect as of 1 October. The scheme enables first home buyers - or those who have not owned property for at least 10 years - to purchase a home with a deposit as low as 5%, in addition to other associated costs. The government guarantees 15% of the loan, allowing buyers to avoid lenders' mortgage insurance (LMI). This provision gives first home owners earlier access to the market, more competitive interest rates, and relief from substantial LMI fees. Without this scheme, borrowers seeking a 95% loan (only having

saved a 5% deposit) would typically face interest rates at least 1% higher and an LMI premium amounting to 3-4% of the property's value. These additional expenses have historically represented a significant barrier for first home buyers.

Notably, the revised scheme removes the annual cap on grants - previously set at \$50,000 and divided between standard and regional allocations. Moving forward, only the standard grant will remain, which streamlines the approval process by eliminating requirements related to regional residency. This adjustment is expected to expedite loan approvals and reduce administrative burdens previously faced by applicants.

Furthermore, income thresholds for eligibility have been abolished. Prior to this change, applicants were required to submit their most recent Notice of Assessment (NOA) and meet specific income criteria - \$125,000 for single applicants and \$200,000 for couples. It is unclear if a NOA will still be necessary given the removal of income limits, as new application forms have not yet been released.

Another substantial enhancement involves the increase in the maximum allowable property price under the scheme. In regional New South Wales (Ballina Shire) eligible properties may now be valued up to \$800,000. While this may not address all housing needs, as many properties in the Ballina Shire are above this price, it remains a positive development. At this price point, first home owners are also eligible for a full stamp duty waiver, yielding potential savings of \$30,000 alongside the benefits of the First Home Guarantee scheme. This represents a meaningful step forward for individuals aspiring to enter the property market.

Potential drawbacks include the possibility of upward pressure on property prices below the new thresholds. Nevertheless, the overall impact of these reforms is expected to facilitate greater access to home ownership for many Australians.

For more information about the FHGS visit: housingaustralia.gov.au

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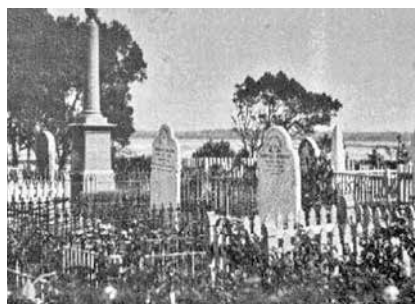
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**BALLINA COAST
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Unearthing Ballina's early settler burials

by Patricia Wilson (Editor) and Lynne Pramana (Researcher)



Pictured: Pilot Point Cemetery, 1890s.
Source: Supplied.



Pictured: Pilot Point Cemetery, after closure.



Pictured: Pioneer Cemetery, 2025.

Between the first white settlement at Shaws Bay in 1842, and the first recorded burial in 1848, it is not known if there were any deaths. Civil registration did not begin until 1856 which would account for why the Ballina Shire Council records do not go back beyond that date.

It was not long, however, before a special area at Shaws Bay was set aside and fenced for the first cemetery. The site was chosen because the high ground was clearly the best spot for burials, and it was easily accessible by the River. It was called Pilot Point Cemetery and is now called Pioneer Cemetery. Pilot Point was not actually designated as a cemetery but as an informal burial ground with few rules or guidelines.

In the small book, *Reminiscences*, James Ainsworth has recorded that the first death was that of Jack Farrell in 1848. Jack had a mishap while walking across a raft of cedar logs moored in Browns Bay (now Mobbs Bay). He fell between the logs and was drowned. His body was washed up near Fishery Creek, and he was interred at the top of what is now the Pioneer Cemetery. This was only six years after white settlement. His death may have been the catalyst for the selection of this particular plot of land as the first cemetery. Other burials near Jack Farrell included Manny Davis, Fred Bacon, Henry Williams, and William (Billy) Wollett, all of whom were among the earliest group of settlers.

The Council record of interments, which is available online, states that the first recorded burial was of Henry Williams on 1 February 1857, and the last three were Ellen Burns, Elizabeth Smith and Alexander Eyles, in 1915. The last burial was Hector Saunders on 16 January 1916, but this is not recorded in the list. As you will have perceived, there is a gap of 15 years between the date of first arrivals and the first grave in the cemetery. It is likely to have been the lack of substantial headstones in these early days with no mason to engrave a stone, and only wood for a marker. Of the headstones that are in the walls, very few are readable, with the marble ones being the clearest.

New investigations by our researcher, Lynne, have uncovered an article in the municipal matters section of the *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, NSW : 1883 - 1930), Saturday 11 July 1908. It is recorded: 'The Ballina Council has decided to close the present cemetery at Pilot Point in six months' time. The new cemetery will be at Bald-Hill.' This is the location which is now called the East Ballina Cemetery.

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The *Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales* (Sydney, NSW : 1901 - 2001), Wednesday 11 August 1909, states: 'His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, having approved of the following Regulations for the portion of the General Cemetery at Ballina, dedicated 20th December, 1905, set apart for an unsectarian Burial Ground, such Regulations are hereby published for public information.'

This document contains 41 detailed rules and regulations to be followed, giving the churches and Ballina Council control over mapping and records. The trustees of this new Ballina Cemetery were R. S. Smith, Hugh Gibson, Lawrence Jackson and Thomas Russell Jnr.

The old Pilot Point cemetery, of course, remained. The picture (opposite page, centre) is a very old photograph which was possibly taken after the cemetery had closed and the new cemetery at East Ballina had opened. We know that in 1962 the remaining headstones were gathered, and basalt walls were built on the site to accommodate them. This was named The Pioneer Cemetery which is now deteriorating due to unstable ground and the wear of the sandstone headstones.

On the Thomas Fenwick monument there were three additional names

inscribed for deaths in 1943, 1960 and 1965, but these people were not buried there.

A list of those buried in the new East Ballina Cemetery is available and you may find that your ancestor is missing from the list. This was due to a fire that ran through the cemetery in 1928 causing considerable damage and wooden crosses used as headstones could not be saved. We are endeavoring to find old maps which may have graves listed by name. Most death certificates have Place of Burial which lists the name of the town or cemetery, but not necessarily the actual site.

Currently, the historians of Ballina are keen to see improvements to Pioneer Cemetery. It is not only situated in a beautiful place, but also the only relic of those early years; a place for learning and story-telling.

Ballina Shire is the custodian of several other cemeteries including Alstonville, Rous, Tintenbar and Wardell. In the Tintenbar cemetery, we found the grave of 62-year-old Joseph Maguire who died in 1910. His father, also Joseph Maguire, was one of the cedar cutters who first came overland from the Clarence River with his wife, arriving on the *Sally*, the first such ship to cross the bar of the Richmond River. There are many such stories to be told.



Ballina District Historical Museum

Visit the Museum at 580 Pimlico Rd, Pimlico. It is open Friday and Sunday from 10am to 2pm, and is a beautiful 15-minute drive from Ballina through the cane fields and emerging macadamia plantations.

Entry is \$5 for adults, free for children and youth under 18 years and includes free tea/coffee and biscuits. The Museum is free to visit on the first Friday and Sunday of each month. Morning tea is available by appointment for groups between 10 to 20 persons at a cost of \$10 per person for entry and Devonshire tea. Enquiries, call Brian ph: 0493 549 902, or Ann ph: 0427 291 772.

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Meet The Producer: Bay Ravioli

by Kylie McGregor, Ballina Farmers & Producers Market



Pictured: Pasta maker Mitch Goldsworthy with son, Arlo, who has been making pasta with his dad since he was three years old.

Each week the market is home to not only the freshest produce but a great range of locally made artisan food, including Bay Ravioli. This month we sit down with pasta maker Mitch Goldsworthy.

What do you produce?

I make a range of pastas, which include four flavours of frozen ravioli, a beef lasagne and also a vegan lasagne (both of which are frozen), and we also have a small range of fresh pasta including spaghetti, fettuccine, fresh lasagna sheets and gluten-free potato gnocchi.

How did you get into making pasta?

In the beginning of 2019, I started working for Byron Gourmet Pasta, producing predominantly raviolis and selling them at the local farmers' markets. Byron Gourmet Pasta closed and in mid 2023, I stopped making pasta and explored other passions.

When Pasta Chibo (another local pasta producer) closed, I decided to start making pasta again.

What are the benefits of being small-scale and local?

The benefits of offering ravioli and lasagne that is locally made is that once it's produced and packaged, it's easy to store and retains its quality. The benefits of being a small-scale producer is that it's a very hands-on method of production and our attention to detail can be quite precise and easily managed, unlike mass-produced pastas.

What's the most popular product at the market?

Our most popular products would definitely be the pumpkin, sage and garlic ravioli, and the spinach and three cheeses ravioli. However, the beef lasagne is also really popular.

