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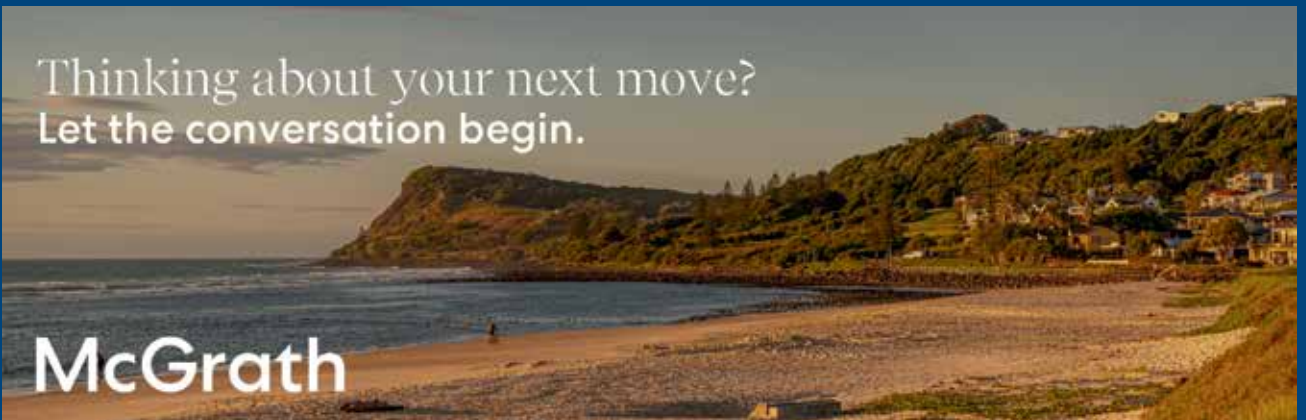
Community news for Lennox Head

Issue 244 | August 2025



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It's remarkable how a stretch of sun kissed days can soften the memory of storms - how sunshine rinses the edges of all that was muddy, grey, and wild.

Since the brown washed out to sea, returning our ocean to aqua paradise, I've found a renewed gratitude for this place - for the quiet, raw beauty that surrounds us daily, often taken for granted. We've been blessed with those cloudless, bluebird winter days - offshore winds brushing the ocean smooth, crystal-clear swell rolling in under golden light.

The sunrises and sunsets have stretched across the sky like candy floss at times painted with the soft glow of a beaming moon. The stars - so vivid lately - like long-lost friends torching our way home, reminding us to pause, look up, and gently ponder our place in it all.

The whales are passing by in numbers, cruising close to shore, playful and curious - watching us, perhaps, as intently as we observe them. I've felt like a wide-eyed child, utterly captivated by nature's theatre unfolding before us.

There's something about this season - the clarity, the soft sun, the slow rhythm of August - that settles the spirit. The days feel lighter. People smile more. Nature, in all her grace, is reminding us: we don't need much to feel whole, just clean water, wide skies, and time to notice the small, spectacular things.

Natalie Grono, Editor

### Contact us

Got a story? Get in touch.



Phone: 0405 662 567

Email: [editor@thelennoxwave.com.au](mailto:editor@thelennoxwave.com.au)

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Luke Shay  
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**What:** Newrybar Bonfire and Fireworks  
**When:** Saturday 2 August  
**Where:** Newrybar Public School

The event will be bigger and better than ever this year with a giant bonfire, food and entertainment for the whole family. Bring your good vibes, picnic blankets, winter woollies and flashlights for the most anticipated family event this winter.



**What:** Byron Writers Festival  
**When:** 8 Friday - Sunday 10 August  
**Where:** Bangalow showground

Byron Writers Festival is a three day celebration of storytelling, literature and big ideas covering everything from fiction, memoir, the environment and more.

Book: [byronwriters.com.au](http://byronwriters.com.au)



**What:** Teven Tintenbar Country Fair  
**When:** Saturday 16 August  
**Where:** Tintenbar Public School

Get ready for an adrenaline-pumping day with exciting rides, great food and endless fun set in beautiful grounds.

Visit: [Facebook/TTPSCountryFair](https://www.facebook.com/TTPSCountryFair)



**What:** Rainbow Region Boat Regatta  
**When:** Saturday 30 - Sunday 31 August  
**Where:** Shaws Bay, Ballina

There will be Dragon Boat racing on both the Saturday and Sunday with Community Team events on the Sunday, along with a variety of novelty races.

[Facebook/RainbowRegionBoatRegatta](https://www.facebook.com/RainbowRegionBoatRegatta)



**What:** Ocean Heroes  
**When:** Sunday 31 August, 9am - 1.30pm  
**Where:** Flat Rock Beach

Ocean Heroes aims to improve the wellbeing of those on the autism spectrum and their families through surfing.

Contact: [lachlan@oceanheroes.com.au](mailto:lachlan@oceanheroes.com.au)



**What:** Sample Food Festival  
**When:** Saturday 6 September  
**Where:** Bangalow showgrounds

Sample promises to be a vibrant celebration of culinary artistry, bringing together food lovers, chefs, and local producers.

Visit: [samplefoodevents.com](http://samplefoodevents.com)

## Monthly Markets

1st Saturday	Brunswick Heads
1st Sunday	Byron Bay Pottsville Beach
2nd Sunday	The Channon Tabulam Hall Coolangatta Woodburn
3rd Saturday	Alstonville Mullumbimby Murwillumbah Salt Village,
Casuarina	
3rd Sunday	Federal Uki Pottsville Beach
Market	
	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](http://discoverballina.com.au)**



# Residents' report

by Robyn Hargrave

In lieu of head chopping for Bastille Day, at the 14 July Residents' Association meeting, we welcomed members, a visitor, guest, and Cr Bailey, with apologies from Mayor Cadwallader and Cr Ramsey.

**Rayner Lane repairs.** Advice in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan is that designs (cost estimate of \$715,000) have been prepared with reconstruction mooted for around 2029-2030. We will mark our calendars.

**Crime update.** We were pleased to meet Doug Townsend, NSW Police Force representative, who provided reported property crime figures for June, reminding readers to advise every offence to Police, and action '9 o'clock lock up' of your property. E-bikes are causing concern, particularly the difficulty for Police in identifying and apprehending offenders speeding, carrying multiple passengers and riding dangerously, with no insurance for injuries.

**The new roundabout.** Appreciation goes to Council for the improved facility – making the high risk corner of Byron Street and Byron Bay Road much safer.

**Special Rate Variation** of an additional 2.75% over the estimated rate peg of 3.25% for three years from 2026 is under Council consideration. Presently the cost of maintaining services exceeds revenue. Community consultation is planned and ratepayers are encouraged to provide input.

**Saltwood Kinvara proposed development.** Details of 2,500 home sites (approximately five times the size of EPIQ) are available at: [saltwoodkinvara.com.au](http://saltwoodkinvara.com.au). Readers are invited to familiarise with the proposal which is anticipated to be soon lodged with Council.

**Upcoming meetings:** 4 August, 1 September and 13 October 2025, from 7pm in the CWA Hall. Feedback is encouraged by email to [lhrainc@gmail.com](mailto:lhrainc@gmail.com) or Facebook/Lennox Head Residents' Association.



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# Sharpes car park upgrade begins



Council has started pre-construction works to upgrade the Sharpes Beach carpark at Skennars Head. Once complete, this upgrade will provide essential infrastructure and embellishments that will improve the visitor experience of Sharpes Beach and enhance access to the popular Coastal Recreation Path.

Sharpes Beach Car Park is located partly on private land, partly on Crown land and partly road reserve.

The proposed upgrades to the car park include:

- formalised car parking spaces (including disabled parking and spots suitable for long vehicles)
- accessible toilet and shower facilities
- accessible viewing deck
- enclosed storage space for Surf Lifesaving equipment
- landscaping and drainage improvements
- tree removal and restored native

vegetation areas

- removal of the existing Surf Lifesaving observation tower.

Council invited community feedback on the draft design in 2023. Since then, the design has been reviewed by Councillors and progressed through a Development Application process, which included a further round of public exhibition.

This major upgrade project is jointly funded by Ballina Shire Council and the NSW Government, with \$1.05 million provided through the Regional Tourism Activation Fund.

## Around we go



Great news, Lennox locals - the dangerous old T-intersection at Byron Bay Road and Byron Street is officially a thing of the past. Ballina Shire Council has wrapped up a major \$1.53 million upgrade, with a brand-new permanent roundabout now spinning things in the right direction.

The sleek new circle is designed to keep traffic flowing smoothly and safely for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike. Mayor Sharon Cadwallader says it's a big win for the town. 'This is a vital upgrade for one of our key arterial routes.'

# Coastal Breeze

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## Councillor thoughts: Council estate

Each month, B Ward Ballina Shire Councillors have the opportunity to share information on a subject that carries importance to the community. All comments are those of the authors. This month we asked our Councillors their thoughts on Councils planned housing estate for local key workers.



### Cr Eva Ramsey

Ballina Councillors were recently briefed on a potential housing strategy for a parcel of Council-owned land located at EPIQ in Lennox Head. While no decisions have been made, questions remain, questions that need to be answered and researched fully.

Is this the moment for Council to show bold leadership by using public land for public good?

Should we take on the role of developer?

Is it appropriate to use Council funds to develop?

Would we achieve long-term community benefit and tenure?

Do we partner with experienced providers or the private sector?

Can we ensure a development without compromising quality?

These questions and more deserve thorough consideration, and I believe they must be explored with community interest front and centre.

Ballina Shire is a vibrant and growing community like many other coastal towns. Right now, too many of our essential workers - teachers, nurses, police officers, aged care and childcare workers, hospitality staff, etc are being priced out of the very communities they serve. Our Shire cannot thrive if those who care for us, educate our children, and support the vital services of our everyday needs cannot afford to live here in our Shire. Key worker housing is essential, but who and how do we provide this?

<p><b>DEAN DOYLE WITH SOPHISTICATION</b>  <b>Friday 8 August</b>  <b>Doors: 9.30am</b>  <b>Show: 10am</b>  <b>Tickets: \$17.50</b>  <i>Performing all the classics Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Elvis, Tom Jones, Engelbert Humperdinck &amp; more.</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday 24 August</b>  <b>Doors 1.30pm</b>  <b>Show 2pm</b>  <b>Tickets: \$51</b>  <i>Winners of the 2025 ACE Production Show &amp; Performers of the Year!</i>  <i>Australia's Premier Tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber.</i></p>	<p><b>Thursday 28 August</b>  <b>Doors: 6.30pm</b>  <b>Show: 7pm</b>  <b>18+ Event</b>  <b>MC Ellen Briggs, Matty B and Feature: Mick Meredith</b>  <i>Mick is one of Australia's most in-demand comedians performing on 'The Footy Show'.</i></p>	<p><b>Sunday 31 August</b>  <b>Doors: 3pm</b>  <b>Show: 3.30pm</b>  <b>18+ Event</b>  <b>Tickets: \$50</b>  <i>Journey through hits like "Close to You," "Top of the World," "Rainy Days and Mondays" &amp; "We've Only Just Begun."</i></p>
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### Cr Michelle Bailey

What an exciting development discussion on our agenda at the moment for the Council-owned residential land in Lennox Head EPIQ estate, representing a significant opportunity for innovative growth and leadership in our community to showcase developers what may be possible.

This aims to develop one- and two-bedroom units severely lacking in availability, strata dual occupation blocks, and homes with granny flats, addressing our housing shortage while fostering diverse living options. Proposed allotments may range from 200 to 600 square metres, enabling flexibility in design and usage.

Our collaboration with external consultants has sparked promising ideas for layouts that enhance our community's character. We, of course, will encourage your feedback as we shape this project to reflect the spirit of Lennox Head as we move towards a plan. Stay tuned for more updates.

### Cr Kiri Dicker

You may not know this, but Ballina Council owns a small piece of medium density residential land behind the Hutley Drive Sports fields in EPIQ (just look west beyond the tree line). It's an extremely rare and high-value investment for a

local Council and it is critical that we use it wisely.

I've advocated tirelessly during my time on Council to explore using this land to provide affordable housing for key workers. This was supported by the community during the development of the Lennox Head Strategic Plan and led to Council commissioning a feasibility study, which will be presented to Council this month.

This plan will allow us to maintain ownership of the land, generate a recurrent income and to allow us to keep rates low, put downward pressure on private rents, support local businesses and the economy, ensure diversity in our community and most importantly of all, ensure that our essential workers have access to safe and affordable housing. It's also highly attractive to state government grant opportunities and no or low interest loans. It's a win for Council, business and the community.

We don't have to accept a community which is so expensive that our kids can't afford to live here, or where our local workers need to drive in from Lismore every day just to do their job. The housing crisis is not inevitable, humans created it and with the right decisions we can change it.

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# Rubbish and Rambles



When Kayla launched Rubbish and Rambles in Lennox this June, it wasn't just about picking up litter. It was about bringing people together for a shared purpose. Inspired by her charity work in Sydney and beyond, where she once ran similar initiatives across beach, mountain, and city landscapes, Kayla knew firsthand how a simple act like rubbish collection could spark connection, awareness, and meaningful change.

'I used to be heavily involved in the charity arm of my company in Sydney,' Kayla explains. 'It was always amazing to see the good - big or small - that comes out of people coming together for a mutual cause.' Rubbish and Rambles was born from that spirit: no pressure, no deadlines, just people gathering, walking, chatting, and helping the environment along the way.

After moving to Lennox, Kayla often found herself picking up rubbish from the beach with her kids - a routine shared by many locals. 'It felt like a natural progression to make this a more community-driven effort,'



she says. The first event kicked off in June, right after the Love Lennox Festival, and was designed to help counter the increase in litter that concerned many residents in past years. Just four people joined that day, but July's event saw a noticeable uptick in numbers - including the wonderful participation of Lennox Preschool.

