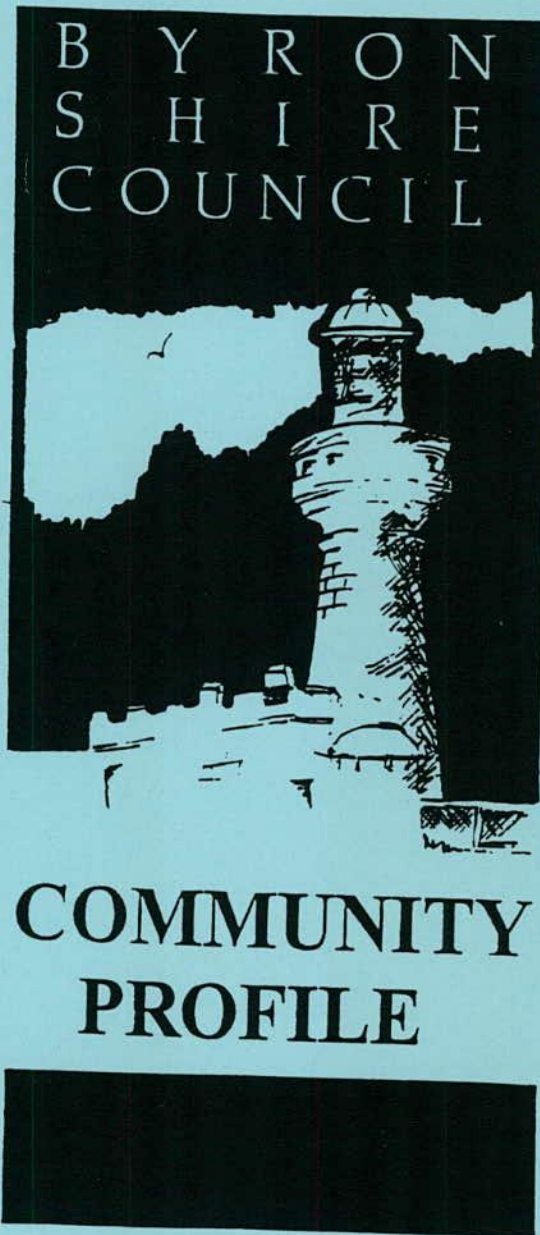


P. Hamilton
Pop figures



AUGUST 1992

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BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY PROFILE

INTRODUCTION

This Profile has been compiled as part of Byron Shire Council's involvement in the North Coast Area Assistance Scheme (N.A.A.S.). In particular, the Profile is designed to assist the Local Ranking Committee and the Regional Advisory Committee to assess and prioritise the 1992-1993 funding applications.