What is your connection to Ballina?

From early 2018 to mid 2020 when I was working with Byron Gourmet Pasta, we had a shopfront in Cherry Street and during this time I got to know a lot of the locals in Ballina. It's been fantastic being back at the market and reconnecting with the community here.

How important is it for our community to be able to buy at farmers' markets?

It's very important to know who grows and produces your food. A large portion of the stallholders are family-run operations. You quite often see their children at the markets helping out on the stalls, which is great. Shopping at the farmers' market also lowers your food miles and cuts down on production waste, which is a massive issue I'm passionate about.

What makes a great pasta?

I believe great pasta – especially raviolis – is a texture thing. A strong, firm but delicately soft dough and flavourful filling is important. The main difference of our raviolis compared to mass-produced varieties is that we make our dough from premium, sustainably grown white flour. A lot of the larger companies use a semolina-based dough. I believe the premium white flour gives us a better texture and flavour.

What's your favourite pasta, and how do you serve it?

My favourite pasta at the moment would be the gluten-free potato gnocchi. I love to pan sear the gnocchi with a little bit of olive oil and butter, then add a delicious Napoli sauce and loads of shaved parmesan. Simple but delicious.

Ballina Farmers & Producers Market runs every Sunday from 7-11am at Commemoration Park, Ballina.



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Zoe White: Giving the River a voice

by Kate Parry



For much of her early adulthood, Zoe White lived beneath the surface. As a scuba instructor, she spent her days immersed in the ocean, surrounded by fish, corals, and the vibrant ecosystems that sparked her lifelong passion for marine life. That deep connection to the water would go on to shape her studies, career, and now her leadership as OzFish Project Manager for the NSW North Coast and Riverkeeper for the Richmond River.

When she wasn't diving, Zoe was studying. She completed a Bachelor of Marine Science and Management at Southern Cross University, while also running beach cleans and marine conservation campaigns for a local not-for-profit. Later, she moved into a role with Byron Shire Council, where she led a range of projects aimed at protecting local waterways and reducing pollution. Having called the Northern Rivers home for over a decade, the devastation of the 2022 floods had a profound effect. Seeing the fish kills and long-lasting damage to local rivers and wetlands, Zoe felt compelled to do more.

Today, her role with OzFish allows her to do just that. As Riverkeeper, she describes herself as the 'voice' of the Richmond Riverkeeper Alliance - a network of caretakers working together to make local rivers drinkable, swimmable, and fishable. 'My role is to ensure the river has a voice,' she explains, 'and to empower and connect the community back to it. We can all be riverkeepers.'

For Zoe, the Richmond River is a workplace and a sanctuary. Each morning, she starts her day walking along The Spit in Ballina, where she watches ospreys hunt, mullet leap, and dolphins feed. In her free time, she explores its many creeks and mangroves by kayak, or snorkels along the rock walls when the water is clear and blue. 'She is big and mighty,' Zoe says, 'and there is so much of her to discover and enjoy.'

But this mighty river faces big challenges. Zoe points to historic floodplain drainage as one of the greatest threats. Wetlands once drained for farmland have become acidic and oxygen-depleted, creating blackwater events that strip rivers of life. Combined with erosion from lost riverbank trees, the decline of fish habitat, and constant chemical run-off, the Richmond's health has been under siege for decades.

Yet, there is reason for hope. Since the floods, Zoe has witnessed a groundswell of community energy and collaboration. Local governments, organisations, and volunteers are working together more than ever before. Projects like saltmarsh and riparian restoration are bringing results - sites once degraded are now thriving, thanks to years of hands-on commitment from volunteers. 'It's inspiring to see trees now over triple my size at some sites,' she says proudly.

Grassroots involvement is at the heart of OzFish's approach. By engaging communities in on-ground projects - whether it's tree planting, fish habitat restoration, or rubbish clean-ups - the organisation builds a culture of stewardship. 'Many hands make light work,' Zoe notes, 'and lasting change starts with locals caring for their own backyard.' She encourages residents to take simple steps, like avoiding harmful chemicals, fishing sustainably, getting involved in local restoration and remembering that 'all drains lead to our waterways.'

A highlight of the riverkeepers' work each year is Richmond Riverfest, a festival that celebrates the lifeblood of the region. Happening all throughout October, this year's program expands across the entire catchment with tree plantings, cultural sessions, workshops, live music, and even Science at the Pub events. For Zoe, it's about more than fun - it's about connection. 'Riverfest is a chance to celebrate community, culture, and country while giving the river the attention it deserves.'

Looking ahead, Zoe's vision for the Richmond River is bold but clear: long-term investment, stronger protection, oyster reef restoration, functioning wetlands, and hundreds of thousands of native trees back on its banks. Above all, she believes it's not too late. 'We can get our river back to being drinkable, swimmable, and fishable,' she says. 'But we need to act now - and we need to keep hope alive.'

Richmond Riverfest runs throughout October, at various locations across the region. For a full schedule, visit: richmondriverfest.com



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Nansie: Swimming with memories

by Kate Parry



When sisters Adelaide and Lucinda Miller were little, their grandmother Ann - known affectionately as Nansie - was the centre of their world. She babysat, nurtured, and surrounded them with warmth. But when dementia entered her life in 2018, the roles reversed. Suddenly, the granddaughters became carers, navigating the strange and often heartbreaking terrain of memory loss.

In her illness, Nansie developed a recurring story: she told her granddaughters that every morning she went swimming in the ocean. Adelaide and Lucinda knew this wasn't true - Nansie had never learnt to swim. Yet instead of correcting her, they leaned into the world her dementia had created. Could they make her story come true? That question set them on a four-year journey that would transform not only their grandmother's life, but also their own.

This tender, moving journey is captured in the documentary *Nansie*, directed by emerging filmmaker Anna Trichet-Laurier.

The film will screen at the upcoming Byron Bay International Film Festival (including Palace Cinema in Ballina,) offering audiences an intimate glimpse into a family's love, resilience, and courage in the face of dementia.

A deeply personal project

For director Anna Trichet-Laurier, *Nansie* is more than a story about one family - it is also a way of reckoning with her own past. Growing up, Anna spent countless hours with her grandmother Rosette. But when Rosette began showing signs of dementia, her condition was quickly medicalised and she was placed in a nursing home. Anna, afraid of losing the memory of 'the real her,' chose not to visit again.

It's a decision she has long regretted.

'When I met Adelaide and Lucinda and heard their story, I realised I could have done so much more for my grandmother if I'd had support back then,' Anna says. 'She loved watching birds out the window, she loved games - simple things I could have shared with her. *Nansie* became my way of telling the story I wish I had lived.'

Her Director's Statement captures the film's purpose: to inspire younger people to remain present for loved ones with dementia, and to show that even amid decline there is joy, laughter, and connection.

Making memory visible

Filmed over four years, *Nansie* interweaves professional cinematography with personal footage captured by the Miller sisters. The effect is raw and immediate, pulling viewers into the intimacy of family life - moments of tenderness, frustration, humour, and quiet resilience.

For Anna, treating the sisters' own phone footage with the same seriousness as studio-shot material was a deliberate choice. 'It was so real,' she explains. 'Those raw moments showed the balance I wanted - the hard times, yes, but also the playfulness. Living with dementia isn't only dark. Fun and joy still exist, and that was very important for me to show.'



Mark Law
Chief Geek

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Throughout the film, Nansie herself shares thoughts and fragments of her world, offering rare insight into what it feels like to live inside dementia. Rather than portraying her as simply a patient or a diagnosis, *Nansie* restores her humanity.

A film shaped by obstacles

Like many projects of recent years, *Nansie* faced disruption from the COVID pandemic. Lockdowns at the nursing home meant long stretches without access to Nansie, during which her condition deteriorated rapidly.

'These were incredibly difficult times,' Anna recalls. 'We could see the impact of isolation on her, yet we couldn't be there. It forced us to refine the story, to sharpen its message about the importance of connection and presence.'

Beyond the practical challenges, the project also tested Anna and her team emotionally. Presenting the idea to institutions and funders was not always easy, and repeated setbacks could have derailed the film entirely. Yet the persistence of the sisters, and Anna's own belief in the story, carried them through.

Lessons in care

What emerges most strongly from *Nansie* is its emphasis on presence. Adelaide and Lucinda do not deny their grandmother's altered reality; instead, they step into it. In doing so, they find ways to connect across the gap dementia has created.

'The biggest lesson I learned,' Anna reflects, 'is that people living with dementia follow their own timeline, their own stories. There's no point fighting against that. You have to go with them, and when you do, you discover surprising moments of meaning.'