## So, what's a typical Rubbish and Rambles morning like?

The group meets at the entrance to the dog beach on Seven Mile and strolls south along the sand, wrapping up at Jekyll & Hyde - a relaxed, scenic way to spend an hour doing good. Compostable bags are provided, and there's no expectation to walk the full distance. 'You don't need to bring anything but yourself,' Kayla adds. 'Some people stop earlier, and that's totally fine. It's meant to be easy and inclusive.'

**The kinds of rubbish they've collected?** Everything from bottle caps and plastic foam to fishing wire, microplastics, and even the occasional oddity - like a broken toy



car or a tattered pair of underwear. One past participant even once found false teeth (though not during these events).

Disposal is straightforward - most of what's collected is non-recyclable waste, but recyclables like bottles are sorted out. The focus on microplastics is intentional: they're tiny, often missed, but have a big environmental impact.

**Want to join in?** Follow Jekyll & Hyde Lennox Head on Instagram and Facebook for event details. The next Rubbish and Rambles will be shared there, along with any community collaborations. 'You can comment, RSVP, or just show up,' says Kayla. 'It's about doing a little good, together. And hopefully inspiring others to pay it forward in their own way — whether that's through these events, supporting sustainable merchandise, or simply caring a little more about the place we live in.'

Rubbish and Rambles might be a small start - but it's growing fast, fuelled by community spirit and a shared love for our local environment.



Open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm, until 6.30pm on Mondays and Thursdays. Saturday 8.30am - 12pm. 24 Hour Emergency Service

## Lawyers celebrate 30 years in Lennox



Founders Andrew and Tracey Mulcahy of Mulcahy Lawyers marked a major milestone recently, celebrating 30 years of legal service in Lennox Head with a special gathering at the Surf Club.

The evening featured warm congratulatory speeches from Michael King and Mayor Sharon Cadwallder.

Andrew and Tracey extended their heartfelt thanks to all clients, staff - past and present - and local real estate agents who have supported the firm over the years.

They also expressed their appreciation for the ongoing support from the Lennox Head community, which continues to be the foundation of their success.

## Lennox Lightning

by Bruce Robinson

Lennox Lightning Toastmasters Club meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Lennox Head Community Centre CWA Room at 7 pm. Visitors are very welcome.

The purpose of Toastmasters International is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

Toastmaster meetings last about 90 minutes and are tightly scripted in terms of time and topic. At most meetings there are two major speakers delivering a prepared speech of up to 10 minutes duration. Table Topics provides all members

with an opportunity to speak for two minutes on a topic without-notice and off-the-cuff. A range of other communication development activities, some humorous, others entertaining, are variously included in the program.

All speeches are evaluated, members taking their turn to highlight what was positive and effective in a presentation with generally one suggestion for improvement. All presentations have a maximum time limit and the timer for the meeting reports on presentation times taken.

Members pay a semi-annual membership fee to Toastmasters International which entitles them to full participation in Toastmaster meetings,

connection to the on-line Pathways Program designed to develop communication and management competence, and access to the various speaking competitions at Club, District and higher levels.

While Toastmasters International is headquartered in the USA, there are thousands of Toastmasters Clubs around the world. Lennox Lightning Club has neighbouring clubs in Ballina and Lismore. Some members belong to more than one club. Visiting between Clubs occurs regularly particularly at competition time.

Contacts: Andrew ph: 0419 094 444 or Bruce ph: 0417 491 702.

A photograph of a large crowd of people at a night event, seen from behind. The text 'venue for hire' is overlaid in large white letters. Below it, in smaller white letters, are 'EVENTS', 'MUSIC CONCERTS', and 'CONFERENCES'. A yellow banner at the bottom left contains the text 'Lennox Head Cultural Centre'. Below that, in white text on a dark background, are the phone number '6681 0500' and the website 'communityspaces.com.au'.

venue for hire

EVENTS  
MUSIC CONCERTS  
CONFERENCES

**Lennox Head** Cultural Centre

6681 0500  
[communityspaces.com.au](http://communityspaces.com.au)



## It's a wrap - let's party



This year's Love Lennox Festival brought Lennox Head to life like never before, and the community is still riding the wave of its success. From sunrise surf sessions with Let's Go Surfing, Surf Getaways, and Seafit Therapy, to 15 incredible bands playing across three stages, the Festival was a true celebration of everything locals and visitors love about Lennox.

The Dogly Fun Show drew 118 furry contestants, while 35 classic cars lined the streets, courtesy of the Lennox Head

Machinery Club. The vibrant event also featured 74 local stallholders, reusable cups at the beachfront bar provided by Club Lennox, and more than 10,000 smiling visitors - all coming together in a display of community spirit and local pride.

Now you're invited to the Love Lennox Wrap Party taking place on Wednesday 6 August at 5.30pm at Shelter Lennox - the Flavours of Lennox 2025 Winner

An evening of connection, celebration, and inspiration awaits all who contributed to the festival's success -sponsors, venues, volunteers, and supporters alike.

Highlights include:

- Festival reflections and a preview of plans for 2026
- networking with local businesses and Festival partners
- a chance to win a Business Planning Program (valued at \$1,600) thanks to Collins Hume
- delicious nibbles, a complimentary drink, and great conversation.

Tickets: \$20 for Business Lennox Head members and \$30 for non-members.

Book: [lovelennox.com.au/wrap-party-2025](https://lovelennox.com.au/wrap-party-2025)



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## Rock for wildlife



Iconic Australian rock legends the Hoodoo Gurus will headline a powerful night of music and purpose in Byron Bay on Saturday 27 September, leading a star-studded bill for a benefit concert in support of Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital.

Joining the Gurus on the lineup will be special guest Toni Childs, renowned for her soulful vocals and Grammy-nominated career, along with Brisbane 90s' power pop band Screamfeeder,

and Brisbane-based favourites The Honey Sliders, known for their high-energy live shows and heartfelt tributes to classic albums.

The benefit concert aims to raise critical funds for the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, which provides lifesaving veterinary care for sick, injured and orphaned native animals. All proceeds from the event will directly support expert veterinary treatment, care and long-term rehabilitation of native birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, including threatened species.

'We're thrilled to be part of something so meaningful,' said Dave Faulkner, frontman of the Hoodoo Gurus. 'Byron Bay is a place we love, and this concert gives us the chance to give back in a big way to help protect our incredible wildlife.'

Staged at the 1,600 capacity Green Room on the 300-acre home of



Bluesfest Byron Bay, the one-night-only event promises a spirited atmosphere filled with live music, community goodwill and conservation awareness.

Early bird tickets are on sale. The event is expected to sell out quickly, with lovers of music and wildlife flocking to support a great cause.

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# Gather. Grow. Glow.

by Fiona Kable, Conscious Women Connect



As we embrace the second half of 2025, I'm thrilled to share some exciting news. Our vibrant community

is blossoming, and we're expanding our meet-ups to build even more connections among us.

Thanks to the generosity of Liga Walters, Lyn Childe, Jo Anne Irwin, and Marcelle L'Huillier, who've stepped up to host events, we're able to offer more opportunities for us to come together. Remember, we're stronger when we unite our time, creativity, and energy.

Here's our new event schedule:

- Tuesdays: Fortnightly morning tea at Seed & Husk, Lennox Head (9:30am, starting 5 August)
- Thursdays: Weekly morning coffee at Williams Street, Lennox Head (6:30am)

- Thursdays: Fortnightly lunch at Belle General, East Ballina (12:30pm, starting 14 August)
- Fridays: Fortnightly morning tea at Buckleys Chance, Alstonville (9:30am, starting 15 August)
- Fridays: Dinner at various locations every 3 weeks (6:30pm, starting 1 August).

Join our Facebook group, Conscious Women Connect Northern Rivers, reach out to me ph: 0410 274 106 or hello@fionalumina.com to stay connected.

Let's continue to grow, support, and inspire each other in this beautiful journey of sisterhood.



Maui Jim



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## Trivia night fuels dance dream



The Lennox community showed up in dazzling style recently, packing out the Lennox Head Public School hall for an unforgettable trivia night in support of our local dance stars. With 150 attendees, laughter echoing through the hall, and an incredible \$8,316 raised, the event was a resounding success and a heartwarming reminder of what a united community can achieve.

The evening was hosted as a key fundraiser for the Heart of Dance World Line Dancing Team who will represent Australia at the World Dance Masters Championships in Blackpool, England, in July 2026. With their dream now just over a year away, this high-energy trivia night brought that goal a major step closer.

With the \$8,316 raised on the night, the team is now significantly closer to their overall fundraising goal of \$80,000. The funds will help cover travel, accommodation, costumes, and other competition costs for the international journey next year.

But the trivia night was about more than just dollars raised. It was about showing these dancers—and their families—that the community is behind them every step of the way.

The World Dance Masters Championships is a prestigious event on the global dance calendar. Held in the historic Winter Gardens in Blackpool, the competition brings together the best young dancers from around the world. Representing Australia on that stage is both a huge honour and an incredible challenge—but it's one these local dancers are meeting with grace, grit, and gratitude.

The team would like to thank everyone who came, donated, sponsored, danced, guessed trivia answers, and sang until their voices were hoarse. You've made a lasting difference in the lives of these young performers, and you've helped bring an ambitious dream one giant step closer to reality.

Keen to help them out? If you'd like to contribute, you can:

- donate via their crowdfunding page (see their ad on page 29 for the QR code)
- drop your spare change into donation boxes at Seagrass, Woolies or The Friendly Grocer (aka Lennox IGA)
- attend an upcoming event - from raffles to bowls day, there's always something happening.

Keep an eye out for event announcements on their social media.

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# Christmas in July

by Lianne Brennan, Lennox Head Evening VIEW Club



The Lennox Evening VIEW Club celebrated Christmas in July with enthusiasm and featuring trivia, a raffle, and games. A festive and relaxed evening provided members and guests with the opportunity to socialise. Here's a photo of our new member, Andrea, receiving her VIEW pin from Jeanette and of Nerida, Kerry, and Eva wearing those festive colours.

## National milestone

VIEW Clubs of Australia is celebrating a significant milestone - proudly sponsoring more than 1,800 Learning for Life students.

The Lennox Head Evening VIEW Club has been part of the community for nearly 13 years and currently sponsors four Learning for Life students. One of these students is now studying at university, and the Club has been sponsoring her since her second year of primary school.

## Voice of VIEW

Every two years, VIEW members take part in a democratic process to propose and vote on issues of importance. These issues will become the focus of our advocacy and lobbying efforts in the coming years - we refer to these as resolutions. The Voice of VIEW is a vital part of VIEW Clubs of Australia. The National Resolution process involves identifying and outlining issues considered relevant to social change in Australia. Our advocacy aims to influence policies and make a positive impact on many lives.

## Resolution 1: Addressing Loneliness and Social Isolation

VIEW Clubs of Australia urge State and Federal Governments to develop sustainable, evidence-based programs that effectively combat loneliness and social isolation. We recommend integrating loneliness prevention strategies into existing health, social, and urban planning policies to promote holistic community well-being.

## Resolution 2: National Education Standards

We call on the State and Federal Governments to ensure funding and resources are adequate to meet the educational needs of children below the National Educational Standards for their year, in numeracy and literacy. We also ask for programs and resources to support children who do not meet the National Standards in numeracy and literacy, as shown by NAPLAN.

## Resolution 3: Funding Mental Health Programs for Children

We request that the State and Federal Governments allocate additional Commonwealth funding to all primary and secondary schools. This funding should enable schools to employ mental health professionals on-site to improve mental health outcomes for children.

We look forward to seeing you at our August Dinner Meeting on Tuesday 12 August at the Seven Mile Room, The Lennox Hotel. Please visit our Facebook Page for updates and events or email [lennoxevening.view@gmail.com](mailto:lennoxevening.view@gmail.com) for other inquiries.

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# Lions prepare for annual golf day

by Graham Shaw



August roars in with purpose for the Lennox Head Lions Club, and all roads lead to our premier annual event: the John Mitchell Memorial Golf Day, to be held on Sunday 17 August at the magnificent Byron Bay Golf Course. This event, initiated by the late and much-loved Lennox local John Mitchell in 2011, continues to be a pillar of our Club's fundraising efforts and a celebration of community generosity and good-spirited fun.

This year's beneficiaries are two remarkable organisations: The Buttery, which provides essential mental health and addiction services in our region; and Fletcher Street Cottage, a sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness, offering food, counselling and medical referrals.

Alongside Golf Day excitement, we've been busy advancing our Early Childhood Vision Assessment Programme. The national Lions Eye Health Programme is an Australia wide and internationally recognised early intervention Eye Health Programme. This Lennox Lions' initiative has now expanded to include four other local Lions Clubs so that collaboratively we are able to cover all primary schools in the regional area, screening young students for early signs of vision

impairment that could impact learning and development.

On Tuesday 24 June we commenced our first programme at Albert Park Public School at East Lismore. The parents, particularly, embraced the program and we assessed 75 students on the day. The smiles and curiosity we see during these checks are priceless - and the benefit to children, immeasurable. We thank the Principal and staff for their wonderful assistance and enthusiasm. All results of the testing will be sent to parents and the school for any further action. We are now working with other schools in the region to offer this early diagnostic eyesight tool.

In September, we turn our attention to the much-anticipated Town and Gown Art Exhibition. Held on the weekend of 19-21 September in collaboration with Lennox Public School, the event pairs student artwork with pieces by local artists, creating a vibrant intergenerational celebration of creativity. Over the past decade, this exhibition has raised significant funds for school infrastructure and extends the Lions charter of supporting youth and rewarding educative advancement. This year, proceeds will go toward playground improvements—ensuring the next generation has not just a space to learn, but also to laugh, play and grow. We acknowledge the wonderful effort and endeavour undertaken by local artist Lesley Ryan, who works alongside us in developing and staging this unique Art Exhibition

And if you've ever considered joining the Lennox Lions, now's the perfect time. We're a vibrant, balanced, fun-loving bunch, always ready to welcome new faces. For more info, call Frank ph: 0429 949 844 - you'll have a hard time resisting his enthusiasm.