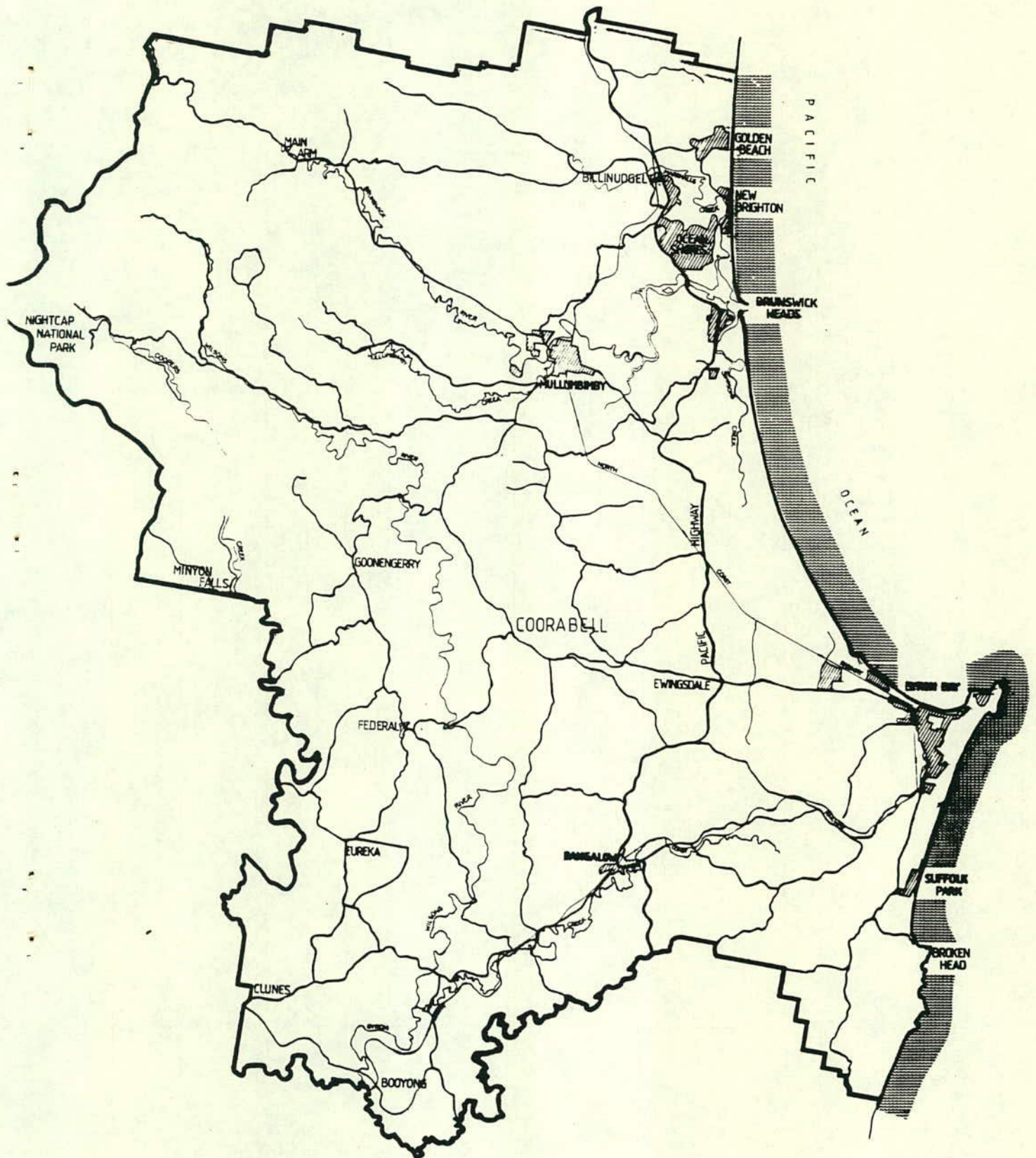
The North Coast Area Assistance Scheme covers the seventeen (17) Local Government Areas from Port Macquarie in the south to Tweed Heads in the north. As a community funding programme, it provides assistance to local government and community groups to develop community services.

Data for the Profile has been compiled using the 1986 Census figures, the preliminary 1991 Census age-group breakdowns, as well as information from a variety of government and non-government departments. Many conversations also assisted the compiling of information.

Statistics provided should be used with caution as they are largely based on the 1986 Census. Byron Shire has changed much since then. Final 1991 Census were not available in time for the completion of this Profile. The 1991 Census figures will be incorporated in next year's Profile.

TRICIA SHANTZ,
COMMUNITY PROJECTS OFFICER.

Map - page 2



SHIRE OF BYRON

SECTION I

POPULATION

SECTION 1: POPULATION

Byron Shire is one of the most rapidly growing Shires in New South Wales. The region has undergone the highest proportional growth, in terms of population, out of any Region within New South Wales between 1981 and 1989, excluding the Sydney Metropolitan Region. It has been estimated that the North Coast Region has experienced 16.8% of the State's overall population growth during this period (Department of Planning, 1990). Inward migration to the region has principally been responsible for the Region's growth. The principal source of inward migration has been from the Sydney Metropolitan Region. Reports prepared by the Department of Planning indicate that, while much of this inward migration was initially retirement led, it has now become more diverse with an increasing proportion of younger families coming into the Region. Byron Shire has specifically been identified by the Department as an area that is characterised by this feature (Department of Planning, 1991).