She credits staff at the nursing home with modelling this gentleness and patience. Their example, she says, helped her create a safe space for Nansie during filming - one in which genuine, profound insights could emerge.

Why it matters

The film's themes reach far beyond one family. More than 1.5 million Australians care for someone with dementia. It is the second leading cause of death nationwide and the leading cause of death for women. Yet, as Anna points out, very little prepares families for the reality of caring.

'Younger people especially are disconnected from this experience,' she says. 'Over the last five years, Adelaide and Lucinda didn't meet any other young carers in their grandmother's nursing home. They wanted to be proof that spending time with people living with dementia can still be rewarding - not just for the person with the condition, but for the carer too.'

In offering audiences this proof, *Nansie* provides practical ideas and emotional encouragement. It shows that life does not stop at diagnosis - that love, play, and creativity can remain.

In the end, *Nansie* is a film about love - the kind that persists even as memory frays, the kind that gives back as much as it gives away.

Nansie will be showing at the Byron Bay International Film Festival and screening at festival venue Palace Ballina. Audiences will have the chance to step into the Millers' world and, perhaps, reflect on their own.

For more information, visit: bbff.com.au



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Discover your family history

by Richmond-Tweed Family History Society (RTFHS)



Step 10: Where to from here?

Now you have had a chance to do some research into your family, what will be your next step?

Family history research can be frustrating at times, as well as time-consuming. It can also become addictive and the excitement of finding a long-lost ancestor overrides all the frustrations. Researching your family goes beyond just documenting facts. It takes you to libraries and research rooms; it leads you to cemeteries and when you stand before a headstone belonging to one of your great-grandparents, it gives you that sense of satisfaction and belonging which being part of a long family line brings.

Genealogy gives you a sense of pride in your ancestors' accomplishments; respect for their hardships and losses, and their determination to make a go of it – never giving in or giving up. It also gives you a sense of knowing those who went before you.

There are so many more avenues of research available than has been covered in this 10-part series, including newspapers, military records, parish records, wills and obituaries. All these additional records embellish the story of your lineage. The internet is a wonderful tool for finding information, and there is an enormous amount of material available online now, but don't forget the manual investigation too.

Being a good researcher is a little like detective work. You need an open mind and to be prepared to spend many hours trawling through online or actual records, diaries, books and visiting other archives and libraries, including the RTFHS library, which, as an affiliate of Family Search, has many records that are unavailable on the free Family Search site.

Other people will be interested in your discoveries, not only members of your immediate family, but people you meet along the way. If you have your DNA or Family Tree online, you might meet living relatives. It is always a thrill to find some new connections, either biological or by marriage, with whom you can exchange your families shared information.

You may wish to write about your family and their stories and print your creation for posterity. Family history research never seems to stop.

It's a challenge, and if you join a family history group you'll meet people who have been researching their family trees, sometimes for decades. A continuing process, there is always more to do, more records become available, a new avenue to pursue, an ancestor who fascinates you and you just must find out more. Under these circumstances you will understand why the family history researcher's personal motto is: 'never give up'.

About RTFHS

The Society's Research Library (6 Regatta Ave, Ballina) provides guidance in all family history matters for a \$5 contribution, or yearly membership is \$40 single/\$50 family.

The Library is open Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10am-4pm. The Society meets at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month at the Ballina Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street. Visitors welcome and attendance is free.

For more info call ph: 0402 385 681, or visit: rtfhs.net.au

Upcoming meetings

- Saturday 4 October
Solving Your Family History Brick Walls. Small groups will work on examples supplied.
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The golden years

by Graeme Eggins



Your second-best travel companion

Australians love to travel any time, but one of our favourites is the shoulder season around this month. October, like April, combines the advantages of peak- and off-season travel. You should (hopefully) enjoy decent weather, long-enough daylight and fewer crowds.

But wherever you're going, never forget your smartphone. It has so many uses.

Use your mobile to stay in touch with family and friends via phone calls, texts, WhatsApp, Viber, FaceTime, or email. Alternatively use the messaging features on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and X.

But be aware that international roaming can be expensive if not managed carefully. So before leaving Australia, ask your provider about affordable roaming options. Check Australian mobile provider plans on websites WhistleOut and Canstar.

You may also consider purchasing a local SIM card in your destination country for cheaper calls.

On arrival at your destination, Google Maps, Apple Maps or downloadable maps like Maps.me can help you find your way around unfamiliar places. But watch your map time - GPS and navigation apps can quickly drain your phone's battery.

Your mobile can be your all-in-one travel wallet. Use it to store boarding passes, hotel bookings, travel insurance, ID, COVID vaccination certificates, and copies of passports. Many airlines and hotels now prefer digital check-ins. As a backup take screenshots of important documents in case you lose internet access and email copies to yourself or a trusted friend.

AI means your smartphone can translate menus and signs or even conversations with apps like Google Translate. Other apps, like XE or Currency Plus, convert foreign money into Australian \$.

Never be bored. You can listen to audiobooks, watch movies, read eBooks, play games, or listen to music during flights or long coach trips. Just keep an eye on your battery.

Your phone can also be a virtual wallet. It allows you to

check your bank balances, transfer money, pay bills, or possibly use contactless payments like Apple Pay or Google Pay. Check your online banking security measures before you leave - enable fingerprint or face ID login and let your bank know when you will be overseas.

Also register before leaving home to receive travel updates and alerts from the Australian Government's Smartraveller service.

Add emergency contacts to your phone's lock screen or medical ID section as well as the main police number used in the country you're visiting. Examples: 112 in Indonesia, India and Korea; 110 in Japan; 113 in Indonesia and 911 in the USA.

Your phone is a portable camera, video recorder and you can also record conversations - perhaps on-the-spot interviews with people you meet on the trip. Just don't risk losing everything if your phone is lost or stolen. Regularly back up photos to the cloud or email them home as you travel.

Want more convenience? Wear the latest model smart glasses. You can take photos and videos, listen to music, make calls and even livestream direct to Facebook and Instagram - all without taking your phone out of your pocket.

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Tech tip: Glitches happen to everyone

by Mark Law, My Geek Mate



In today's world, technology can feel overwhelming - especially for those who didn't grow up with it. Many older community members say they feel like they must be doing something wrong when their phone, computer, or tablet doesn't behave as expected. But as I remind clients, more often than not, the problem isn't the user at all – it's the system.

Even the biggest names in technology – Apple, Google (Alphabet), Microsoft, Samsung, Amazon, and Meta (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp) – regularly deal with glitches. These trillion-dollar companies employ some of the smartest minds in the world, yet their products still encounter bugs. Sometimes the systems

simply haven't accounted for every situation. Other times, a temporary fault appears and disappears within a day or so. That's why I encourage people not to be too quick to blame themselves when issues arise. A calmer, more methodical approach – with a bit of patience and persistence – usually leads to a solution. Often, the best course of action is simply to wait 24 hours and try again.

The key message is clear: it's not a lack of knowledge on the user's part. Technology is vast and imperfect, and glitches happen to everyone, regardless of experience. Just remember, help is there if you need it - no one has to face tech troubles alone.

October Tide Times, Ballina

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Wheels of the month



Brett Finlay's pride and joy is a striking 1937 Chevrolet – a Holden built Australian-bodied classic that has a history as tough as its look. 'It would have started life as a bigger truck, probably army, just by the colours remaining on the body,' Brett explains.

The Chevy came into his life as a part completed project. 'I purchased it one-third finished from South West Rocks. A young bloke and his dad had started the build, but sadly his father passed away and they didn't get to finish it. That was eight years ago. What you see now is the finished product.'

For Brett, the journey of finishing the car was just as rewarding as the end result. 'Finishing the build was the best part, and seeing it on the road is very satisfying. I pulled in a few favours along the way and made some great relationships through the process.'

While it hasn't claimed big trophies, Brett treasures the memories it has created. 'My favourite trip was to Murbah Rumble last year. It was their first show, and I had good friends there with their cars. We spent a great few days together.'

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Cooking with CWA



Picture credit: QLD CWA.

Seasonal Vegetable Slice

Makes approximately 16 slices.
Great to enjoy cold for picnics.

Ingredients

- 400g mixed seasonal vegetables (roughly chopped)
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 1 cup grated tasty cheese
- 2 slices ham (optional)
- 1 cup self-raising flour, sifted
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ cup oil
- 4 eggs

Method

1. Line a slice pan with baking paper.
2. Mix vegetables, onion, cheese ham (if using), sifted flour, salt and pepper together.
3. Add oil and lightly beaten eggs.
4. Spoon mixture into pan and cook in a moderate oven (180°C) for 30-40 minutes.