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# Groms, legends, and culture shine



The 2025 Soundboks Oz Grom Open launched with heart and heritage at Lennox on Thursday 3 July, beginning with a powerful Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony led by Kristopher Cook. The moving tribute to Bundjalung land grounded the five day event in community and culture before the first surfers hit the water.

Hosted by Le-Ba Boardriders, the event saw over 250 elite junior surfers from across the globe competing




in playful two to three-foot waves, and all vying for national rankings and a shot at junior surfing glory. Aussie standouts Landen Smales and Ziggy Mackenzie took top honours, winning the prestigious Traeger Grills Pro Junior titles in clean but testing conditions.

Beyond the fierce grom competition, the event also delivered fan-favourite moments, including pie-eating antics and the highly anticipated Heritage



Heat. Seven icons of Australian surfing -including Matt Wilkinson, Pauline Menczer, Adam Melling, and Chelsea Hedges -paddled out for a nostalgic showdown, bringing style, power, and decades of experience to Seven Mile Beach. With talent, tradition, and a whole lot of stoke, the 2025 Soundboks Oz Grom Open once again proved why it's the crown jewel of junior surfing in Australia. (Local results see pg 53)  
*Photography by WSL.*





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## A celebration of story



This year's Byron Writers Festival is an exciting celebration of international trailblazers and local voices gathering 8-10 August to explore passion and purpose, and what makes a life well-lived. These passionate writers represent a diverse spectrum of talent from former AFL player turned children's book author, Tony Armstrong to surfing legend Pauline Menczer, beauty entrepreneur and writer Zoë Foster Blake and ABC's Elder in Residence, Jackie Huggins.



Australia's most respected living writer Helen Garner headlines the program and will appear in two conversations, with Kerry O'Brien on the evening of festival Friday and with fellow novelist Jock Serong on Festival Sunday.

Get your trivia brain into gear for Saturday night's game show hosted by the team from *Guardian Australia*. The *Are You Game Show* features special guest contestants Robbie Arnott, Tigest Girma, Thomas Mayo and Michael Robotham, and promises to be 'an extremely enjoyable and deeply chaotic battle of the brains'. Saturday night also features the annual poetry showcase, headlined by powerhouse Indigenous performer Ziggy Ramo and author of *Human*.

Dive into national and foreign affairs with experienced voices from the realm of politics including Barry Jones, former national president of the Australian Labor Party, and Don Watson, writer and former speechwriter and advisor to Paul Keating. Jones and Watson will be joined by *The Forever War* author Nick Bryant and Director of the Australia Institute's International & Security Affairs Program, with Emma Shortis to discuss all things USA on the panel conversation *Trump'd*.

Leading Indigenous advocates will reflect on the 2023 Voice referendum and discuss the ways forward. Yes campaigner Thomas Mayo, NSW Treaty Commissioner Naomi Moran, and Commissioner For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People, Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts are on the panel *The Voice: What's Next*, on Festival Saturday.

Secure your tickets to experience the full three-day Festival or dive into one big day with a single day pass.

For more information and to book visit [byronwritersfestival.com](http://byronwritersfestival.com)



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# Ladder of love sparks community



It started with a glance - the kind that feels like it belongs in a novel, not in the middle of Bunnings. But that's exactly where one Byron Bay local, Anna, experienced a moment that would unexpectedly ripple through an entire community.

On what she described as a 'bright, sunny Tuesday in Byron Bay,' Anna popped into Bunnings for a few party supplies. Nothing extraordinary. Until something - or rather, someone - stopped her in her tracks.

'Then I saw him,' she said. 'Leaning against a ladder, broad shoulders, a powerful presence and an incredibly striking glance. It wasn't just attraction. His eyes felt like home in a way I couldn't explain. A strange, 'I remember you...' feeling.' But instead of acting on the moment, Anna hesitated.

'I didn't go over. I hesitated. The energy between us felt too intense.

I paid for my items and walked away, kicking myself for not making a move.'

The encounter might have ended there - just another what-if lost to time - but it lingered with her for days. 'For three days, he was all I could think about,' Anna said. 'He stayed on my mind, and I knew I had to do something.'

Trusting that impulse, she turned to the Byron Bay Community Board and posted her story, unsure of what would come of it.

'I followed my heart and reached out to the Byron Bay Community Board, unsure if he'd see it or feel the same way, but knowing I had to post it anyway. I wasn't expecting much... maybe a few laughs and comments saying, 'You should've said hi!''

Instead, the response was overwhelming.

'It kind of exploded, in a way beyond what I had expected,' she explained.

Her original post read:

'To the long dark blonde male warrior i saw at Bunnings on tuesday... you were near the checkout, leaning casually against a ladder and on your phone in an aisle. then you looked up and something about that moment took me off guard. I felt something i cannot explain. If you felt it too... get in touch.'

The story struck a chord. Not just because of its romance, but because of the vulnerability behind it - and the shared longing it seemed to represent.

'On the first day, the post received over 300 responses, and by the next day, that number had doubled. People weren't just responding to my experience, they were responding to the yearning behind it - the desire for love that feels organic and surprising.'

Messages poured in from people sharing their own missed connections - glances that stayed with them for years, strangers who felt like

soulmates, and stories left untold.

It was then Anna realised that this wasn't just about one mystery man in a hardware store. It was about something bigger.

'So, what if Byron created a space for real connection?' She asked. 'This wouldn't be speed-dating or a singles event with a hidden agenda. It would be something quieter. A space where people can arrive as their full selves, be seen and let things unfold naturally.'

That idea became Golden Gatherings - a weekly beachside meetup for soulful singles and open-hearted people seeking real connection. Held every Sunday by the ocean in various locations including Lennox, it offers a gentle alternative to dating apps and social fatigue. There's no pressure or expectations - just people, presence, and possibility.

As Anna put it: 'Because maybe what we need isn't more dating apps, but more spaces where real surprises happen. The meaningful kind, not the '30 years older than their profile said' kind. A place where you can meet someone near a ladder and not feel silly for wondering, What if?'

And the man from Bunnings?

He never reached out. But maybe that's beside the point.

Golden Gatherings has since blossomed into a heartfelt movement - a soft, sandy rebellion against modern dating, and a reminder that love, connection, and community can begin in the most unexpected places, even in Aisle 9.

'Call it romantic. Call it ridiculous. It might sound far-fetched or a little dreamy, but some of the best stories begin that way.' Anna says.

The next Lennox Head meet up will be held in September.

Visit: [goldenology.com.au/goldengatherings](http://goldenology.com.au/goldengatherings)

# Pioneer profiles: Indian community

by Narissa Phelps



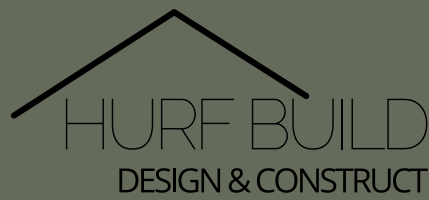
Any history of early Lennox Head would be incomplete without acknowledging the contribution made by Indian workers to the development of the region. In the article on *Lennox's Dry Stone Walls*, brief mention was made of the work done by Indian farm workers who located and carted the stones for the Henderson walls. A community of Hindu families lived and worked at North Creek, clearing lantana, ploughing, and planting and cultivating sugar cane. Baba Ram Singh, Churder Singh and 'Jimmy' Nudda Ginh and their families were amongst them. They lived in huts on the Henderson farm, and assisted with the transporting of cane and bananas by dray to the wharves on North Creek. Ram Singh later resided at Coopers Shoot and Teven, selling fruit and vegetables from his horse and cart.

Religion was very important to the members of the Indian community. The home of Baba Ram Singh at Teven later became the focal point for Sikh gatherings, as they shared fellowship and food. A room in his home was devoted to prayer, and housed the Sikh holy writings, brought from India.

Sadly, Indian labourers here, as elsewhere, were regularly subjected to prejudice. They were often paid less than other workers and were also denied the right to undertake work for some people and organisations. There is record, for example, of a 'Hindoo' being refused the contract to clear the 'new' North Creek school site, located on North Creek Road, of lantana and weeds in 1903. However, those from the Indian community who worked in and around Lennox were renowned as honest, well-respected and hard working.

Reference: *The Hills Down to the Sea*. [https://ballina.nsw.gov.au/files/Part\\_Three\\_-\\_Thematic\\_History.pdf?v=1305896693](https://ballina.nsw.gov.au/files/Part_Three_-_Thematic_History.pdf?v=1305896693)

*Lennox Head Public School centenary, 1882–1982*, pp. 44–45.



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## Landmarks of Lennox: 16 Rayner Lane

by Robyn Hargrave



In its 103 year history, Lot 30 Section 1 (16 Rayner Lane) of the inaugural Lennox Head Estate Auction has had few owners. Lismore Chemist, Albert Elliott Brand purchased the land on 9 December 1922<sup>1</sup> for £43<sup>2</sup> and had a house, *Childers*, built.<sup>3</sup> The property was subsequently sold to James and Elizabeth Brown in 1934,<sup>4</sup> reportedly for around £150.<sup>5</sup>

It remained in the Brown family, passed though inheritance, until June 1988 when it was acquired by WP Lazarus and GJ Dungar.<sup>6</sup> Commanding one of the most significant beachfront outlooks in Lennox Head, by the early

2000s the old house was replaced by a duplex, fitted with all mod cons.

Between the 1950s and 1980s the original house came perilously close to succumbing to the ocean, when the Pacific claimed vast tracts of beachfront, also taking a reserve on the sea side of Rayner Lane lots. Major reclamation works in the 1990s re-instated properties to their original intended size, albeit somewhat more elevated above the waves than previously.

In June this year, a new owner parted with \$7.5 million to claim this Lennox Head landmark site.<sup>7</sup>

**Sources:** <sup>1,4,6</sup> NSW Land Registry Services HLRV V3475-65; <sup>2</sup> *The Northern Star* 12.12.1922; <sup>3,5</sup> *The Lennox Free Times* Issue 33 July 2022; <sup>7</sup> Flier, Byron Bay|Sotheby's June 2025

**Photos:** 1.1985, F1;806; 2. 1993, F1;807; 3. 1993, F1;812 with Ross Park in the foreground, all from LHHC Collection

Readers with information on this or other Landmarks of Lennox, please contact Robyn Hargrave, Lennox Head Heritage Committee by phone 0412 660 994 or email at [lennoxheritagecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:lennoxheritagecommittee@gmail.com).

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## Free gallery space for creatives



In celebration of 130 years of community service and connection, the Byron Community Centre has launched the Byron Spaces Gallery, a new free exhibition space for local artists in the heart of Byron Bay.

Open to creatives at all stages of their journey - from emerging talents to seasoned professionals — the Byron Spaces Gallery offers a unique opportunity for artists to share their work with the community, free of charge. Applications are now open,

with exhibitions rotating seasonally throughout the year.

The gallery opened in June with its first solo show: *Magic Birds of Australia* by local artist and Byron Markets favourite Valentina Di Blase (pictured left). On display until the end of August, this glow-in-the-dark exhibition celebrates Australia's native birds through vibrant mixed-media artworks that reveal hidden messages under special lighting.

'This gallery is part of our broader vision to celebrate and elevate local voices,' says Kate Love, Communications Manager at Byron Community Centre. 'Valentina's exhibition is just the beginning. We're inviting other local artists to bring their work into the space and be part of this ongoing creative story.'

Selected artists will exhibit for up to three months in the Centre's upstairs

Wategos Room and foyer, with full support from the Byron Spaces team. While artists must manage their own installation and promotion, the gallery space is provided entirely free of charge.

'This is about more than just hanging art on a wall,' adds Carl Taylor, Byron Spaces Coordinator. 'It's an invitation to the community - a place to celebrate local creativity, share stories, and create meaningful connections.'

The Byron Spaces Gallery is open weekdays from 10am–4pm, offering free access to exhibitions that reflect Byron's vibrant artistic spirit. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

For more information or to apply, visit: [byroncentre.com.au](http://byroncentre.com.au)

## Letters across time



River Mueller's exhibition *My life has changed a lot since I spoke to you last* is a deeply personal reflection on memory, loss, and unexpected reconnection. When River was just nine years old, their father disappeared without a trace. Despite efforts to reach him through extended family, no one knew where he was. For years, River believed he had passed away.

Then, one afternoon after school, everything changed. Over a boysenberry waffle cone from Sweet Pea, River's mum handed them a letter - from their dad. It had been 19 years. This exhibition on show until 17 August at NRCG Ballina, is River's artistic interpretation of that letter. Through visual storytelling, they explore the complex emotions surrounding absence, hope, and the long shadows cast by unresolved family histories. The work is tender, intimate, and a powerful example of how art can give shape to the things we carry. River invites visitors to witness a moment that forever altered the course of their life.

Visit: [nrcg.com.au](http://nrcg.com.au)

Pictured: River Mueller, *About the only thing I have to look out for is the cops*, 2025



# Earth, fire and fungi

by Lennox Arts Collective



As a ceramic artist and member of the Lennox Arts Collective, Robyn Porritt's work is influenced by nature and it is also used as a source for fuel and materials. She digs wild clay to create unusual clay finishes. It is exciting to find local deposits of clay and test their firing potential. Robyn recently returned from a trip to Uluru and brought local materials back to use with clay. The beautiful rich reds of the outback will be a new body of work for her.

Robyn burns seaweed, cow dung and snake skins for her pit firings. These materials add unique colourings and patterns to the work.

Robyn has always been fascinated with fungi and has used that inspiration in various ways.

The most interesting is the actual casting of a mushroom - the liquid clay moulds into the detail of the gills, and the results are beautiful. The mushroom burns away in the kiln

leaving an original each time. This is a delicate process and there are often failures. Many mushrooms are too fragile to cast but Robyn has found a local one that tolerates the casting process.

Robyn's work is found at the Lennox Arts Collective in the main street of Lennox Head, open daily from 10am-3pm.





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# Cake decorate



On Saturday, 23 August from 2:30–4:00pm, Collective Autonomy in Lennox Head will host a creative Vintage Cake Decorating Workshop in collaboration with Yum Bakery.