Situated on the North Coast of New South Wales, Byron Shire is approximately 800 kilometres north from Sydney by road and approximately 200 kilometres south from Brisbane. It comprises an area of 55,000 hectares and a population of approximately 23,000 people. There are magnificent white sand beaches, stretching along the entire length of the Shire and rainforest remnants dotted through the hinterland of green rolling hills which contribute significantly to the area's attraction.

The urban areas consist of Byron Bay, Suffolk Park, Bangalow, Mullumbimby, Brunswick Heads, Ocean Shores, New Brighton, and South Golden Beach. The remainder of the Shire is mainly rural in nature comprising the villages/hamlets of Federal, Coorabell, Possum Creek, Main Arm, The Pocket, Billinudgel, Yelgun, Myocum, Broken Head and Eureka.

Pronounced population growth in the Shire has only been a recent phenomenon. Over the fifty (50) years between 1921 and 1971 population levels remained relatively static. It is only in the past twenty (20) years that the growth rate has shown positive and permanent increase. From 1971 - 1986 the population of the Shire increased by over 40% during that period. From 1986 to 1991 this slowed somewhat, but still grew significantly by a rate of 24.46% during that period. This is the highest out of all Local Government areas in the North Coast Statistical Division as is shown at Table 1. (Map, Appendix 1)

21-71 0%
71-86 40%
86-91 25%

TABLE 1: COMPARATIVE INTER-CENSAL GROWTH RATES
FOR NORTH COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

NAME	1981-1986 RATE <i>5yr</i>	1986-1991 RATE <i>5yr</i>
Ballina	19.90	23.33
Bellingen	14.03	15.11
Byron	15.81 <i>3.16% pa.</i>	24.46 <i>4.89% pa.</i>
Grafton	-2.16	2.86
Hastings	17.69	19.75
Kyogle	3.10	5.81
Lismore	8.89	11.70
Maclean	11.01	16.05
Richmond River	9.26	17.10
Tweed	14.00	22.27

Statistical Local Area (SLA) which show a significant slowing of their growth rates between 1986-1991 compared to the previous inter-censal period (1981-1986) are shown separately at Table 2.

TABLE TWO: SLA'S SHOWING A SLOWING IN THEIR GROWTH RATE

NAME	1981-1986 RATE	1986-1991 RATE
Casino	8.85	2.31
Coffs Harbour	22.29	19.81
Copmanhurst	24.38	8.26
Kempsey	17.06	10.65
Nambucca	24.96	14.24
Nymboida	48.48	31.36
Ulmarra	22.21	19.83

Source: Department of Education, Lismore.

Byron Shire is in many ways typical of Shires on the North Coast of New South Wales. It is characterised by great natural beauty, rapid population growth, caused by high levels of inward migration, and an economic base dependent mainly on agriculture, tourism. Social Security benefits are also regarded as a significant part of the Shire's economy. This has been growing significantly in recent years.

The Department of Planning Monitor, July 1992, indicates that the North Coast will continue to be the fastest growing Region in the State, consistently being more than double the State's average annual growth rate. Sydney, by comparison, has a growth rate of about half that of the North coast. It is anticipated that the North Coast Region will increase its share of the State's population from 6.5% in 1986 to 9.8% in 2021.

The North Coast Region is comprised of the Richmond-Tweed Statistical Division and the Mid-North Coast Statistical Division (which includes the Greater Taree City area). Table No. 3 gives an indication of the rate of change in this Region compared to other Statistical Divisions throughout New South Wales.

TABLE THREE: NSW STATISTICAL DIVISION 1986-91 CHANGE

STATISTICAL DIVISION NAME	1986 POP	1991 POP	% CHANGE
Sydney	3,364,858	3,538,970	5.17%
Hunter	482,775	513,550	5.75%
Illawarra	309,345	337,524	9.11%
Richmond-Tweed	153,009	179,796	17.51%
Mid-North Coast	208,654	240,722	15.37%
Northern	177,309	180,839	1.99%
North-Western	110,581	114,805	3.82%
Central West	161,597	165,614	2.49%
South Eastern	156,110	178,836	14.56%
Murrumbidgee	140,520	143,015	1.78%
Murray	103,110	107,472	4.23%
Far West	29,162	28,182	3.48%
NSW TOTAL	5,401,881	5,731,926	6.11% (av)

Source: Department of Education, Lismore, 1992.