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Dogs on tour

by Milt Barlow

When you take off for a short break sometimes it's hard to leave a family member - your woofers - at home. And it can be expensive to board them. But that's all changing rapidly, in the air and on the ground.

Virgin Australia will start allowing small dogs and cats to travel in the cabin from December 2025. This new pet policy permits passengers to bring one small cat or dog per person, provided the pet is at least eight weeks old and fits comfortably in a soft-sided, ventilated, airline-approved pet carrier that fits under the seat in front of the passenger. Pets must remain in their carriers during the flight and are limited to two designated economy rows on select domestic routes.

The pet carrier and pet count toward the passenger's carry-on baggage allowance, with a combined weight limit of 8kg. There is an additional charge of around \$30 per one-way flight for pets in the cabin.

This move follows approval from aviation regulators and is designed to cater to the high demand from pet owners, with research showing that 70% of pet owners would travel with their pet in the cabin and 57% would fly more often if this service were available. The policy includes strict health and safety requirements, such as the need for a veterinary certificate for pets under 12 weeks or over 12 years old, and only certain dog breeds are permitted under Australian regulations.

On the ground, bringing a furry friend along on a short getaway is also easier than ever with many hotels, resorts, and caravan parks embracing dog-friendly hospitality. Whether seeking a luxury retreat, beachside resort, or rustic caravan park, this guide highlights some top spots from South East Queensland to Sydney and inland New South Wales where your dog isn't just tolerated, but truly welcomed.

SE Queensland: coastal and hinterland havens

Queensland leads with a variety of pet-welcoming places catering to all styles of travelling dog owners. The Spicers group offers luxurious stays across the region – from urban New Farm in Brisbane to rainforest serenity on the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Their Pooch Package includes cosy dog bedding, bowls, treats, and a warm welcome, making dogs feel part of the family.

Popular pet-friendly hotels on the Gold Coast include Quest Robina that offers rooms with dog beds and private courtyards. Additionally, BIG4 Gold Coast Holiday Park provides great caravan and camping options that allow pets with spacious dog-friendly outdoor spaces.

Restrictions are usually a maximum of one or two dogs per room, with fees varying between properties. Always check ahead for size or breed restrictions, but many Queensland spots welcome all breeds happily.



Sydney: Stylish stays for dogs and owners

In Sydney, dog-friendly luxury hotels are rising in popularity, blending high-end comfort for humans and pooches. Pier One Sydney Harbour offers a Puppy Package that supplies in-room dog beds, food and water bowls, and even a doggy minibar. Dogs can join outdoor dining areas with special dog menus, ensuring a pampered city stay.

Other top options include Kimpton Margot, a boutique hotel with no pet fee, providing plush pet beds, mats, and concierge services pointing to the best nearby dog parks and cafes. QT Sydney welcomes dogs with their Pup Yeah! Package for dogs under 20kg and offers a special in-room doggie dinner menu and pup mini-bar.

Across the board, Sydney hotels usually set a two-dog maximum per room, with mandatory booking on special dog packages to guarantee a dog-focussed experience.

Inland NSW and along the coast: caravan parks and nature escapes

For those preferring a more outdoorsy or budget-friendly approach, many caravan parks in NSW proudly welcome dogs. Discovery Parks - Forster features fenced off-leash areas, dog washing stations, and pet-friendly cabins. BIG4 Saltwater Yamba offers enclosed decks on cabins, off-leash dog parks with agility equipment, and washing facilities for dog bedding.

The Double D Caravan Park in Peak Hill boasts two off-leash areas and a do-it-yourself doggy spa. Most parks permit one dog per cabin, sometimes more on campsites, and charge nominal nightly fees. Check park policies for specific breed restrictions or seasonal limitations.

Common pet policies and tips

Though dog-friendly accommodations are increasing, common rules include:

- leashing dogs in public areas
- restricting dogs from dining indoors
- cleaning up after pets
- pet fees ranging from \$5 to \$25 per night depending on property and dog size
- usually limiting the number of dogs per room or site.

Booking directly with the property is advisable to ensure current dog policies and availability.

Choirs, dance, and discovery at BPS

by Angela Wraight, Principal (Relieving), Ballina Public School



Ballina Public School (BPS) students are continuing their reign of success across all curriculum areas.

Our choir and dance students performed at the Lismore Eisteddfod

and walked away with outstanding results. The Stage 3 Choir and Combined Yrs 3-6 Choir both received 1st place. The Stage 2 Choir was awarded 2nd place. Our Contemporary dance item placed 3rd and our Jazz/Hip Hop routine was placed 2nd. This is a phenomenal result for all students involved and Ms Caitlin Schwenk who led and choreographed all choir and dance items. Congratulations to you all.

Students from Kindergarten to Yr6 have been enjoying an opportunity to

choose their learning path by engaging in elective subjects once a week. This allows students to enjoy activities in which they may have a special interest or talent. Subjects on offer include sport, visual arts, coding and STEM.

We are actively taking enrolments for 2026 and invite you to come and take a Principal's tour with me. You will not be disappointed in what we can offer your child as BPS is an award-winning public education school with talented, compassionate teachers.

Celebrating milestones and new journeys

by Belinda Parkes, Community Engagement Officer, BCHS



Ballina Coast High School (BCHS) extends its heartfelt congratulations to our Yr12 students as they approach the end of their high school journey. Many of them are now sitting their final exams – a huge milestone after years of learning, friendship and growth. We are very proud of the excellent humans they have become and trust they have the knowledge and confidence to bring them the success they deserve in their HSC exams.

As we prepare to farewell our senior students, we're also getting ready to welcome the next generation of students with our Yr6 friends joining us for their transition visits. These days enable students to get to know each other, receive a taste of high school life and try out some of the fun new subjects they'll get to learn next year.

Our current Yr7 English class has been studying Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The story is about ambition and power struggles and our students have had lots of fun transforming the classroom into an ancient battleground, using original Shakespearean dialogue to recreate the dramatic scene of Macbeth's demise.

Some of our Yr7 students have also chosen to learn about Asian cuisines. In this class they have been cooking traditional dishes while learning about the different cultures and dietary habits throughout the region.

NEW BALLINA SES HEADQUARTERS

Ballina Shire Council, in partnership with NSW SES, has completed the design on a new, purpose-built SES unit and Emergency Operations Centre in Ballina. Construction commenced in September 2025 and the facility is expected to be finished in late 2026.

➔ For more information visit ballina.nsw.gov.au/SESheadquarters

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This project is jointly funded by
Ballina Shire Council and NSW SES

Prepare your kids for the social media ban

by Micah Boerma and Daniel You



In just over two months, world-first legislation will ban Australian under-16s from certain social media platforms. Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, X, Reddit and YouTube will all be off limits for children and teens.

It's still not clear exactly how the restrictions will be implemented. But the federal government says social media platforms must take 'reasonable steps' to delete the accounts of minors before or on 10 December and stop them from creating new accounts through age verification software. Parents will not be able to give their consent to allow under-16s to use these platforms.

Not everyone's a fan. Unsurprisingly, there has been a fierce debate about the potential benefits and risks of this ban on young Australians. Regardless, the ban is here. Cutting back on screen time and social media will be challenging for many young people.

Research suggests social media allows young people to express themselves, develop their identity and seek social connection. In a society where two out five young Australians feel lonely, seeking out social support is crucial.

Equally, social media can be addictive and the 'fear of missing out' can see young people engage more intensely on these platforms.

Here are five ways to prepare your child for the 10 December ban.

1. Don't wait until 10 December

The sudden removal of social media could be a shock to young people. So start the conversation as early as possible with your child and work together to create a plan on how to manage the ban. Talk to kids and teens about why the ban is being implemented and how it will affect their friendships and daily routines. This can help children feel informed, supported and importantly, heard.

Conversations could include gentle curiosity around the role of social media in their life, seeking their views on an impending ban, acknowledgement of the anxiety this might cause, as well as online safety. Revisiting the topic in a series of smaller chats might also be helpful.

2. Fade out social media

Gradually reducing your child's time on social media rather than suddenly stopping it will help them to adjust slowly and prevent feelings of withdrawal and frustration. You could try reducing time spent on social media by a quarter each week and completely stop after one month. Families might opt to do this faster or slower.

By planning this approach together, your child can understand and accept it, making the removal of social media smoother and less stressful for the whole family.

3. Replace, rather than remove

Social media meets young people's needs to socially connect with others, develop their identity, and belong to a community. These needs will not disappear when the ban is introduced. You could consider signing up to some other activities for regular social connection and a sense of belonging. These might include team sports, group hobbies, or volunteering. Consider creative pursuits such as art, music, or handicrafts so your child can express their identity.