This two-hour session is designed for beginners and baking enthusiasts, offering hands-on instruction in essential piping techniques to create a retro-inspired cake. Each participant will receive a pre-baked cake and all necessary decorating tools to complete their masterpiece.

The event will take place in the heart of Collective Autonomy, a gift store known for supporting local and Australian makers who prioritise sustainable and ethical practices in their work.

Guests are welcome to BYO drinks and enjoy an afternoon of creativity and connection in a relaxed setting.

Bookings: [/events.humanitix.com/host/collective-autonomy](https://events.humanitix.com/host/collective-autonomy)



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# Through the lens of compassion: Denise Alison

by Natalie Grono



Pictured: Denise Alison, photograph by Raimond De Weerd.

On any given street in Lismore, someone has a story worth hearing: a quiet triumph; a moment of heartbreak; a sliver of joy or a memory held close. For the last decade, photographer and storyteller Denise Alison has been the one to pause, listen and capture it.

Inspired by the global sensation *Humans of New York*, Denise launched *Humans of Lismore (HOL)* in 2014. What began as a quiet protest against a dismissive comment in a trendy Byron Bay café - 'Who would want to live there?' - has become a powerful chronicle of humanity, community, and resilience in one of regional Australia's most unique towns.

'I was angry at that comment,' Denise recalls. 'I knew the people of Lismore were amazing. I'd followed *Humans of New York* and thought, why not tell the stories of our people, too?'

So, she did. Camera in hand, Denise wandered downtown Lismore, stopping a young woman named Katie who was selling daffodils for cancer research. 'We both ended up in tears,' she says. 'I took her photo, transcribed our conversation, and uploaded it. That was the beginning.'

## A decade of humanity

Ten years and more than 28,000 followers later, *Humans of Lismore* has become more than a social media page - it's a cultural archive, a love letter to a town with a spirit that can't be washed away, even by the worst of floods. At times, it's even served as a fundraising channel for local causes.

The recently published *Humans of Lismore* book, launched in late 2024, is a curated collection of Denise's most touching encounters - a visual and narrative journey through the faces and voices of Northern NSW. It bears witness to the bushfires, COVID lockdowns, and the catastrophic 2022 floods that devastated the region - but more than anything, it celebrates resilience and connection.

'Some stories make you laugh from the gut. Some bring tears,' Denise says. 'But all of them remind you - you're not alone.'

## From surfboards to shutter clicks

Before *HOL*, Denise was a woman of many passions. Raised on Sydney's Northern Beaches, she had an idyllic, sandy-footed youth spent surfing before and after school. At 18, she married professional surfer Col Smith, and together they had three daughters before parting ways. 'We're still great friends,' she says with a smile.

Denise's creative drive never waned. A self-taught photographer, she shot weddings, bands, surf scenes, and portraits - chasing light and stories. She also spent 15 years singing in bands and doing studio session work in Sydney. Her life took a pivotal turn when she met her daughter's school principal (after her 'then rebellious middle child' was caught smoking). They fell in love, and moved to a 100-acre farm in Kyogle.

'I started making documentaries with a group of women filmmakers in Lismore,' she recalls. 'I felt like I'd finally found my people. They were real, grounded. It felt like home.' There was a deeper connection, too - her late father grew up in Lismore, making her move all the more meaningful. When that relationship ended, Denise stayed. In 2001, she bought a house in town, 'strange for someone who said she would never live away from the beach' she explains. 'The moment I arrived here I felt like I had come home.'

## 'I lost everything... But not everyone'

When the catastrophic 2022 flood struck, Denise was away caring for her terminally ill mother. By the time she returned, the house she had lovingly restored had been gutted - no floors, no kitchen, no walls.

But Lismore did what it does best: it showed up.

'Someone knocked on my door months later with a bag of my clothes. She said, "I took your clothes and washed them.'



Pictured: Norma and Harold and right, Tree, photographs by Denise Alison

I've been waiting for you to come back." Someone else saved my rugs. People I didn't even know. That's Lismore.'

That sense of community - quiet, powerful, unwavering - runs through every page of *Humans of Lismore*.

### The faces that stay with you

Denise has interviewed hundreds, if not thousands, of locals - from shopkeepers to artists, dancers to the homeless. Some stories still cling tightly to her heart.

'There was this old couple, Norma and Harold, both in their 90s, walking hand in hand. He had a little top hat, and she wore pink from head to toe—twin set, crocheted bag, beret. I asked them why they were still together. Their story... it was just love, simple and true.'

And then, there was Tree.

'A homeless man everyone knew. Always in gumboots, same clothes, wrecked old hat. People were scared of him, but I stopped one day and talked. He opened up, slowly. He told me about his childhood. It was heartbreaking.'

There are even a few Lennox local faces adorning the pages. Among those sharing their connection to Lismore are the late David Wolff and photographers Craig Parry and John Bortolin.

### What's next?

Now retired, Denise finally had the time to compile the book - a legacy of a decade spent walking the streets with open ears and an open heart. She hints there may be a second volume. 'There are too many stories still to tell,' she says. 'And I've started a Dogs of Lismore page, too. It's a bit of fun.'

As for what she hopes readers take away from *Humans of Lismore*

'Lismore is such a diverse creative town. Its people look out for one another. There is a sense of compassion, it's a community that shows genuine love and compassion. I want people to open their eyes—to see the world around them, and the stories in it. Everyone has one. We all want to feel seen, heard, connected.'

In a world that often feels divided and distracted, *Humans of Lismore* is a reminder of the quiet, radical power of simply listening - and of the extraordinary stories that live in ordinary streets.

Visit: [Facebook/Humansoflismore](https://www.facebook.com/Humansoflismore), [humansoflismore.com.au](https://humansoflismore.com.au). Denise will be appearing at the Byron Writers Festival on Friday 8 August 11.30-12.30pm. Visit: [byronwritersfestival.com/festival/writers/denise-alison](https://byronwritersfestival.com/festival/writers/denise-alison). Copies of the book can be also purchased locally at the Book Room.



# Between the covers - local book clubs

by Natalie Grono



From sea spray to wine bars, Lennox Head's love affair with the written word is alive and well - just not always in the ways you'd expect. While some gather in libraries and venues with structured discussions and printed notes, others swap paperbacks over pinot or hash out fantasy worlds and political discourse between surf breaks. This town is home to a vibrant network of book lovers - from the organised to the offbeat, from private home gatherings to a surf crew that rides waves before dissecting story arcs.

Here's a peek inside some of Lennox Head's most beloved open reading groups - each with its own rhythm, personality, and place in the local literary landscape.

## Lennox Head Library Book Clubs

Organised by Di Kincade, Library Technician

For those who like their reading time well-structured (and possibly followed by a cup of tea in a quiet corner), the Lennox Head Library Book Clubs are a dream. Run by Di Kincade, the Library hosts four Book Clubs monthly - each on different days - and keeps things delightfully old-school. The group are capped at 10 members, and three are already full, though there's room for three new readers in the Club that meets on the second Friday of the month.

'We also support several private book clubs in the area,' Di shares. 'They borrow curated book club sets from the library - each one has 10 copies and costs \$20 to hire. It's a great way for smaller groups to have access to the same book without everyone having to track down their own copy.'

If you're looking to join an established group with tried-and-true reading rhythms, this might be your chapter.

Meets at: Lennox Head Library monthly on various days.

Contact the Library to join the waitlist or check availability  
Ph: 6687 6398

## Fiction Addiction

What began in 2014 as a casual gathering of Library users has become one of Lennox Head's longest-running book clubs. Started by Librarian Katie Brown, the Monday Book Club - now known as Fiction Addiction - continues to thrive



with a dedicated group of 10 members, including two founding participants. Unlike many clubs, Fiction Addiction has its book selections curated by the Lennox Head Library, with titles ranging across genres but often grounded in historical events or contemporary social themes.

Long-time members Lyn Anderson and Jenny Cobden say the group's strength lies in its contemplative yet accessible reads. 'Thought-provoking books, not too heavy, lead to great discussions,' they explain. 'Different opinions are welcomed, and conversations often raise ideas we might never have considered.'

Over the years, Fiction Addiction has become more than just a book club. Lasting friendships have formed, often cemented over post-meeting coffees and shared stories - of books, and of life. Contact via the Library ph: 66876398

## Book Swap Club at Smokey's

Hosted by Sonia Bavistock

Not a fan of deadlines or group consensus? The Book Swap Club might be your bookish soulmate. Hosted at Smokey's Bottle Shop & Bar, this monthly meetup is more about connection than commitment. Think wine, snacks, laughter - and a magical book bar where every title comes with a personal postcard-sized pitch from the last reader.

'I wanted something less formal than traditional clubs,' says organiser Sonia. 'I've always been a big reader, and I was craving a way to connect with other book lovers here in Lennox. Traditional book clubs never quite worked for me - I don't like being told what to read or having to finish a book by a certain date. So, I started wondering: what else could a book club look like?'

'I knew I wanted three key ingredients: wine, snacks, and the joy of receiving a personal recommendation from someone who genuinely loved the book. That's how Book Swap Club was born - a more relaxed, no-pressure way to share stories, spark conversations, and walk away with something new to read. There's only one rule: bring a book you've actually loved and are happy to pass on - no duds'

With 12-14 readers showing up on the third Tuesday of



every month, the swap is gaining momentum. Genres range wildly - rom-coms, thrillers, memoirs, even the odd cheeky self-help book (shout-out to F-Bomb Affirmations). The vibe? Buzzing, low-pressure, and totally contagious.

Meets at: Smokey's Bottle Shop & Bar, 2/74 Ballina Street,  
Third Tuesday of the month, 7pm

Tickets: \$12 (includes wine and snacks)

Visit: [soniabavistock.com/events](https://soniabavistock.com/events)

### Basic Gals Book Club

Organised by Jordan Grayndler

Created for 20-somethings in flux, Jordan explains, 'I started the Book Club when I felt like I needed something outside of work. I looked for book clubs, but I found a lot were groups of mums or women in their 50s - 60s. I decided to create one for women in their 20s who are figuring things out, sometimes we barely talk about the book at all and just end up chatting about life and everything in between.'

Since starting in October last year, the group has grown to 15 members, with seven to 10 showing up each month. The name Basic Gals is a cheeky nod to reclaiming so-called guilty pleasures - like swooning over romance novels or getting emotional over YA fantasy.

Recent hits and misses? *Phantasma* by Kaylie Smith had everyone binging the sequels, while *The Fury* didn't live up to its predecessor, *The Silent Patient*. But even when the book flops, the conversation never does.

Follow on Instagram: @basicgalsbookclub

Open to new members - especially those still figuring things out. Ages: Mostly 20s, but no strict rules apply.

### Long-running Book Club still going strong

Founded by Beth Heldt

For the past 20 years, a close-knit group of readers has been gathering each month sharing more than just stories on the page. Founded by Beth Heldt, a former second-hand



bookstore owner, the Book Club is one of the longest-running in the area - and it's still welcoming new members.

Beth took over the then newly formed group two decades ago when its original founder relocated to Lismore.

'I used to get many new people coming into my shop - often lonely or just looking for connection - and I'd invite them to the Book Club,' she recalls.

That spirit of warmth and inclusivity still defines the group today.

Now meeting at Club Lennox on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm, the Club has 10 regular members. Beth, now 60, jokes that she's the youngest of the bunch. 'I love being around this generation,' she says.

We have women from all different backgrounds, which brings a mix of perspectives and always leads to lively discussion.'

Each November, members suggest three books each, and the group votes on the reading list for the coming year. Members take it in turns to facilitate and the Club also adds personal touches to their meetings - last month, while reading *The Glassmaker*, one member brought in a set of vintage Venetian glass beads from the 1920s, sparking conversation and admiration.

And come Christmas, the tradition is to gift each other a second-hand book.

While the group has included men in the past, Beth laughs, 'They never lasted long as I think they felt like they were outnumbered'. Still, the Club remains open to anyone with a love of books and conversation.

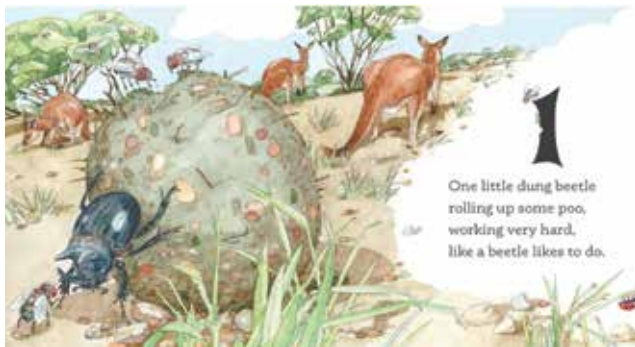
Whether you're into literary analysis, love a good rom-com with wine, or just want to find your people, Lennox Head's reading scene has a story for you.

The chapters may be different, but the ending's the same: connection, conversation, and a growing community of book lovers in all shapes and surfboards.

So, what are you reading next?

# Children's Book Week

by Brenda Anderson, Lennox Library



Children's Book Week is one of the biggest events on our Library calendar.

During August we celebrate with displays, stories, and Library visits from local schools and preschools. The theme for this year is Book An Adventure, and we invite you all to take part in the fun. It is a time when we celebrate libraries and the important role they play in our local community.

A library is a magical place where every book opens up a new world of adventure. We are also asking the kids to colour in a house and write their favourite book title on top. Once we have a collection of these houses they will become part of our next display in the Library foyer.

Come and see the shortlisted books from all categories, and check out our interpretation of the theme with an adventure vehicle centre stage in the Library foyer. Our Makerspace group have also contributed to the theme with some handmade animals.

Let us know if you recognise the truck, which has become part of our foyer displays during National Simultaneous Story Time and more recently Thank a First Responder Day. What will it turn into next?