It is obvious that the North Coast Region is growing rapidly in comparison to all but the South Eastern Division which had a comparable rate of growth.

The North Coast Region as a whole, increased from 325,742 in 1986 to 380,005 persons in 1991. This represents an absolute increase of 16.66% or an average growth rate of 3.33% p.a.

$$\div 5 = 3.33\% \text{ p.a.}$$

The Department of Education (Lismore Office), has indicated that if growth rates in Ballina and Byron in particular, are maintained, then the provision of adequate educational facilities will become a significant focus for these areas.

Growth for 8.94%

The preliminary first count 1991 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census shows a total Shire population of 22,824. This is an increase of 5,406 from the 1986 total of 17,418. The age by sex breakdown according to townships, with the rural areas being divided up into north and south, is shown at Appendix 2.

For future planning purposes, Byron Shire has been divided into the urban areas of Byron Bay, Suffolk Park, Mullumbimby, Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads, South Golden Beach, New Brighton, Bangalow, with the remainder of the Shire (37%) being rural. The areas of Coopers Shoot, Broken Head, Possum Creek, Coorabell and Federal/Eureka are in the south. Goonengerry, Main Arm, Wilsons Creek, The Pocket, Billinudgel, Myocum and Yelgun are in the Rural North. Of these urban areas, North Ocean Shores, South Golden Beach, New Brighton, Suffolk Park and Byron Bay are the fastest growing.

TABLE 4

POPULATION

	Suffolk Park	Byron Bay	Sth Golden Bch New Brighton	Ocean Shores
1986	990	3,573	380	1,820
1991	1,212	4,999	1,086	2,496
Population Increase	220	1,426	706	676
Growth rate per annum.	22.2%	8%	37.2%	7.4%

* Based on 1991 ABS Census preliminary data. First counts.

The figures for Suffolk Park do not adequately indicate the extent of its growth due to the newness of development occurring at present. A total of 750 allotments are proposed, generating a population of approximately 1,600 people. This makes Suffolk Park the largest growth area in the Shire. This projection may be further increased by the effects of dual occupancy development. The two principal release areas are at West Suffolk Park, known as Baywood Chase and Byron Hills respectively, and are expected to accommodate more people than was originally planned for.

Suffolk Park was originally a small satellite town of Byron Bay township. Over the past five years it has become a town in its own right. Suffolk Park is expected to consolidate this position as the new release areas are filled.

At present, there is a lack of community facilities within the town. A community facility is, however, planned to be built in the next year. A small commercial complex exists, providing a corner store, bakery, bottleshop, pub and take-away food shop. The town also has a hotel/motel adjacent to the shopping centre. No Post Office facilities exist in the town.

Bangalow

Bangalow is a rural-based community approximately twelve (12) kilometres from the coast and Byron Bay. Its 1991 population was estimated at 822 persons. Based on the 1991 First Count Census Figures, Bangalow has a high number of 35-39 year olds with an equal number of 5-9 and 0-4 year olds. This is suggestive of a family-based community and was reflected in the 1986 ABS Census figures which showed that Bangalow had the highest proportion of families with dependent children of all the urban areas in the Shire, (i.e. being 8% higher than the Shire as a whole.)

Bangalow has continued its growth since the 1986 Census, and is expected to continue this growth since there is still sufficient 2(a) Residential zoned land to accommodate 350 more urban sized blocks. A Development Control Plan for Bangalow was completed in 1991 indicating the areas for potential expansion. At present, Bangalow does not have any community centre, child care or youth facilities. There is one pre-school presently catering only for 3 to 5 year old children. There are sporting fields, tennis courts, a Bowling Club and a swimming pool. Lack of public transport has been identified as a major issue. The town is straddled by the Pacific Highway and is situated on the main North-South rail line. Transport in and out of Bangalow is primarily based on private transport.