4. Start offline connections

Normalise and encourage engagement within your communities that isn't reliant on social media. In US psychologist Jonathan Haidt's divisive book, *The Anxious Generation*, he contends it is much harder to replace a child's screen time with play if they are the only one in their peer group not using screens and in the park.

The ban presents an opportunity for parents to encourage and support children to build supportive offline groups together, where children can regularly connect in person. These could be connected to existing friends or newly established groups of like-minded families.

These groups can stick to the social media ban together and use alternative means of communication such as by phone, text or email.

5. Do it yourself

Children and young people absorb the behaviours and attitudes that are modelled to them in the home. So this means parents can help by managing their own screen time, prioritising face-to-face connections with friends and family, and setting aside regular time for hobbies and activities.

This reinforces the importance of balancing digital and offline experiences. Modelling these behaviours consistently will help your child feel supported in the upcoming ban.

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Discover Constable's legacy

hosted by ArtsNational Northern Rivers



Pictured: *Old Sarum* by John Constable, 1834. Source: Supplied.

Art lovers are in for a treat this month with a rare illustrated presentation by international expert Sarah Cove, exploring the groundbreaking late works of John Constable - *My Scrambling Affair: How Constable's Late Paintings Changed the Face of Modern Art*.

Best known for his romantic depictions of the English countryside, Constable shocked his contemporaries with his bold, almost abstract brush and palette-knife techniques.

Created some 50 years before Impressionism, these exuberant late paintings found little favour with English collectors but were eagerly snapped up by forward-thinking Parisian dealers. In turn, they influenced generations of French artists, leaving a profound mark on the direction of modern art.

Hosted by Arts National Northern Rivers, Sarah will guide audiences through Constable's diverse painting methods with striking, high-resolution images that reveal the radical techniques behind his vision.

The presenter brings unrivalled expertise. Sarah Cove is an accredited paintings conservator-restorer, technical art historian and lecturer with more than 35 years' experience. Founder of the Constable Research Project in 1986, she has played a vital role in authenticating and rediscovering lost works. Her engaging style has also reached television audiences through several BBC programs.

When: Monday 20 October, 6.30pm

Where: A&I Hall, Bangalow

Tickets: trybooking.com/events/landing/1304296



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To strengthen our financial future, Council is considering a four-year Special Rate Variation above the State Government's annual limit.

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Bluegrass and Folk come to Ballina Shire



Pictured: The Maes. Source: Supplied.

For more than two decades, the Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival has drawn music lovers from across Australia and beyond. Each year, world-class folk, bluegrass, and Americana artists journey to



the Dorrigo Plateau to share their music. Now, thanks to the festival's connections, several international and Australian acts will be performing right here, across the Ballina Shire.

Pearces Creek Hall has already developed a reputation among touring musicians. Last year, the Nokosee Fields Trio from the USA performed there unplugged and were captivated by the warmth of the crowd and the hall's natural acoustics.

This October and November, Pearces Creek and Tintenbar Halls will once again host outstanding artists from around the world. From the spine-tingling harmonies of The Maes to the sunlit folk-rock of Minor Gold, the old-time banjo and fiddle tunes of Porch Couch, and the dynamic Canadian-bluegrass duo Moranz &

Fremlin alongside Those Folk - there's something for every lover of roots-driven music.

These intimate concerts offer a rare chance to experience world-class performances in local halls. Gather your friends, book your tickets, and let the music find you right here in the Ballina Shire. Visit: linktr.ee/pearcescreekhall

Upcoming performances:

- Thursday 16 October: The Maes, Pearces Creek Hall
- Thursday 23 October: Minor Gold, Pearces Creek Hall
- Wednesday 29 October: Porch Couch (Canada), Tintenbar Hall
- Saturday 2 November: Moranz & Fremlin (Canada) with Those Folk, Pearces Creek Hall

BACCI Art Show



The Ballina Arts and Crafts Centre Inc (BACCI) is set to host its Annual Spring Art and Craft Show on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 November, from 9am to 3pm at The Masonic Centre, 56 Cherry Street, Ballina. Entry is free.

Visitors can browse an impressive range of high-quality arts and crafts handmade by BACCI members, including original paintings, limited edition prints, weaving, woodwork, jewellery, ceramics, fabric dye painting, natural paper dyeing, postcards, sewing crafts - and even bee hives. With Christmas around the corner, it's the perfect opportunity to pick up a one-of-a-kind gift.

Alongside the exhibition, guests can enjoy a cuppa and homemade cake at the pop-up café, cast their vote for the People's Choice Award, and enter the draw to win from a selection of exciting prizes. The event is also fundraising for Dementia Inclusive Ballina - a volunteer-led group dedicated to delivering services, education, and support for people living with dementia.

Head along, enjoy a day out, and support a great cause.

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SCAN HERE

TO BOOK YOUR TABLE

Creating spring garden palettes

by Ruth Powell, Nature's Decor

Spring in the Northern Rivers region brings mild, warm weather and that uplifting feeling that comes with the change of season at this time of the year. Sunshine is certainly a mood booster, but so is the palette of your garden. Choose plantings with colours to calm or energise your garden design.

Understanding garden palettes

The gardening colour wheel can be a great place to start. Decide if you want your garden palette to be harmonious or contrasting.

For harmony, select plants that sit next to each other on the colour wheel, for example, purple and pink or yellow, orange and red. These tones create a soothing, blended look where one colour flows naturally into the next. The garden will feel calm, natural, and visually connected. Lavender (purple), Blue Salvia (blue) and Pink Pentas (pink) are popular choices in our climate.

For contrast and high energy, choose colours that sit opposite each other on the colour wheel, for example, purple versus yellow, red versus green or blue and orange.

In the bright spring sunlight, these colours will create a space that is dramatic and eye-catching. For the 'wow-factor', try combinations such as Purple Lavender and Yellow Gazanias or Red Kangaroo Paw and lush green foliage.

Classic palettes for Northern Rivers gardens

Calming pastels: Lavender, White Daisies and pale pink Salvias create a relaxing, romantic atmosphere – think timeless cottage garden. These plantings are great for small courtyards or garden beds near outdoor seating areas.

Bold contrasts: Purple Lavender, Yellow Gazanias, Red Kangaroo Paw will add vibrancy and zest. They are great for feature beds, entrances and driveways.

Tropical cheer: Hot pink Bougainvillea, orange Marigolds and bright purple Salvia are playful and lush - a celebration of our Sub-Tropical lifestyle. They work well in poolside gardens, near verandas and in entertaining areas.

Be adventurous

Gardening is a personal expression. Don't be afraid to break a few 'rules.' Experiment with plants that speak to you and watch your garden come alive with colour.

Elevate your garden design this Spring!

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SUPPLIES

Making a Kokedama

by Jennie Goeldner, Wollongbar Garden Club



Pictured: Donna and Julie with their creations. Source: Supplied.

Representatives from Bunnings Lismore recently presented a workshop to the Club on making a Kokedama - moss balls that are entwined with string and planted with your choice of greenery.

Here's how to make one at home.

Items

- one small house plant
- sphagnum moss
- coir-peat brick
- two buckets of water
- spray bottle of water
- gardening gloves
- mask
- plastic sheet
- scissors
- twine

Method

1. Soak the peat moss and sphagnum moss in separate buckets of water. Wear the mask when working with peat moss to avoid breathing in the dust. Soak long enough for it to become like coffee grounds as this makes it easy to mould into a ball. Soak the sphagnum moss until it is damp. When they are at this stage pull them apart and squeeze the excess water out.
2. Remove your chosen house plant from its pot.
3. Pack the peat moss tightly around the root ball.

4. Flatten the sphagnum moss and wrap it around the peat moss and plant soil making a ball, about the size of a small child's ball.
5. Wrap up your plant. Take about one metre of twine and wrap it around the ball. Tie it off and repeat the process. The more times you wrap, the more it will take on a ball shape.
6. Once it's wrapped up snugly, tie the last wrap of string at the bottom. Tie a length of string to each side so it can hang up.
7. Because it is exposed on all sides it will dry out quite quickly but just dip it in a bucket of water every so often and it will thrive.

With Christmas fast upon us, now is the perfect time to get moulding, as a kokedama would make a perfect present and it will be well established for Santa's delivery.

Join us

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 October, 9.45am at Rous Mill Hall. All welcome and bring a friend.

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Lifting the lid on single use cups

with Justine Rowe, Resource Recovery Education Officer, Ballina Council

Did you start your morning with a cup of coffee? Now here's something to consider - nearly two billion single use coffee cups are used in Australia each year. About 90% of these end up in landfill, where they can take over 30 years to break down.

Over half of Australians believe single use coffee cups are recyclable or compostable; however, this isn't true for our region (and only minimally anywhere around the country). In fact, single use coffee cups and lids are one of the most common contaminants in the recycling stream. They also remain one of the top 10 littered items across NSW, particularly in coastal areas.