One of my favourite books in the category of Book of the Year: Early Childhood is *One little dung beetle* by Rhian Williams. The illustrations by Heather Potter and Mark Jackson are superb, and the counting theme is a favourite for early childhood programs. Our regular early literacy programs will incorporate some of the picture book and early childhood titles from the shortlist.

Baby Time is on Wednesdays at 10.30am and suitable for babies to 18 months, Story Time is on Thursdays at 10.30am and suitable for preschoolers age three to five years, and on Fridays at 10.30am we have Toddler Time which is aimed at the 18 month to three year age bracket.

For information on all library programs and events please check our website: [rtrl.nsw.gov.au](http://rtrl.nsw.gov.au) or come in and chat to the staff.

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Scholar Comparative Religion

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**Lennox Head Cultural Centre**  
**Lennox Head**  
**FREE—Donations welcome at the door**



# Ocean Rhythms and tide chart

by Steve Shearer



As we moved into the depths of winter surf and weather clicked into a typical dry winter pattern.

With high pressure moving up across the country we saw cold air sliding down from the Tablelands leading to lots of chilly offshore mornings with small to medium south swells on offer. Just what the Doctor ordered to slowly, slowly rebuild the erosion damage from TC Alfred and a stormy autumn. We're not all the way there yet. The points are only rebuilding

grain by grain but at least the wide bank at Lennox Point which was so disruptive to the wave quality has moved and the wave is looking more like the world class pointbreak we know and love when we do get a swell. The beachies have been showing some form on the small south swells as well as the more exposed breaks at Ballina. There hasn't been anything sensational like last winter's swells but the low hype glorious winter days have been a welcome respite from the rain and muddy water of autumn.

At time of writing an unseasonal E swell is on the cards as a low forms off the North Coast and drifts away towards the North Island. A few good days of surf will test the quality of the sandbanks with offshore winds expected during the best days of the swell.

Fishing has been mixed. Water temps are only slowing dropping down to typical winter levels which means pelagics have still been showing at random. Mostly mack tuna and bonito but the odd Longtail Tuna has been in the mix for those with the patience to chase them. Snapper have been showing on the inshore reefs from time to time, while fishing on the beaches has been hit and miss. Some nice inshore gutters have formed with bream and flathead around if you are prepared to keep trying new ground until you find them. We haven't see the big bait schools and gannets we normally see over winter so finding fish has been more difficult. That would explain the lack of the normal winter tailor run. Let's hope it's just running late. If so, we'd expect to see more signs of life through August.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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# Cars of Lennox

by Shan Railton



**Model:** Ford Falcon wagon – Shitbox Rally Special Custom Edition

**Owner:** Lloyd and Lorraine

For those who are wondering, the Shitbox Rally is an annual charity event raising funds for The Cancer Council. Each year around 500 entrants gather at a remote location to embark on a seven day cross-country journey full of fun, dodgy roads and lifelong memories. The cars must have been purchased for \$1,500 or less, teams then raise money (\$5,000 or more) via sponsorship and donations that go to the 100% charity. On 25 October this year, Lloyd and Lorraine are meeting the other entrants in Alice Springs and making their way to the finish on the Gold Coast.

**LW** – First of all, the car. What's going on here?

**L & L** – Ha ha. Yes, *National Lampoon's Vacation* movie from the 1980s. We've painted it green, carved a crown logo, SurfWagon added the fake wood panelling and window tint

and now it is starting to look the part.

It still needs a roof basket and an Aunt Edna dummy on the roof to finish it off. Hopefully it will be unmistakable when it's finished.

**LW** – Classic, it's definitely getting there. What's your team name?

**L & L** – Continuing with the screen theme, we're called Braking Badly. All a bit of fun.

**LW** – Love it! So you need to get to Alice Springs and then the event takes you back to the Gold Coast. You confident the ol' Truckster will make it?

**L & L** – Should do. It drives well, we've gone over it mechanically and it seems OK. Also has cold air con so that's a bonus for us. Luckily it isn't a race, just a cruise and plenty of fun activities along the way so no stress hopefully.

**LW** – Brilliant. So if people want to get involved in following your journey, business sponsorship and/or donating a few dollars what's the process?

**L & L** – Easy really, you can go onto the Shitbox Rally website and search Braking Badly or go direct via <https://spring2025.shitboxrally.com.au/brakingbadly>.

Any donation or sponsorship would be greatly appreciated, you can also follow our progress via the website or via the Shitbox Rally Facebook or Instagram pages. We'd love to have you on board.

**LW** – I'm definitely on board as I am sure the Lennox community is. We look forward to seeing it unfold as maybe we can catch up afterwards to hear the stories. Thanks for your time and best of luck.

**L & L** – Thank you, we're looking forward to it and will be happy to share the adventure.



Support Ballina Bombers JAFc every step of the way and become a club legend by buying a ticket or two in the Good for Footy Raffle. Ballina Bombers JAFc gets to keep 100% of proceeds, and you'll go in the draw to win \$289,005 of prizes, including three brand-new Toyota vehicles, a chance to meet AFL stars of your choice for a coaching clinic, 2025 Toyota AFL Grand Final tickets, and so much more.

<https://toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au/ballinajuniorafl>



# On Manopause

by John Peacock



An oasis is supposed to be a fertile spot in the desert where water is found. Not in our house it's not. Since the brothers Gallagher announced that their millions were not sufficient in number and they were burying the hatchet, but not in each other's backs and reforming, Oasis has meant only one thing.

I kid myself. Oasis has only meant one thing to certain members of our household since the talented one and the snarly one began their assault on our eardrums and our wallets in 1994.

The fervour with which tickets were pursued around the globe on behalf of our family was military in its application. Squadrons of willing and able middle-aged women around the world were coerced into assault

groups and tasked with securing tickets at any cost. Those who failed will not be getting Christmas cards this year, but when the revolution comes there will be casualties.

As a result, we had secured tickets to Oasis concerts in London, Manchester and twice within three days in Edinburgh before Australian dates were even announced. We subsequently secured tickets in Sydney and Melbourne on consecutive weekends but that is another battle story for another day.

You'll notice that there is considerable use of the pronoun 'we' and it's used advisedly. I'm one of the ones who was tasked with securing tickets and failed, so I bask only in the glory, wondering 'What's the story' from a distance. It does set a fantastic precedent when the next Rugby World Cup comes around because the Entertainment line on the annual family budget has increased exponentially this year - a trend we can only hope continues through to 2027. My wife has a thing for rock stars, which is fine. I'm not able to have similar fascinations with bikini models without it causing ructions,

which I'm assured is also fine. What I can't work out is how the common denominator with all her idols, which appears to be gauntness, differs so significantly from the ex-rugby player, somewhat rotund, beer appreciating, carpet cleaner she ended up with.

It began with Robert Smith from The Cure. Right enough he looks like Mrs. Doubtfire now, so I have him covered. There's a lot of others she was going to marry that I don't know about or have blocked out. Then Daniel Johns from Silver Chair who may well blow over in a stiff breeze. Finally, God's message to stay in school personified Liam Gallagher. His major contribution to modern culture is flipping the bird and his musical ability is somewhat stretched if his tambourine requires a particularly vigorous shake from time to time.

I often feel like Princess Diana, but that's another story altogether. She said when talking about Camilla and Charles that there were three people in her marriage, so it was a bit crowded at times. Heaps more than three in mine, but I'm the only one going to the Rugby World Cup.

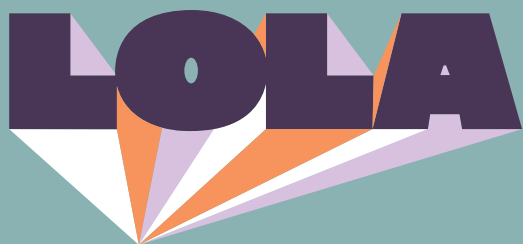
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23 August / Lismore CBD

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- COOL SOUNDS
- MR RHODES
- EGGY
- LUCY'S HOUSE
- SHLUFFY

- LIMINAL
- FLO DJ'S
- HOLIDAY MAKER
- CASEY MAY  
& THE LOVERS
- MEDIA PUZZLE

#### VISUAL ARTISTS

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WE WELCOME  
YOU.



# Locals picks and tips

by Tracey Burns



Twelve years ago, we packed up our life in Sydney and headed north with a toddler, a newborn, and a gut feeling that we couldn't keep living the way we were. I'd spent years in big ad agencies - long hours, big clients, always chasing something, and after our second daughter arrived, I hit a wall. Back then, I had outsourced everything - nanny, cleaner, gardener, dog walker, just so I could keep working. But deep down, I knew I didn't want to watch my kids grow up through photo updates while I sat in traffic or answered emails during bath time. So we swapped heels for bare feet, corporate stress for ocean air, and gave Lennox a go. It was meant to be a one-year trial. Twelve years later, we're still here. Life is still full, just in a different way. Dance comps, netball runs, soccer sidelines, and the revolving door of teenage moods, lifts, and logistics. The car's a mess, the calendar's full, and sometimes it feels like I'm running a part-time Uber with a side of emotional support. But it's ours. It's real. And I wouldn't trade it.

I now work as a coach, supporting women and teen girls to regulate their nervous systems, make sense of their emotions, and reconnect with what's true. My work is all about integration - healing in real time, inside relationships and parenting, not off in a cave somewhere. Because let's be honest, it's in our relationships and our parenting where the real stuff gets activated. Most of us are still running the old survival strategies that once

kept us safe and loved - until mid-life, love, or parenting asks us to choose something truer.

Here's what I've been loving lately:

## What I'm reading

- *You Can Do Hard Things* by Glennon Doyle

A beautifully honest reminder that life doesn't need to look tidy to be true. Midlife hits different, and this one meets me right there, in the mess, the magic, and the permission to feel it all.

- *The Seat of the Soul* by Gary Zukav

Slow, soulful, and occasionally a little woo, but it speaks to something deeper. It's helping me shift from 'How do I fix this?' to 'How do I align with what matters?'

## What I'm listening To

- *Jillian on Love*

Real, emotionally intelligent conversations about relationships -romantic, parental, and everything in between. It's not about quick fixes; it's about seeing the deeper patterns and meeting them with honesty and compassion.

- *On Being* with Krista Tippett

Like a slow exhale. Poetic, philosophical, and best paired with a solo walk when I need to get out of my head and back into wonder.

- *The Midpoint* with Gabby Logan

Honest, funny reflections on midlife, reinvention, and the things we're no longer willing to tolerate. Comforting and clarifying.

## What I'm watching

- *The Bear*

Obsessed. My partner's a foodie and ex-restaurateur, so we're watching it together and fully hooked. It's not just about food, it's about grief, pressure, and messy human connection.

- *Seen* (The Doco)

A beautiful, raw piece about healing through parenting. Every parent should

watch it. It speaks to the parts of us still learning how to love, repair, and show up better than we had modelled.

- *The Deepest Breath*

Breathtaking and terrifying. Free diving meets fierce love and deep surrender. It stayed with me long after.

- *Sex Education*

Funny, awkward, and smart. Also surprisingly deep. Great to watch with your teen if you're up for a bit of squirm-laughing and real talk.

## Where I go to reset

- A headland walk from Pat Morton

My favourite way to clear my head. Ocean on one side, rolling headland on the other. It never fails to shift something, especially at sunrise.

- Navia (Byron) or The Banya (Mullum)

When I need to sweat out the mental load, this is my go-to.

- Cheeky Cabaret (Bruns)

Joy, wildness, sequins, and complete chaos in the best way. I laugh like I haven't in weeks. Highly recommend as nervous system regulation.

- Lighthouse walk (Byron)

Yes, it's a bit of a cliché. And yes, it still cracks me open every time.

- Boulders at sunset

My favourite place to land, sometimes with a journal, sometimes with my girls, sometimes just with a thermos and my breath. Midlife feels like a remembering. Not a reinvention, not a breakdown (well, maybe a few), but a return to what matters, to what feels true, to the kind of life I don't need to escape from. Lennox gave me space to figure all of that out. And honestly? I'm still figuring. But I'm doing it with more breath, more barefoot walks, and more bold, beautiful mess than ever before. I feel incredibly lucky to raise my girls here and run a heart-led business in a place that reminds me daily what actually matters.

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# Tweed Holiday Parks Kingscliff North

by Milt Barlow

Nestled on the pristine Northern NSW coastline, Tweed Holiday Parks Kingscliff North offers an idyllic beachfront escape where gentle sea breezes and the rhythmic sound of the waves set the tone for a long holiday or a short get away break. Renowned for its absolute beachfront location and proximity to Kingscliff's charming heart, this award-winning holiday park combines comfort, convenience, and a relaxed atmosphere suitable for all types of travellers - from families to couples and groups of friends

One of the standout features is its diverse range of accommodation options, each designed to cater to the needs and tastes of various visitors. Recently opened are the new architect-designed premium beachfront cabins which offer studio style, open plan living, along with sweeping ocean views. They feature fully equipped kitchenettes, ensuite, flat screen TV, air conditioning a private car parking space, private deck and daybed - a great spot to greet the morning or relax and enjoy the sunset whilst having some evening drinks. Also available are cabins with two and three-bedroom configurations, and fully accessible cabins with wheelchair access.

In addition to the deluxe cabins, there are a variety of camping options. Premium Beachfront Tourist Sites, ideal for RVs and caravans, let you step straight onto the sand each morning. Guests can also choose from ensuite tourist sites and powered tent sites, all conveniently located near the camp kitchen and amenities.

Like all of the Tweed Holiday Parks, the Kingscliff North Park has a host of facilities including BBQ areas, outdoor decks, direct access to the beach (which is patrolled during school

holidays), on site bike hire, free WiFi, parking, laundry and self service facilities.

Beyond its absolute beachfront location, Kingscliff offers plenty to see and do. Enjoy paddleboarding or kayaking on the scenic Cudgen Creek, or head into town to explore a fantastic mix of pubs, cafes, and boutique shops. Be sure to check out the vibrant Kingscliff Markets, held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

Other local attractions include Tropical Fruit World, Fingal Head Lighthouse - great for dolphin spotting and whales in season - or take a short drive to Mount Warning / Wollumbin National Park.