Brunswick Heads

Brunswick Heads is a seaside village in the north of the Shire. The 1991 population estimate was 1,665 persons. Its population has remained relatively stable with only a slight increase. Land is constrained by coastal erosion processes and wetlands which are flood prone, to the west. The Pacific Highway bisects the town, although a town by-pass is being planned and is expected to be built in the near future.

Brunswick heads is an old, established centre with a reputation as a coastal holiday destination. The town has three caravan parks with a total of 174 caravan sites. In 1986 the most remarkable feature of the age breakdown was the substantial proportion of residents over 60 years old. In 1991, 30% of the total population was 60 years of age and over. This high proportion of aged persons was reflected in the 1986 Census where Brunswick Heads had the lowest proportion of families with dependent children in the Shire. It also had the lowest private vehicle ownership, with 23% of all households having no vehicle at all. Brunswick Heads, however, is well provided for with community facilities, such as sporting fields, clubs, Health and Recreation Centre, parks and meeting rooms. Brunswick Heads also has the only indoor swimming pool in the Shire.

Byron Bay

Byron Bay is by far the most populated urban area in the Shire. Its growth rate for 1986 to 1991, was a steady 8% per annum, reaching a total population of 4,999 persons. Being the major tourist destination in the Shire, there is a large transient population in addition to the resident population.

The 25-39 year age group comprises some 30% of the total population and is the dominant age group in Byron Bay. The next most dominant age group is the over 60's comprising approximately 17% of the Bay's population.

Byron Bay had one of the lowest private vehicle ownership among residents in the Shire in 1986. Some 19% of households had no vehicle and a further 55% had only one vehicle (S. and S. Consultants, 1989). Transportation is not considered a significant problem in the town since much of it is reasonably well catered for in terms of public transport. Much of the town is also relatively flat, so that bicycles are able to be used as a mode of transport. One bicycle trail links Suffolk Park with Byron Bay. It is planned to carry this trail through Byron Bay, linking it to the industrial estate and residential estates (Sunrise Beach) to the north of the town. Walking is also a viable alternative to driving around many parts of the town due to the proximity of many of the services.

Rural North

The Rural North comprises the areas of Goonengerry, Main Arm, Wilsons Creek, The Pocket, Billinudgel, Yelgun, Tyagarah and Myocum.

There are a number of pre-schools, primary schools and halls servicing these communities. The locations of these are summarised at Appendix 8. Lack of level playing fields is a significant issue in the Rural North. The local halls are in need of upgrading as many are now over fifty years old. These halls serve as a meeting place, entertainment venue, playgroup space, youth activities centre, educational or recreational venue. In the case of Wilsons Creek, the hall also doubles as a pre-school. Much of the Rural North has not experienced the intensity or level of subdivision development experienced in the Rural South and is growing at a slower rate. The exception is the Myocum/McAuleys Lane area which has experienced considerable small lot subdivision - with further capacity for such development existing in this area.

Rural South

The Rural South appears to be well catered for in terms of schools, pre-schools and halls. There are pre-schools at Federal, (see Appendix 8). Halls exist in Eureka, Federal, Coorabell, Broken Head and Ewingsdale. The halls are old and are all in need of repair. The Rural South also has relatively better proximity to larger towns such as Bangalow, Byron Bay and Suffolk Park. This is a principal distinguishing feature of the Rural South compared to the Rural North where only Mullumbimby is the principal town centre.

The Coorabell/Federal area is undergoing the most significant growth at this stage. Between 1988 and 1992 there have been four major subdivisions approved in Coorabell along Friday Hut Road, creating forty-one lots. Federal, in the same period has had three major subdivisions approved creating approximately fifty lots with more to be developed in the village zoned area.

With the exception of the public halls, there are no community buildings in either Federal or Coorabell. There is a lack of both passive and active recreational space there as well. Each community has a tennis court which services the area and Federal has a private squash court. The tennis courts in both areas are well used.