To give you an idea of why single use cups are so wasteful, imagine a café that serves 150 takeaway drinks a

day, six days a week at an average cost of \$0.30 for a takeaway cup and lid. That equals \$14,040 in yearly disposable cup costs, excluding waste disposal costs. Over one year that café would also save: 360 bins of waste from landfill; 58 trees (disposable coffee cups are made from trees); 25,040 litres of water; and 2.25 tonnes of CO2 emissions (like charging 182,000 smart phones).

So what can you do?

- Invest in a reusable cup and get in the habit of tucking it in your bag.
- Swap and go: participate in your café's cup swap system.
- Sit and stay: if you can, take the time to enjoy your drink in the café.
- Go topless: if you must use a single use cup, refuse the lid.

- Pick it up: if you see a single use cup or lid when walking around, pick it up and put it in a landfill bin

SUC Free

SUC Free (Single Use Cup Free) Ballina is an initiative for businesses to put the community and nature first and offer only reusable cups. Ballina RSL and Cherry St Sports Group have started, with many other Ballina cafés joining soon. Ask your local if they'll be joining in, and if not, ask why.

If every café and customer choose to reuse, the benefits will be huge. We can all enjoy our cuppa a little bit more by refusing a single use cup - it's a small act that adds up to a big impact.

Get in touch to learn more at: Justine.rowe@ballina.nsw.gov.au

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NOVEMBER 7-30

Book by Patrick Edgeworth
Music and Lyrics by
Judith Durham, Athol Guy, Keith Potger and Bruce Woodley
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BALLINA GOLF & SPORTS CLUB

KARAOKE NIGHT

EVERY SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

FROM 7PM FREE ENTRY

Northern Sounds Karaoke

HOSTED BY MARY-ANN DE HOON

Ballina takes action on fashion waste



Australians love fashion – but we may love it a little too much. On average, we buy 55 new clothing items every year, making us the biggest consumers of clothing in the world. At the same time, more than 220,000 tonnes of clothing ends up in landfill annually, the equivalent weight of four Sydney Harbour Bridges.

Ballina Shire Council is stepping up, with the support of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The Resource Recovery team has received a \$32,400 grant to deliver a project called Creating a Circular Clothing Community in Ballina Shire, which will run until June 2026.

‘Our aim is to work with the community to help shift behaviours around fashion and textiles by promoting repair

and reuse to keep clothing out of landfill,’ explained said Justine Rowe, Resource Recovery Education Officer and project lead.

The first phase of the project has already kicked off and involved Ballina Shire Council teaming up with North East Waste to audit textiles and clothing dropped off at the Ballina Resource Recovery Centre.

Over four weeks, nearly 5,000 litres of textiles and more than 2,000 items were sorted by type and quality. Women’s clothing was the most common, followed by children’s wear. Unfortunately, 83.5% of the items were in near-perfect condition or needed only a minor repair or clean to be worn again - highlighting a significant issue of good-quality clothing unnecessarily ending up in landfill.

‘This project is about giving our community the tools and confidence to repair, upcycle and make smarter choices so we keep clothing and textiles out of landfill,’ said Ms Rowe.

Council will be hosting a series of free workshops to help residents learn practical skills in clothing repair, mending and upcycling. Upcoming dates are:

- How to hem
Wednesday 15 October, 5:30-7:30pm
Ballina Salvage Shed
- Slow stitching
Friday 17 October, 1-4pm
Rous Mill Hall
- Visible Mending
Saturday 18 October, time and location TBD

See Council’s website to find out more:
ballina.nsw.gov.au/textiles

Coastcare continues to grow

by Andrew Playford, Ballina Coastcare



As a volunteer organisation dedicated to restoration and management of our local reserves, Ballina Coastcare is pleased to announce a new monthly

Sunday group. We aim to remain flexible and appreciative of people’s busy lives, so hope this provides the opportunity for others to help us weed amongst the trees, admire the native flora and birdsong, and experience the magic of where we live, while doing your bit for nature.

Many will already know of our regular Sunday group that meets on the first Sunday of each month at Sharpes Beach. This new group will meet at Allawah Bushland Reserve, Pine Avenue, East Ballina on the afternoons of the third Sunday of each month.

Everyone is welcome. We can give you guidance on plant/weed identification, no experience is necessary.

For updates on regular activities please visit our website or follow us on Facebook.

Also in exciting news, Ballina Coastcare will be presenting at the 32nd NSW Coastal Conference to be held at the Ballina RSL Club from 5 to 7 November. As part of Conference activities we will be hosting a field trip to the coastal reserve for anyone interested in getting an appreciation of the positive impact you can have.

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Expected Completion:

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Accessible Location:

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Community Features:

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Queensland tournament success

by Paul Connellan, Ballina Coast Walking Football



Ballina Coast Walking Football (BCWF) recently contested the annual Sunshine Coast WF Festival held at Coolum.

BCWF's Currawonts won the Mixed Social Cup conceding only one goal for the entire tournament while BCWF's Pellicants came in a creditable fourth.

BCWF players continue to have a strong presence at national representative level with Kate Daley (women's 40s), Vicky King (women's 40s) and Greg Price (men's 60s) selected to represent Australia in the Foreveroos squad to compete this month in the FIWFA Walking Football Cup of Nations tournament in Torrevieja Spain.

Walking football is a low impact form of soccer played socially and competitively for women 40+ and men 50+. If interested, enquire by email to ballinacoastwf@gmail.com

Pictured, left: Mixed Social Cup winners BCWF's Currawonts: L-R Back: Jean Barr, Tony Meldrum, Ramin Rowhani, Robyn Simmonds, Dani Hoskin. Front: Toni Meldrum, Chris Rushby, Vahid Saberi.

Bombers celebrate strong season

by Ballina Bombers



The Ballina Bombers Junior AFL Club has completed the 2025 season, which was a very successful year despite not quite being able to add any silverware to our trophy cabinet.

In our Junior teams, which consist of Under 9s and Under 11s, the players had their last official game of AFL on Sunday 24 August. The teams were

extremely happy with their seasons, and all finished the year eager to play again in 2026. Hopefully they can each bring along a friend and we can grow our Club again next year.

The Under 11s team held their annual Parents vs Players game at Fripp Oval on Wednesday 27 August. From all accounts the game was very spirited, and the players may have gotten the upper hand for the first time. It was followed by a pizza party supplied by our sponsor Dominos.

Both our Youth sides made it into this year's finals series.

The Under 13s had a solid final series, coming from behind to win their first final, being knocked out in the second. As a team they certainly grew as the season went on and we are hoping that these boys can take another step forward next year.

In our U17s age group, the boys had a great year and built some momentum coming into the finals but were bundled out in the Preliminary final, denying seven of our players a fairytale finish to their Junior AFL careers.

Thanks to all players, coaches and supporters for a great season.

Pre-season training kicks off again in November. All ages and new players welcome.

On behalf of the Club, we would like to thank our sponsors: Cherry Street, Jetts Gym, Toyota Material Handling, Smiths Joinery Casino, WCA, Brighton St Café, Chicken Mania, Dominos, Dentures Direct Ballina, Ballina Tow Trucks and Ballina Ten Pin Bowling. Without your contributions and support, we would not be able to provide our teams with all that they need to play the great game of AFL in the Northern Rivers.

Ballina Bridge Club

by Robert Eldridge



Pictured: Players from Ballina in the Northern Tablelands, with Howard and his trophy. Source: Supplied.

Grand National Opens Teams

The Grand National Teams is a competition where teams from across Australia compete for a place in the national final.

Six teams from Ballina qualified to play in the regional finals, hosted by Ballina. The Brown team from Ballina (William Keyte, Mike Duffin, Gary Lynn and Janet Brown), were victorious, with the Raaen team from Tweed Heads placing second, and the Lowe team from Ballina taking third place.

The Brown team now progresses to the national qualifying final which will be held online.

Bridge in the Northern Tablelands

A group of 12 Ballina players visited bridge clubs in the Northern Tablelands to play friendly games over a week. The players from Ballina included five

Grand Masters which meant Ballina players generally out-ranked the locals. One of our players obviously spent a day hunting rather than playing bridge and he proudly displays his trophy in the photo.

Bridge lessons

Bridge lessons are well underway at the Club, with Monday evening lessons now also having commenced.

Annual General Meeting

The Club is preparing for its Annual General Meeting and forum, with nominations received for all committee positions.

Cherry Street Croquet Club

by Greg Porter



Pictured: Club Champions OBE - Norma Watts, Barbara Wellings, Robbie Allen and Noelene Barnes. Source: Supplied.