Hats off to the new upgraded development at Tweed Holiday Parks Kingscliff North. Like all their collections of Parks this one does not disappoint - I love short breaks and this location really delivers. It blends modern day comforts with a laid-back, natural setting that truly captures the essence of the Australian beach holiday.

For more information, visit:  
[tweedholidayparks.com.au/location/kingscliff-north](https://tweedholidayparks.com.au/location/kingscliff-north)

**ACCOMMODATION  
VALUE FOR \$  
STAFF  
WOULD I RETURN  
OVERALL**



*Author stayed as a guest of the venue.*

## Caring for wildlife



Lennox Head is home to an incredible range of native wildlife. From wallabies in the dunes to sea turtles and seabirds along the coast, our region's biodiversity is something of which to be proud. But as the area grows, so does the need to care for the animals that share it with us.

### Why wildlife needs our help

Local wildlife face daily threats - from cars and domestic pets to fishing line and habitat loss. Injured birds, stranded turtles, and orphaned marsupials are common sights, especially during storm seasons or bushfires. Luckily, there are simple ways locals can make a real difference.

### How you can help

- Drive with care: Many animals are hit at dawn and dusk, particularly near bushland. Slow down, and if you find injured wildlife, call WIRES Northern Rivers ph: 1300 094 737, Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital ph: 1300 945 354.
- Protect marine life: Fishing gear left behind can entangle turtles and seabirds. Always clean up after yourself, and avoid disturbing nesting shorebirds.
- Help seabirds safely: If you see a seabird in trouble- like a pelican with fishing line or a grounded tern - don't try to handle it. Call Australian Seabird & Turtle Rescue ph: 6686 2852. They're trained to safely capture and care for marine birds and reptiles.
- Be a responsible pet owner: Keep cats indoors and dogs on-leash near bush or beaches. Even a playful dog can cause serious harm to wildlife.
- Plant for biodiversity: Choose local natives like grevillea and banksia to attract birds, bees, and butterflies. Avoid pesticides and provide a shallow water source in shaded areas.
- Support rescue groups: Organisations like WIRES, Seabird Rescue, and the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital rely on volunteers and donations to care for injured wildlife.

### Every action counts

Whether it's slowing down on the road, calling in a rescue, or planting a native tree, small actions count. By being aware and respectful of the wild creatures around us, we can help protect what makes Lennox Head so special - for people and animals.





# Pet of the month

**Name:** Pixi Stars

**Age:** 17

**Breed:** Tenterfield Terrier

**Owners:** The Munros

**Favourite food:** Human food

**Favourite thing to do:** A big walk followed by a leap onto our driveway.

**What is the best memory involving your pet:** Watching her grow up with our daughter. She was seven when we got Pixi and is now 24.

**If they were not a pet, what would they be?** An antelope, you should see her jump.

*Want to see your pet as our next pet of the month? Email your answers to the above questions plus your favourite photo of your pet. Send to [editor@thelennoxwave.com.au](mailto:editor@thelennoxwave.com.au)*



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# What parents deserve to know

by Kirra Pendergast, Safe on Social/CRTL+SHIFT



Last month, like so many others, I sat with the weight of the news. The devastating revelations of abuse in early childhood education centres across Australia weren't just shocking, they were heartbreaking. But what struck me most was what didn't make headlines: the quiet architecture of risk; the systems that allowed harm to go unnoticed, not out of malice, but out of assumption.

I did what I always do in moments like this, I went down a rabbit hole of trying to find the fixable fault lines. I opened up the publicly available policies on the websites. I downloaded dozens of policies from early childhood providers, documents on privacy, digital safety, social media, and codes of conduct. I wanted to see how our systems are protecting children as physical and digital become more blurred by the minute.

The truth? Most aren't.

What I found were policies that haven't been meaningfully updated since 2016. Several still included references to 'facsimile machines.' Most treated digital risk like an afterthought, something to file under 'IT' or 'parent permissions,' not child protection.

Digital life isn't optional anymore. It's the operating system of childhood. Children aren't just visiting digital spaces, they're living in them. Learning through them. Being documented within them before they can speak. Yet the systems meant to keep them safe in those spaces are still built for an internet that existed 15 years ago.

It's not just the apps. It's the architecture firm that posts the site plan of a new school build. The tradesperson on-site, unvetted, because they were only there for an hour. The educator capturing photos on a personal phone. The parent uploading birthday pictures and the end of year concert. The group chat with no boundaries. The update that never came.

This is where harm hides. Not in the dark corners, but through the front door.

Not because people don't care but because the systems weren't built to hold the complexity of the lives they're meant to protect.

Educators are doing extraordinary work. Every day, they

navigate apps, parent messaging, consent forms, privacy settings, digital learning tools. But they're being asked to carry a level of risk they were never trained to hold, without the technical language, policy infrastructure, or professional support to do so safely.

And into that vacuum steps a new market: a wave of well-meaning consultants offering 'policy updates' on LinkedIn promising to be able to prevent abuse, most with no experience that spans what's actually required: child safety; privacy law; digital governance; AI; ethics; online harm. It's not one lens that is needed it's all of them. Templates are being sold, policies get a cosmetic refresh. But what's missing is the architecture of protection, the kind we at CTRL+SHIFT build every day, across systems, sectors, and at scale.

The policies I read weren't bad because the people behind them didn't care. They were bad because they were built for a world that no longer exists.

The digital world moves fast. Harm moves with it. Unmonitored apps, messages sent between staff, photos shared to Facebook pages without informed consent to parents who don't understand that image can be screenshot and become a deepfake nude used for CSAM in under three minutes. Photos can even be taken by what looks like a pair of reading glasses. And still, many systems rely on outdated codes of conduct, blanket consent forms, and compliance checklists that offer the illusion of safety but none of the substance. What parents are asking for isn't panic, it's preparation.

## They will want to know

Who is thinking further ahead than next week's newsletter?

Who has asked the hard questions about what happens to their child's data?

Who is standing at the digital gates, not just assuming they're locked?

And those questions aren't just for early childhood services. They're for every primary school, every secondary college, every board, every system.

This is about leadership. Leadership that shows up not in reaction, but in full review and redesign.

Digital safety isn't a feature: it's now foundational. And failing to treat it as such is becoming less and less defensible. So if you are a school leader, a centre director, a board member, or a member of the P&C, this is the invitation. Not to defend what was. But to build what's needed.

## Five areas for immediate reassessment

1. Education platforms are collecting more than we realise.

Modern EdTech tools do more than support learning.

They may also capture: location data, device type, login behaviour, facial imagery, voice recordings, written work, and shared photos learning patterns, emotional tone and participation levels. Some of this data may be used for purposes beyond education - such as product development, AI training, or third-party analytics - often without clear visibility to the school or the family. Schools are doing their best. But the nature of these tools means that even with the best intentions, understanding how all this works can be limited.

2. Behaviour tracking is becoming the norm, quietly, and automatically.

Many apps now include behaviour tracking features - points systems and 'badges' for compliance; mood indicators or real-time engagement scores; behavioural data that may be seen by other families or educators. These are designed to support learning. But over time, they can create children profiles that may follow them, misrepresent them, or reduce them to patterns.

3. Consent practices are overdue for a refresh.

Most schools rely on consent policies drafted years ago, often before AI, analytics, or hybrid learning were common practice. As a result consent is too broad, too passive and

needs to be fully informed. Parents and educators may not know where the child's data is going. Teachers may be working without clear guardrails. This isn't a failure of schools. It's a reflection of how much the environment has changed.

4. External links can introduce invisible data flows. Many educational platforms integrate with or link to YouTube, Google Maps and more Cloud-based storage providers' tools with their own privacy and advertising models.

Schools don't always have the ability to audit or restrict these flows, especially when they're part of 'core functionality.' And families are rarely told when their child crosses into a less protected zone.

5. Schools/Centres hold the legal duty. Schools/centres are classified as data controllers responsible for student privacy and protection. But in reality EdTech contracts are often fixed and non-negotiable. Training on digital governance is rare or outdated. Platform complexity makes it difficult to track what's being shared or stored.

Laws already exist that can attract large fines for how photos are handled.

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# Ballina Coast High School

by Belinda Parkes



Ballina Coast High School's Rotary Interact Club is dedicated to making a difference in our community.

This winter the Interact students

wanted to extend kindness to the homeless and vulnerable. They collected donations of clothes and blankets and held a school bake sale and sausage sizzle, raising over \$400, which they used to purchase food. These were all gifted to Ballina's drop-in community centre Mary's Place, which is affiliated with the St Vincent de Paul Society.

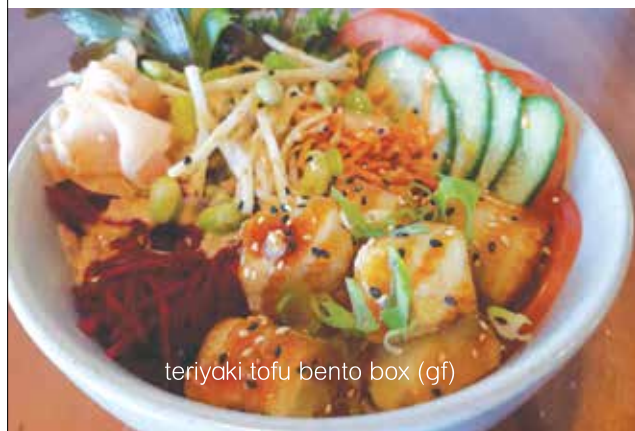
We're very proud of the care and empathy of our students.

Our Big Picture Program is also making a difference following its launch at the beginning of this year. Students selected for this program have the wonderful fortune of getting to decide what they want to learn and how they will gain that knowledge. Some students are blending their school learning with valuable real-

world experience thanks to the support of local organisations.

Edward is Big Picture's resident mechanical engineer and ideas man. He designed and built a steering wheel and pedals to use with car racing games at one sixth of the cost of buying a custom product. He started making prototypes out of Lego, before sourcing recycled parts from the local bike store and using 3D computer modelling and printing to fine-tune his product. Edward has also completed a TAFE pathways short course in panel beating and spray painting, and spent a day at the Men's Shed learning and talking to people with decades of knowledge to share. We can't wait to see what other projects our Big Picture students have in the pipeline.

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# Lennox Head Public School



## State Rugby

From 5 - 6 June Zara, Charlee and Izzy flew to Blacktown to play for the North Coast team. They had four wins, three losses and two ties but thanks to us getting the first try we pulled through and won both the ties. Well done Girls.

By Zara

## GeoLink Tree Planting

On 6 June Yr3 went to plant trees in Lennox Head at Pat Morton lookout. The students had a great time. Geolink at Ballina Council organised the event and the Lions Club and Lennox Gelato supplied the sausages sandwiches and ice cream. NBN News was there filming the event, Tommy got interviewed and he said that they had ice cream from the Lennox Gelato and sausages. Holly and Rosie had a terrific time and they had a discussion about nature. Overall the Yr3s and their teachers had a great time learning and contributing to our local environment.

By Ella

## Athletics Carnival

On 17 June Lennox Head Public School held it's athletics carnival at Chickiba Oval in East Ballina. It was an exciting day for all students who got to compete in events such as 100m, 200m, 800m, 1500m sprints/runs and long jump. Kindergarten and Yr1 competed in a fun 100m race and tabloid races back at school. Before our carnival we completed some of our field events at School such as shot put, discus and high jump. Our P & C were there to supply us with treats in the canteen and the Lions Club put on a fantastic BBQ serving sausage and steak sandwiches. We have many talented students moving on to the Headlands District Carnival in August, well done.

By Zara

## Spelling Bee

June 24 was the spelling bee. There were two competitions: Junior (Yrs2-4) and Senior (Yrs5-6). One person from each class was chosen to compete at the next round, then the winner after that gets to district. They were given some tricky words but all did really well. Everyone who competed was amazing.

By Emily

## Paul Bryant Public Speaking Competition

On 30 June Lennox Head Public School held its Paul Bryant speeches. The students got to choose whatever topic they wanted. There were two finalists in each class making it through to the finals. The judges were the assistant principals of different stages. The students had a great time presenting their wonderful and unique speeches and I think we all learned something new.

By Ella

## Jollybops Science Show

On 3 July Jollybops science show came to LHPS to put on an amazing science show. Early Stage 1/ Stage 1 watched a show about mixing up chemicals and Stage 2 and 3 watched a big chemistry show. Jollybops put on a fun but educational show and even the teachers enjoyed it. Jollybops made elephant toothpaste and it went so high it could have hit the roof. Everyone loved the show and hoped that they would come back next year. Thank you Jollybops' team.

By Ella

## FNCDF

On 5 June LHPS dance groups performed at Twin Towns. Three dances were performed by Lennox: Stage1, Stage 2, and Stage 3. When everyone arrived we sat in the audience to watch the other schools' rehearsals and we also rehearsed. After all the schools had rehearsed our parents could pick us up and take us for dinner and then our parents dropped us to the park to get our hair and makeup done. Once the concert started all the performers went into a room and waited to dance. Everyone who went had the best time and looks forward to doing it again next year. Thank you to all of the teachers who gave up their time to help and support us.

By Emma

## Compass Music Festival

The Compass Music Festival was a festival that the LHPS choir had the pleasure of attending. The choir sang five songs: *Second Star to the Right*, *You've got a Friend in Me*, *Manly ferry*, *Arlington* and *Skippping Stones*. Everyone who went said they had a great time and hope to come back next year. Thank you Mrs Wood for organising this for them.

By Emily

# Holy Family Catholic School

## Year 6 Excursion

On 3 June the Yr6 students travelled to Brisbane for their exciting year-end excursion, hoping to enjoy and create lasting memories.

On the first day, the students and staff visited the Brisbane Museum, SparkLab, and the iconic Suncorp Stadium.

On the second day, we were fortunate to enter Queensland Parliament, where we engaged with the stories and key facts about the building. We also visited the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium, which was an unforgettable experience.