As in all of the Shire's rural areas, the condition of roads is a significant issue since these must be used regularly in order to access community facilities - both those that exist in the rural areas and those provided in the town centres. Travel distances are often lengthy due to the dispersed nature of many of the homes relative to the location of facilities. Public transport, therefore, arises as a key need in order to lessen rural isolation. The school bus system is in operation but operates only at school times, with no services being provided at night or on weekends.

Mullumbimby

Mullumbimby is the second biggest urban centre in the Shire in terms of residential population. The 1991 population was estimated at 2,606 persons. This is up slightly since the 1986 population of 2,434 persons. The last three years has seen a number of new release areas developed on the fringe of the existing town. This has increased the demand on existing services.

Existing community facilities are well-used by the townspeople, but also draw in many people from the outlying rural areas. The secondary school sporting facilities are utilised by a large component of the community. The old Council Chamber buildings provide meeting and functions facilities.

The 1991 preliminary A.B.S. Census figures show the 75+ age group with 235 persons to be the highest number in the Shire. The 65+ age group comprises 20.8% of the total population. The 0-9 age group comprises approximately 15% of the total population.

In 1986 home ownership was highest in Mullumbimby than elsewhere in the Shire with nearly three-quarters of householders either owning or purchasing their homes. Mullumbimby is generally regarded as having a highly stable, resident population.

Ocean Shores

In 1991 Ocean Shores had an estimated population of 2,496 persons, making it the third largest urban area in Byron Shire. It has had an average annual population increase over the past five years of 7.4%. Ocean Shores also has the third highest over 65 age group population, next to Byron Bay and Mullumbimby, with the second largest increase in this age group over the last intercensal period. Less than half of the households in Ocean Shores had dependent children according to the 1986 ABS Census.

Private vehicle ownership in Ocean Shores is the highest of any urban centre in the Shire with 95% of all households having at least one car, as at the 1986 ABS Census. Private mobility is a necessity, however, as there is a significant shortage of community facilities and services in Ocean Shores, being considered to have the lowest level, given its size and population, within the Shire. There is, however, some expansion to the commercial precinct planned. Ocean Shores also has a golf course and soccer field. A primary school is being built which will also provide some additional sporting fields for community use. There is no central meeting place, i.e. neighbourhood or community centre facility. Ocean Shores is lacking in child care facilities, as well as basic community services.

South Golden Beach/New Brighton

These two beachside communities are often included for planning purposes with Ocean Shores. However, they offer a different environment, being smaller in nature. The two villages had the highest percentage increase in the 5-14 age group than any other location in the Shire over the five year period prior to 1991.

The population of South Golden Beach and New Brighton grew principally and substantially between 1986-1991 due to old subdivisions being redeveloped. In 1986 the population was 380 persons and grew to 1,086 by 1991. The South Golden Beach/New Brighton area is not expected to significantly grow any further due to land constraints. This does not include land associated with the North Ocean Shores area (to the north) which is awaiting subdivision.

A community facility is being built at South Golden Beach which will provide a much needed area facility. In 1986, 63% of households in South Golden Beach were families with dependent children (second only to Bangalow). A large pre-school exists in North Ocean Shores, adjacent to South Golden Beach which services the entire area. It has a large waiting list indicating a large pre-school population.

SECTION II

ISSUES AFFECTING THE AREA

SECTION II: ISSUES AFFECTING THE AREA

Isolation and Transport Mobility

Byron Shire comprises an area of 55,000 hectares with a population of 22,824.

There is no public transportation system in Byron Shire. A number of private bus operators provide some service, however, this is mainly a school bus service, therefore keeping school times. This means that there is no night or weekend service.

The Department of Transport funds a Community Transport bus service in Byron Shire. The Byron-Ballina Community Transport scheme exists for those whose mobility is severely restricted by frailty, age disabilities or medical condition. It serves people who live in areas where other forms of public transport do not exist, or would not be commercially viable, as is the case in Byron Shire.

Access to transport is a vital community facility. To adequately move about in Byron Shire a vehicle is essential. The lack of a public transportation system affects every service in the Shire. Youth are severely limited in their after-school activities because of lack of any public transportation system.

The Health Service has said that one of its greatest problems is transport as well. The people in greatest need of its service are the ones least able to get to it due to lack of transportation.