News

The Club recently held a friendship day with many players in attendance enjoying the camaraderie between all local Clubs. Money raised throughout the day from raffles and donations went to ESCABAGS, a fantastic charity for those escaping from Domestic Violence.

Club Championship results

The Cherry Street Croquet Club Championships have wound up for the year with a total 49 members contesting events over three versions: Association, Ricochet, Golf.

Cherry Street Club Champions 2025

Gloria Drew, Sue Hume, Phyllis Waters, Robbie Allen, Norma Watts, Bev Bill, Barbara Wellings, Robyn Poynting, Anne Wansbrough, Penny Scott, David Scott, Maurie Russell, Ray Chapman, Jim Hannigan, Peter Hume and Flemming Frederickson.

NSW State Placings

Ray Chapman 1st, Phyllis Waters 1st, David Scott 2nd and Noelene Barnes 2nd.

Congratulations to all Club Champions and State Champions.

Tournament results

Australian Ricochet Doubles

Ray Chapman and Ted Woodley 2nd.

Singles

Ray Chapman 4th.

Northern Rivers Area Ricochet Singles Handicap Championships
David Scott 1st, Mary Hughes 2nd.

Club Championships Golf Singles

Penny Scott 1st, Debbie Jones 2nd.

Sawtell Ricochet Golf Croquet Singles

Wendy Gilmore 2nd, Christine Edlund 3rd, Jim Hannigan 4th, Helen Young 6th, Rossie Offley 6th, Joan Saunders 7th.

Ballina Netball's outstanding season

by Tiffany McIntosh



Ballina Netball Association has officially wrapped up its 2025 representative season with a special presentation, celebrating an incredible year of achievements on and off the court.

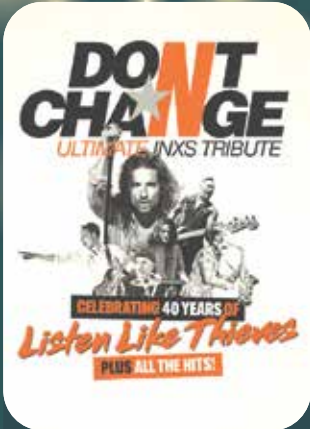
This year, Ballina proudly fielded six teams at State Titles and one team at Regional League, with each team showcasing the talent, determination and spirit for which our small association is known. Players once again proved that 'little old Ballina' can mix it with the best, putting our region firmly back on the netball map.

Highlights included the U17s side finishing runners-up in Division 2 at Regional League – a remarkable effort for such a young team, with all bar two girls still 16 years old. At Senior State Titles, the 15s secured runners-up in Division 2, while the boys team took out the championship title. The Junior State Titles saw the 12s finish third and the 14s claim runners-up in Division 3.

We also received the Spirit Award at senior and junior state titles, as voted by other associations and players.

Ballina Netball extends its sincere thanks to the coaches, assistant coaches, managers, carers, umpires and committee members who made the season possible. Their dedication ensured a successful 2025 Rep campaign for players, families and supporters alike. The Association also warmly thanks its valued sponsors.

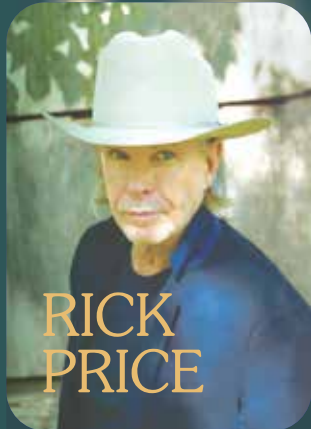
With trials for 2026 just around the corner, Ballina Netball looks forward to another exciting season ahead. Check out socials for how to register for 2026 trials.



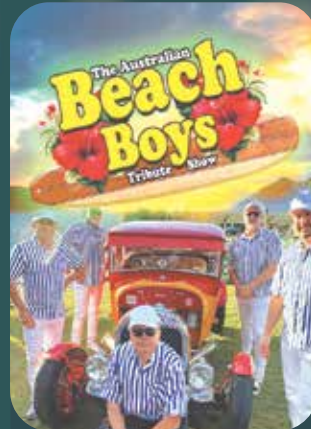
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Every iconic track from this legendary album, plus all the hits from the expansive INXS song catalogue.



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Doors: 7.30PM
Show: 8PM
Tickets \$46 18+
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Show: 8M
Pre-sale: \$37 18+
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This month

with Milt Barlow

At the movies

October sees a diverse line up of new movies catering for all tastes. Here's a rundown on some of the best.

The Smashing Machine (2 October). This action-packed biographical drama chronicles the life of MMA legend Mark Kerr. The movie stars Dwayne Johnson, known for blockbusters like *Fast & Furious* and *Jumanji*, alongside Emily Blunt, famous for *A Quiet Place* and *Edge of Tomorrow*. Their compelling performances deliver a gritty, emotional journey into athletic glory and personal struggle.

Tron: Ares (9 October). The *Tron* franchise returns with this sci-fi adventure starring Jared Leto (*Dallas Buyers Club*, *Blade Runner 2049*), Evan Peters (*X-Men* series), and Gillian Anderson (*The X-Files*, *The Crown*). The movie explores a sophisticated AI sent into the real world, delving into the clash between technology and humanity.

The Travellers (9 October). An interesting Australian drama featuring Bryan Brown and Luke Bracey. This film delves into complex family dynamics during a homecoming visit marked by emotional turmoil.

After the Hunt (16 October). Directed by Luca Guadagnino, known for *Call Me by Your Name* and *Suspiria*, this crime drama stars Julia Roberts, alongside Andrew Garfield (*Hacksaw Ridge*, *The Amazing Spider-Man*). The film looks into the tense and layered human relationships of a Yale professor on the path to tenure.

Black Phone 2 (16 October). The horror sequel stars Ethan Hawke, paired with Mason Thames and Arianna Rivas.

Following the chilling success of the original, this second instalment promises more suspense and terror.

Roofman (16 October). A biographical crime drama starring Peter Dinklage (*Game of Thrones*), Channing Tatum (*Magic Mike*), and Kirsten Dunst (*Spider-Man* trilogy). The film explores crime and personal redemption with a strong ensemble cast.

Shelby Oaks (23 October). A film centered on a woman's frantic search for her missing sister - if horror thrillers are your thing, this one is for you. The suspenseful plot taps into paranormal investigation tropes, perfect for October's Halloween mood.

On the couch

The 2025 Emmys were recently announced so I thought I would recap some of the big winners and where to find them on Australian streaming.

The Studio (Apple TV+) - Outstanding Comedy Series. Nailed it with 13 Emmys including Best Comedy Series, acting, directing, and writing awards.

The Pitt (Binge) - Outstanding Drama Series. Won three Emmys including Best Drama Series, Best Actor (Noah Wyle), and Best Supporting Actress (Katherine LaNasa).

Adolescence (Netflix) - Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series. Won six Emmys, including the Best Limited Series, acting awards for Stephen Graham, Owen Cooper (youngest male Emmy winner for a supporting role), and Erin Doherty.

Severance (Apple TV+). Highly nominated, with Britt Lower winning Best Lead Actress in a drama series.

Hacks (HBO Max) Jean Smart won Best Lead Actress in a comedy series for this show.

Book review: Gravity Let Me Go

with Amy Lynch



How will you ever know how the story ends, if you let the story go?

Noah Cork has just published the scoop of a lifetime: a white-hot true-crime book about the cold-blooded killer who slipped a murder mystery into his mailbox. But if this is triumph, why is his reality unravelling?

Why do skeletons keep surfacing, strangers want him dead, and his wife scrawls cryptic messages across the bathroom mirror?

As a ferocious storm barrels towards Brisbane, Noah is swept into secrets and forced to confront the very heart of his life. He must cling to the only story that matters - truth, love, and survival.

Dark, gritty, hilarious and unexpected, *Gravity Let Me Go* is Trent Dalton's deeply personal exploration of marriage and ambition, truth-telling and self-deception. It's about the stories we share, the ones we bury,

and how the buried ones so often define us.