On the third day of our excursion, we were excited to visit Tangalooma Island Resort, where we enjoyed sand tobogganing down 30-40 metre sand hills. This was both fun and beautiful.

We also had the incredible experience of feeding wild dolphins at night, a breathtaking opportunity. Finally, on our last day, we spent time at Movie World.

By Sarla K

## NAIDOC Day

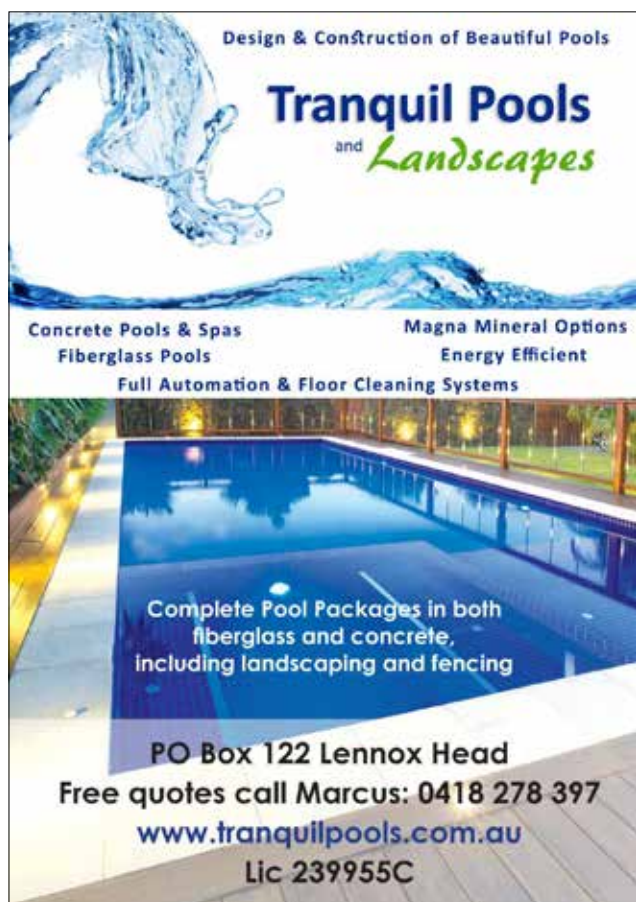
On 2 July, our school celebrated NAIDOC Day. This year's theme for NAIDOC is Strength, Vision, Legacy. Holy Family School organised a variety of activities for us to enjoy on this day, including a colouring competition, Dreamtime stories, trivia, and many other interactive activities.

By John F

## Athletics Carnival

On 19 June Holy Family hosted its much anticipated Athletics Carnival - and what a fantastic day it was. The sun was shining, spirits were high, and not a single sad face could be seen across the field.

The day kicked off with the Kindy students leading the way in the 50 metre dash, followed by the Yr 1s' turn at the same distance. The excitement continued to build as students in Yrs 2 through 6 competed in the 100 metre races, showing great determination and school spirit. All in all, it was a memorable day filled with energy, encouragement, and enjoyment. A huge thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and families who helped make the Athletics Carnival a great success. By Tom R



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# From closet to landfill - what a waste

By Jeanie McKillop NeWaste



By conducting weekly waste audits, North East Waste has been assisting Ballina Council to identify the volume of textiles presenting at their Ballina Resource Recovery Centre. It's been eye opening to see not just the quantity but the quality of clothing and linen that gets thrown out each week – many items still have their price tags. And it's not just what's taken to the transfer station, according to Council more than 8% of the red bin weight is from textiles also.

Australians are among the biggest consumers of textiles per person in the world. In NSW, the scale of textile and clothing waste is quite significant:

Approximately 305,000 tonnes of

textiles — including clothing, bed linen, curtains, etc. — are discarded annually in NSW. Of this, around 240,000 tonnes go straight to landfill each year.

Only a tiny fraction — approximately 800 tonnes — is actually recycled. The remainder (~62,000 tonnes) is exported for reuse by charities

That means conservative estimates show around 78–80% of textile waste ends up in landfill annually in NSW.

## Why this matters

This isn't just a concern about wastefulness: the environmental impacts of putting clothes in the bin, and therefore landfill, are numerous. For a start, the textile industry is responsible for 8-10% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. This is above what the shipping industry and aviation combined produce. In addition, 60% of all clothing is made from plastics (through synthetic fibres and blends like polyester, nylon, etc) and over 1/3 of microplastic pollution in the oceans is from washing these fabrics.

## What can you do?

- Buy less, buy better – choose quality and longevity over fast fashion.
- Repair to extend the items life – sew on a button or learn how to patch.
- Donate wearable goods – avoid sending damaged items; only donate clean, usable ones. Use others about your home to clean.
- Use textile drop-off points – such as those run by charities or retailers.
- Support circular initiatives – like repair cafes, clothing swaps, and fibre-to-fibre recycling programs.
- Go to Ballina Councils website or this link [ballina-clothing.paperform.co/](https://ballina-clothing.paperform.co/) to complete a short survey about how you acquire, care for, repair, and ultimately dispose of clothing. Your response will help paint a fuller picture of clothing consumption in Ballina to steer upcoming activities. The survey is open until 31 August and at the end of the month, one entry will be chosen at random to win a \$50 gift card.

Reducing textile waste needs everyone - designers, retailers, Councils and State governments and shoppers - to help slow down the cycle of buying and dumping.

**SurF<sup>W</sup>agon**

1 Ray O'Neill Cres Ballina  
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# Landcare: The Heathland

by S Eastment



*Pictured: left to right- wedding bush, purple flag and Guinea flowers, photos by Kelly Saunderson.*

How long is it since you last took a walk through the heath behind Seven Mile beach? If you haven't seen it this spring then maybe it is time to treat yourself. The flower display is just wonderful at this time of year. These photos show a selection of the bushes that typically bloom in August and September.

Many of the heath plants are extremely difficult to grow and therefore aren't carried by nurseries but if you are interested in planting some in your own garden you could try Swamp Pea, Baeckea, Wallum Dogwood, Guinea Flower or Hovea. Any good native nursery will carry these from time to time.

What is heath? The soil is usually low in nutrients, or shallow, or peaty with

a high water table, creating conditions that keep plants low growing.

This type of vegetation is under threat in Northern New South Wales. Vast tracts of Wallum heath have disappeared between Wooyung and Kingscliff. Luckily much of the heathland here is still intact. Over 100 different birds have been recorded in local heathlands including the very shy and elusive southern emu-wren. In this same patch, over 170 plants have been identified, not even including all the grasses and sedges. This demonstrates the incredible diversity existing in our area. Imagine the amazing variety of insects that would live here too, along with other types of fauna.

If you'd like to join Lennox Head Landcare, please contact us (details below), or simply turn up to one of our working bees.

## Landcare Dates for August (8:30am till 10:30am)

Wednesday 6th: Lake Ainsworth Dunes – car park opposite surf club

Wednesday 13th: Boulder Beach – Coast Rd car park

Wednesday 20th: Lower Lennox Point - Surfer's car park

Wednesday 27th: Boulder Beach – Coast Rd car park

Or join the Skennars Head team who work every Thursday from 8am, meeting at the Rocky Point Rd car park.

For further info please see [www.lennoxheadlandcare.org](http://www.lennoxheadlandcare.org), email [lennoxheadlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:lennoxheadlandcare@gmail.com), phone Shaun ph: 0448 221 210 or find us on Facebook/Lennox Head Landcare.



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# Just one battery can spark a fire

by NEWaste



*Pictured: Batteries can be safely disposed of for free at your local CRC or any other B-cycle drop off point which are located at many large retail stores across the region.*

Our growing reliance on battery operated technologies has resulted in an alarming increase in battery-related fires. This year Fire and Rescue NSW have responded to an average of

more than one battery fire per day.

Batteries incorrectly disposed of into kerbside bins are the main cause of fires in waste trucks and waste facilities across the Northern Rivers, endangering workers, damaging equipment and wasting a valuable resource that could otherwise be recovered.

All batteries can pose a safety risk if damaged, faulty or incorrectly charged or disposed of, but re-chargeable Lithium-ion batteries are a particular concern due to their potential to go into hard-to-control 'thermal runaway'.

To prevent battery fires occurring – never bin any battery.

Here's how to dispose of most loose batteries safely.

- Remove loose batteries from appliance.
- Tape terminals with clear sticky tape to prevent short circuiting.
- Place in ventilated glass container out of reach of children.
- Dispose of them at your nearest available battery drop-off point for free.

You can leave them at Ballina Council's Community Recycling Centre (CRC), located at the Ballina Resource Recovery Centre, 167 Southern Cross Drive, Ballina. To find out more visit: [newaste.org.au/crc](http://newaste.org.au/crc) or contact Ballina Shire Council on ph: 6686 1287.

There are also numerous other conveniently located drop off points across the region, including at many large local high street retailers such as supermarkets and hardware stores. To find your nearest, visit [bcycle.com.au/drop-off/](http://bcycle.com.au/drop-off/)

If you need to dispose of items that contain embedded batteries visit: [newaste.org.au/batteries](http://newaste.org.au/batteries) to find out where and how. This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy initiative, funded from the waste levy

tamarasmith.org.au

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

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





## Lennox Longboarders July round

by Wayne Booth

A pristine winter's day greeted the 22 surfers who turned out for our July Club Round at Lennox Main Beach. With a mid-morning high tide and clean 2–4 ft waves, conditions were ideal for a cracker morning of surfing.

The Firsts Final was a highlight, with Gary Burden taking the win with a standout longboarding performance. Also turning heads with their stylish surfing were Kurt Hardy, Will Petrie, and Gary Alford.



A big thanks to Craig Leete (byronsurfphotos) for capturing the action in the water, and to our ever-supportive Club Sponsors, who continue to back us each month with prize vouchers.

### Prize Voucher Winners:

- The Lennox Hotel: Akira Miyamoto
- Ripcurl Ballina: John Eddy
- Lennox Surf (x2): Jim Baker and Peter Regan
- Lennox Pizza & Pasta: Greg Gover
- Lennox Gelato & Coffee: Wayne Booth

Special thanks to George Leslie for tallying the results, and to Will Petrie and Gary Crawley for manning the BBQ.

### Event Results

1sts: Gary Burden, Kurt Hardy, Gary Alford, Will Petrie

2nds: Chris Cain, Stu James, Craig Leete

3rds: Peter Regan, Gary Crawley, Eleanor McCready, Terry Kay


4ths: John Glassington, John Eddy, Jessie Munro

5ths: Jemma Osmond, Akira Miyamoto, Andrew Thomas

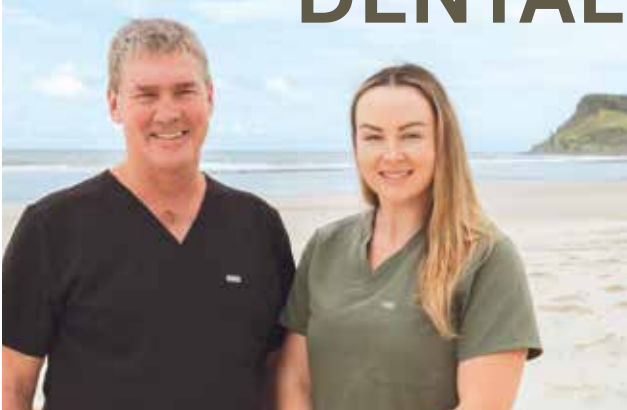
Juniors: Jai Petrie, Alby Cain

1st Round Only Participants: India Brown, Jim Baker

Next Club round: Sunday, 10 August



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# Le-Ba groms shine on home turf

by Le-Ba Committee



*Pictured: Ocea Curtis: Occy Groms U18 Girls Champion. Credits: Surfing Queensland*

Lennox Head's surf community had plenty to cheer about at the 2025 Soundboks Oz Grom Open presented by O'Neill, with several Le-Ba Boardriders' surfers delivering standout performances across Junior and Pro Junior divisions.

Local rising star Ashton Crowley put

on an impressive run in the Under 16 Boys division, charging all the way to the semi-finals. Crowley secured an equal third-place finish, narrowly missing out on a finals berth after placing second to Hamish Harrigan in a tight heat.

Fellow Le-Ba surfer Harry O'Brien made headlines in the WSL-sanctioned Traeger Grills Pro Junior, eliminating reigning champion Dane Henry (Fingal Head, NSW) in the round of 16. O'Brien showcased sharp local knowledge and stylish surfing to post a 10.17 two-wave total and secure his spot in the next round. 'Every heat win here is such a good feeling,' O'Brien said. 'All the guys from Le-Ba Boardriders cheering when you get a good wave it really motivates you to surf your best. I've never won this event, but I grew up watching my heroes here - I'd love to join that honour roll.'

To the Under 18s Le-Ba surfers: Keenan Crisp, Mia Baker and Ocea Curtis also advanced through early rounds of the Pro Junior division, underscoring the depth of local talent at this year's event. Le-Ba Boardriders Club President Harry Fettell praised the efforts of the local surfers, saying: 'Ashton, Harry, Maxy, Keenan and Mia all did the Club proud. Events like this are about showcasing local talent and seeing them step up against Australia's best is what Le-Ba's all about.'

Just days earlier, Ocea Curtis made her mark in a major way, dominating the Under 18 Girls final at the annual Occy's Grom Comp. Held in flawless, Championship Tour quality surf at Snapper Rocks, Ocea comboed her opponent early and never looked back in what was her final junior appearance - sealing her name into the history books at one of Australia's most iconic junior events.





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# All Girls Surfriders

by Mel Mott and Fabiann Robazza



All Girls has certainly been blessed with our Club rounds so far this year, and June's delayed Club round (due to Seas The Day) may have had the best conditions yet.

Thankfully the rain stopped prior to set up and we then enjoyed pristine light offshore wind conditions and a consistent 1-3 foot of swell at our favourite banks at Lennox

Head all morning.

We commenced with the opens due to an early morning low tide and then continued with two banks and 15 minute heats with a very favourable incoming tide allowing inside and out the back options. The junior beginners especially made the most of the inside reforms and caught some cracking waves.

There were also some bomb sets on the outside that gave great scoring opportunities to the opens, intermediates and longboarders, with impressive turns and real commitment shown going for the sometimes quite gnarly take offs and sections.

Congratulations to everyone who surfed and a big thank you to all the members who contributed on the day to make for a smoothly run competition - having so many helpers makes for a fun and enjoyable day for everyone.

The Seas The Day Festival held in July also gets a special mention. All Girls entered five teams in total with our Open girls making the semi finals from 29 teams entered.

A huge thank you again to the committee, parents and families for supporting our surfers over the past fortnight.

## Results

Opens: 1.Emma C. 2. Isabel W. 3. Matilda M.

Longboards: 1.Mel M. 2. Adelle P. 3. Alexis Zahner

Senior Intermediate: 1.Kristy B. 2. Ashlea H.

Junior Intermediate: 1.Zia F. 2. Pascale M. 3. Amelia A.

Senior Beginner: 1.Fiona B. 2. Susan P. 3. Gabriela B.

Junior Beginner: 1.Sierra F. 2. Charlotte A. 3. Helena D.

Wahine Master: 1.Maz P. 2. Berenice R. 3. Cory W.

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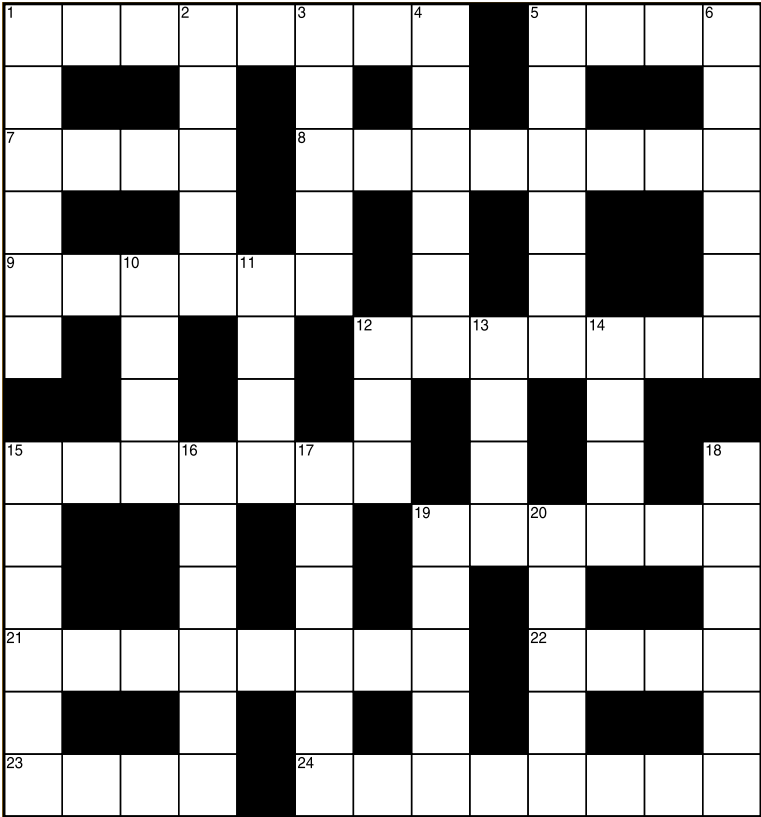
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# August crossword

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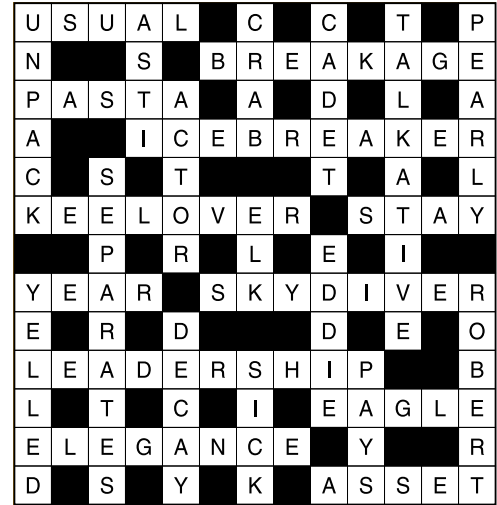
## Across

- 1. Bidding sales
- 5. Bop
- 7. Prank
- 8. Fixated
- 9. Crib
- 12. Most beloved
- 15. Leas
- 19. Begin journey (3,3)
- 21. Shares secret
- 22. Bare
- 23. Heavy thump
- 24. Actress, Debbie ...

## Down

- 1. Pitiful
- 2. Fashion direction
- 3. Holed atmosphere layer
- 4. Bun seed
- 5. Court clown
- 6. First-born
- 10. Greenish-blue
- 11. Inflatable mattress
- 12. Disc jockeys (1,2)
- 13. Emollient, ... vera
- 14. Italy's currency unit
- 15. Good-luck pet
- 16. Removed (hat)

# July solution





# This month

with Milt Barlow

## At the movies

August at the Australian box office is a dazzling carousel.

*Weapons* (7 August). Zach Cregger sharpens his storytelling with this horror-mystery starring Alden Ehrenreich, Julia Garner, and Josh Brolin - an ensemble that practically guarantees tension thicker than an outback fog.

*Freakier Friday* (7 August) Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan reunite for another body-swap bonanza, this time roping in Chad Michael Murray and Julia Butters for a multi-generational twist on the family comedy classic.

*The Life of Chuck* (14 August) adapted from a Stephen King short story, melds fantasy, drama, and mystery into a heady triptych. Tom Hiddleston stars as the titular Chuck, with Jacob Tremblay drawing us into a moving story about life's fleeting magic.

*Nobody 2* (14 August). Bob Odenkirk slips back into the battered sneakers of his unlikely action hero role. With punches, wisecracks, and a lethal set of skills.

*Caught Stealing* (28 August). Vincent D'Onofrio headlines this kinetic crime caper set in gritty 1990s' New York. When a washed-up ballplayer (Austin Butler) gets pulled into the underworld, chaos ensues, with Zoë Kravitz adding a dose of cool.

## On the couch

It looks like a great month on the couch with some standout new shows worthy of a night in.

*Critical Incident* (12 August) - Stan. This new Australian crime drama stands out for its gritty realism and social relevance. It tells the story of a compassionate police officer who becomes entangled in the challenging world of at-risk youth.

*Playing Gracie Darling* (14 August) - Paramount+. This Australian original is a tightly constructed mystery-drama set in a small town with a haunting unsolved disappearance at its centre.

*Queerstralia* (17 August) - Stan. This vibrant docuseries dives into Australia's queer history, combining humour, eye-opening stories, and a warm tone that sets it apart from traditional documentaries.

*Only Murders in the Building: Season 4* (27 August) - Disney+. The hit mystery-comedy returns with more laugh-out-loud moments and clever twists, anchored by Steve Martin, Martin Short, and Selena Gomez.

*The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power: Season 2* (29 August) - Prime. Fantasy enthusiasts can look forward to more epic storytelling as the visually stunning series returns.

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# August horoscopes

by Patsy Bennett - [patsybennett.com](https://patsybennett.com)

### Aries

This is a proactive phase, especially financially and within your status, so take the initiative in these areas and research your options carefully. Jupiter brings key developments in your domestic zone too. You're likely to see rewards for your hard work especially towards the 8th and 20th.

### Taurus

The mood culminating in the new moon on the 23rd will spotlight how you can create more stability in your personal life and at home, and provides insight into your best path forward in general. August could be decisive career-wise as options towards the 8th and 20th will be pivotal.

### Gemini

You'll value looking at your big-picture direction and you can alter it if you wish. However, you'll need to be patient as communications are unlikely to be back on top form until the 25th. In the meantime, you'll appreciate the chance to review a circumstance or to return to an old haunt.

### Cancer

Jupiter contributes to create the chance to expand aspects of your life that bring you joy. So be sure to take the initiative. The full moon on the 9th will spotlight shared concerns such as joint finances. Someone's unpredictable behaviour will merit a constructive but also patient approach.

### Leo

This is a good month to steer your life where you wish it to go, especially if you see that your direction and status are in flux. Consider how you might improve communications to obtain goals. Pace yourself and be prepared to be flexible as Mercury retrograde may delay some of your plans.

### Virgo

August could bring an unexpected development around the 9th in your personal life and a work commitment could thrive. The Virgo new moon on the 23rd provides an excellent opportunity to move into fresh territory, both at work and in your health routine, so be sure to turn a corner.

### Libra

Mars enters your sign on the 7th, bringing an influx of energy which will help you to navigate the month. However, Mars could contribute to a feeling of frustration with relationships, so ensure you pace yourself with communications, as they will improve towards the end of the month.

### Scorpio

You will enjoy an upbeat or busy month. The full moon on the 9th will spotlight your desire for more self-expression in your activities. You may be drawn to plan travel and other exciting projects. This will be a good month to invest in your home life or property as sources of comfort.

### Sagittarius

A financial review will suit fresh circumstances. These may come into being simply due to career developments and, for some, due to changes in a business or a personal partner's circumstances. Your adventurous nature will seek exciting projects and this is a good time to broaden horizons.

### Capricorn

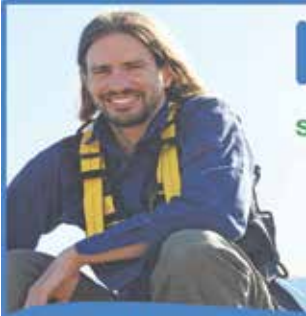
The full moon on the 9th will spotlight your financial situation and so you may be drawn this month to make commitments and arrangements that will boost your status, domestic circumstance or career. It's a busy month so be sure to keep your communication skills in tip-top form.

### Aquarius

The Aquarian full moon on the 9th will bring a fresh chapter in your personal life if you were born before February 5th, and if you were born later, a new phase in your usual daily routine due to work or health changes. It's a good month to formulate fresh arrangements and agreements.

### Pisces

You'll be drawn to make a commitment to a venture or to a person. This will be part of a larger development as your values and expectations change. The new moon on the 23rd will help you to progress at work or health-wise, so be sure to work towards positive outcomes throughout August.



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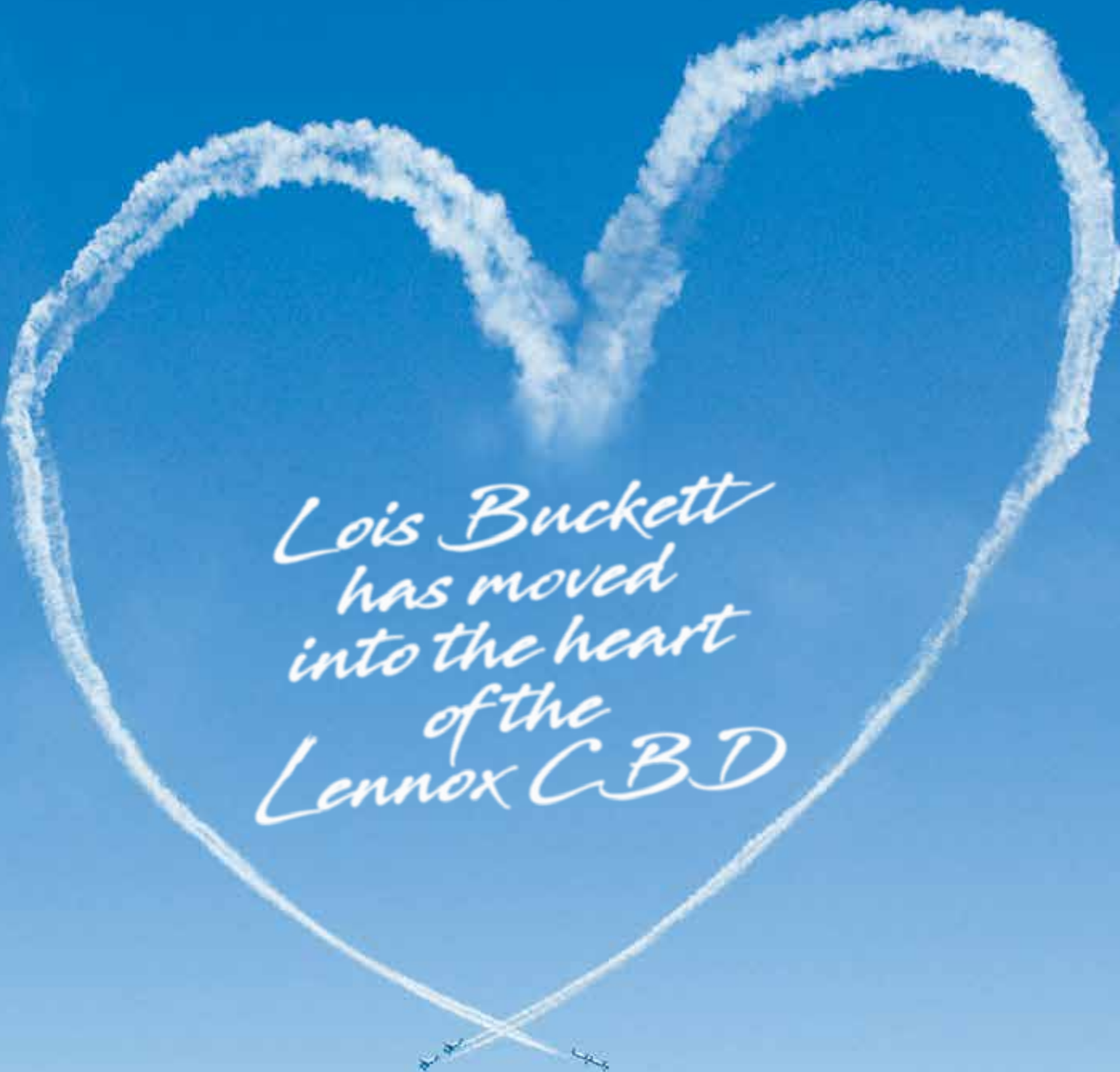
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