Review by Amy Lynch

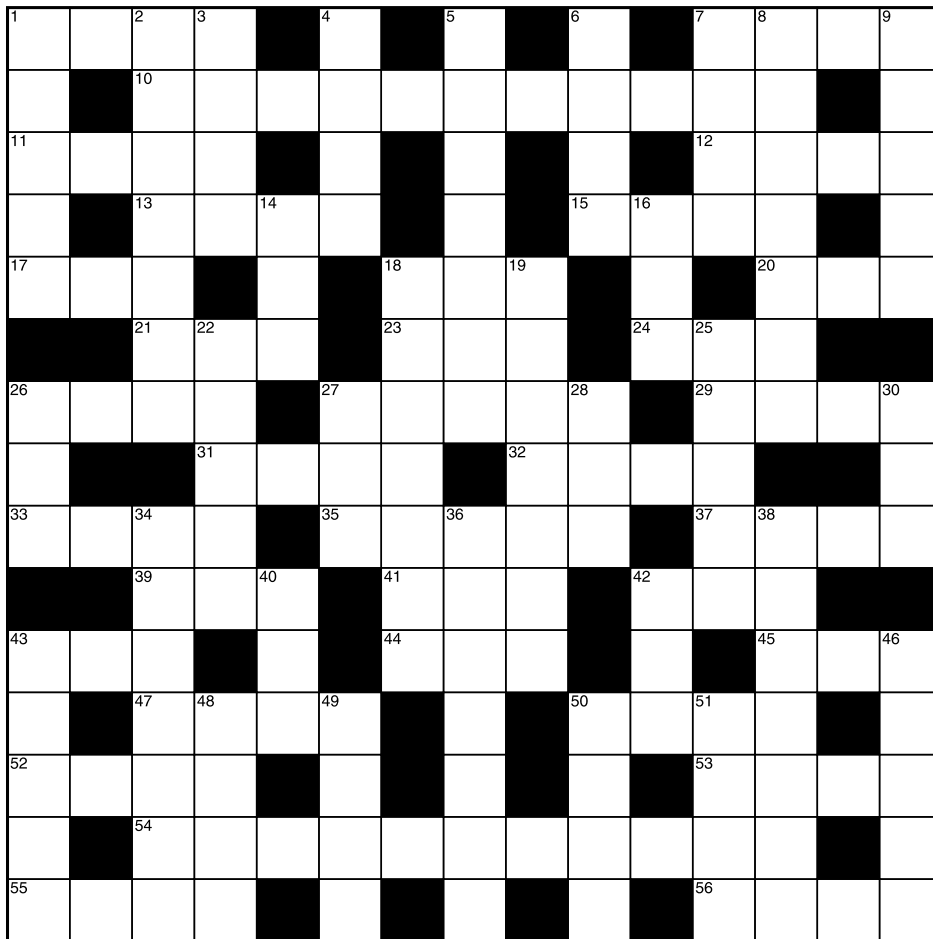
Dalton's latest is haunting - literally and figuratively. Following Noah Cork, a true-crime journalist chasing a chilling case across Brisbane, it delivers gritty suspense woven with emotional weight and wry humour.

The novel blends thriller with profound reflection, drawing readers into an unforgettable meditation on identity and storytelling.

If you've loved Dalton's previous works, this one will not disappoint.

October crossword

© Lovatts Puzzles



Across

1. St ... of Arc
7. Restaurant tab
10. Tabloids (5,6)
11. ... start to finish
12. Actor, ... Baldwin
13. Perused
15. In proportion, pro ...
17. Japanese currency
18. Hat
20. Actor, ... Gibson
21. Age
23. Fossil fuel
24. Ho ... Minh City
26. Constructed
27. Travel prices
29. Area measurement
31. Narrow aperture
32. Writer, Roald ...
33. Bicycle saddle
35. Numbers game
37. Strong taste
39. Keyboard key
41. Formerly known as
42. 60s drug (1,1,1)
43. Neither here ... there
44. Gallivant
45. Nerve centre
47. Hog's grunt
50. Lemon relative
52. Torpedo-armed vessels
53. Globes
54. Unfeeling
55. Religious group
56. Rewrite

September solution



Down

1. Moment
2. Decorated
3. Nominate
4. Walk with heavy steps
5. Outdoors (4-3)
6. Goad, ... on
7. Ill-mannered youngster
8. Muslim
9. In the vicinity
14. Cute ... button (2,1)
16. Alphabet (1,1,1)
18. Layering
19. Promised
22. Pauses
25. Ceases
26. Mr & ...
27. Tell untruth
28. Brazil's ... Paulo
30. Souffle ingredient
34. Type of exercise
36. Closest
38. Stuck (to)
40. World news (1,1,1)
42. Flower necklace
43. Pries (into)
46. Assailed
48. Is not (3'1)
49. Persevere, ... at it
50. After due time
51. Leave the district

October horoscopes

by Patsy Bennett - patsybennett.com



Aries

The Aries full moon on the 7th brings a fresh chapter in a personal or business relationship if you were born before 4th April; and in your daily and health routine if you were born later. Good communication skills will help things move forward if matters have been stuck recently.



Taurus

It's time to turn a corner within your general direction and status. Some Taureans will experience renewed incentive at work, others in your personal life. From the 14th Venus will bring out your inner romantic. But at work you must be realistic, and not idealistic now.



Gemini

October's developments will bring out a positive attitude, especially if some projects have stalled recently. The full moon on the 7th and the new moon on the 21st will help you advance at work and in your personal life, but you must be prepared to be innovative.



Cancer

This is a good month to consider a financial review, as your cash flow will benefit. Also of benefit will be a fresh approach to communications, travel and relationships. As a result, your home and family life will thrive. Activities that broaden your horizons and boost happiness will entice you.



Leo

You're reaching a key turning point in your personal life and finances. You may need to go over old ground and review a strategy so that you can step into fresh territory. Beware of power struggles and impulsiveness, especially in the final week of the month.



Virgo

Consider reappraising your shared commitments such as joint finances. This is a good month to reorganise some of your major agreements and arrangements as your efforts will be worthwhile. Be sure to obtain the correct information with legal matters and to avoid speculation.



Libra

The new moon will be in your sign on the 21st, ushering in a fresh phase that promises more balance in your life. In the process, you may need to tackle some thorny topics. Mars will bring out the feistiness and passion in someone close, so be prepared to navigate their approach.



Scorpio

Mars in your sign will fire you up, which will motivate you at work, but could also bring your anger out, so be sure to maintain an even keel, especially in communications. A fresh chapter begins this month in your daily schedule; for some at work and for others health-wise.



Sagittarius

You'll enjoy embracing springtime by being more sociable and outgoing. You will begin a fresh chapter in your affiliation with an organisation and for some, this will include changes in your personal life. Be prepared to express your values and to act on them.



Capricorn

A fresh approach to your home life and status will be successful. A choice that requires a cool head concerning making a commitment may arise. Your peers and loyal friends will prove their weight in gold, so be sure to reach out if you need supportive advice.



Aquarius

Consider exploring your deeper requirements in life. Your personal life will be a focus, and you are liable to make changes to gain more of a sense of stability. For many, this will involve a change of environment or of circumstance that facilitates increased peace of mind.



Pisces

It's time to make a commitment. For some, this will involve finances, for others, work and your personal life. Research will provide you with insight. Your inquisitive mind will seek expression via travel, study or spiritual enquiry. You'll be drawn to exploration and fresh discoveries.



NORTHRIDGE

Build Your Legacy – Stage 2 Release

The next chapter of Northridge has arrived with the release of Stage 2.

Delivering all the hallmarks of this sought after community with the added advantage of being the best valued land North of the Bruxner.

Between the privilege of hinterland views, the accessibility of town services and the proximity to both Ballina and the East Coast, Northridge may be your last opportunity to build an affordable, quality home on slice of land large enough to grow into.

LOT SUMMARY
560m² – 1,413m²

PRICES
\$395,000 - \$480,000

SITE SERVICES
Town Water
Town sewerage
Mains power
NBN ready
CDC*

McGrath

Bill Johnston
0422 820 048

Max Mulcahy
0422 277 756

LJ Hooker

Michael Shay
0427 862 711

Luke Shay
0416 275 607

Aiden Wilcox & Sophie Simpson



What is your home worth in the right hands? Why not find out today?

Aiden and Sophie form a dynamic team at Raine & Horne Ballina/Alstonville, combining their passion for real estate, strong community ties, and unwavering dedication to client success. Aiden, with his extensive experience, proven track record, and commitment to honesty, transparency, and professionalism, has created a customer-focused agency that reflects his drive for excellence. His leadership and exceptional work ethic have earned him a reputation for achieving outstanding results and fast sales.

Both Aiden & Sophie have grown up in the area, bringing a deep understanding of the local market and a genuine connection to the community. Sophie's fresh energy and enthusiasm complement Aiden's expertise, making her an invaluable asset to the team. Together, they combine their strengths—Aiden's strategic vision and Sophie's passion for real estate—to provide exceptional service and ensure their clients' property dreams come true. With a shared commitment to excellence, they are dedicated to building lasting relationships and achieving the best possible outcomes for every client.

Ready to experience the difference? Reach out to Aiden and Sophie today, and let them guide you through your next real estate journey!

Aiden Wilcox
0423 596 683

Sophie Simpson
0434 093 987

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appraisal
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