Transportation was identified as an issue at the Community Consultation held as part of the Area Assistance Scheme process. The lack of public transport options in a community undermines community participation. Changes to the railway times have resulted in no train service at appropriate times to enable rural people access to the coast, or even other parts of the Shire. A service used to be in existence some years ago whereby the train came from Lismore, through Bangalow and in the north through Mullumbimby to Byron Bay, enabling rural dwellers access to the beach for the day with the return journey at the end of the day.

Lack of transport would be the single most important issue in our Shire. In every discussion of services, the problems of getting to the service arises. Without a vehicle it is very difficult to access community health education services and facilities in Byron Shire.

There are two basic approaches to providing public access to community facilities. They are to either reduce the demand for travel by better provision of community facilities, or to improve or establish public transport services so that centralised facilities and services are more readily accessible to those who are unable to, or who do not wish to use a car.

Taxis are available with services based in Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay, but are costly.

Facilities are adapted to the needs of a mobile car owning majority, despite the fact that a significant proportion of the population has no access to a car. Generally, the problems relating to community facility provision within the Shire are frequently those of distribution and inequitable access rather than lack of provision of these facilities.

By improving the mobility of local residents with the provision of a better public transport service, centralised facilities can become readily accessible to people who cannot afford a car or who are, for whatever reason, unable to drive a car.

With reasonable public transport links to both Lismore and Tweed, Byron would be in a better position to utilise regional facilities and services such as T.A.F.E. and U.N.E., specialist medical services, sporting and recreational facilities, cultural activities, i.e. ballet, art, concerts.

TABLE 5 TRANSPORT MOBILITY

Locality	% of Household with No Vehicle	% of Household with 1 Vehicle	% with More than 1 Vehicle
Byron Bay	19%	55%	N/A
Bangalow	10%	61%	29%
Brunswick Heads	23%	N/A	N/A
Suffolk Park	N/A	90%	N/A
Ocean Shores	N/A	95%	N/A
South Golden Beach	11%	29%	29%
Mullumbimby	15%	55%	26%

1986 ABS Census

N/A - Not Available

Education

Byron Shire is well catered for in pre-schools and primary schools. The Shire enjoys the use of ten pre-schools and nineteen primary schools evenly scattered throughout the rural and urban localities. A number of alternatives to the state schools are offered ranging from Steiner to Montessori, to Catholic to Seventh Day Adventist and a Christian Community School. Two high schools, in Byron Bay and Mullumbimby are currently operating at near capacity. It has been estimated by the Department of Education that they will have reached their capacity by the end of the decade as more students are opting to stay on at high school. Byron High is yet to have Stage 2 built.

After this, though educational options are severely curtailed. Byron Shire has no higher education facilities. There are T.A.F.E. facilities in Ballina, Lismore and Tweed Shires. However, without transportation, access to these are denied. Lismore also boasts a university, which again is difficult to get to from Byron Shire. High School teachers and youth workers have identified a need for a T.A.F.E. in our Shire. Limited courses are offered in the Shire by the adjoining Shires, however, they are few and dependent upon numbers and are not generally of an on-going nature.

Combined with limited job opportunities, the lack of higher education facilities within close proximity presents youth with a few options.

There are a wide variety of leisure type courses on offer in Byron Shire. A quick glance in the local weekly newspapers shows many one-off, seminars and short-term interest courses. However, these are usually offered privately and of a non-accredited type. The Byron Adult Education Group and the Mullumbimby Adult Learning Association operate to serve the Shire with short-term, non-accredited interest courses. Payment for courses is required, generally in the vicinity of \$35-\$60. They are specifically for adults as opposed to youth. Based on information provided by the Byron Adult Education Group, combined with census information regarding household income, educational background, occupation, Aboriginality and language, Byron was ranked 16th out of the 72 centres included in a list of disadvantaged areas (as published in the N.S.W. Board of Adult and Community Education Newsletter, May 1992). It is also noted along with others on the list of being more disadvantaged than the Australian average.

Housing

Building approvals for dwellings in Byron Shire have remained relatively stable and high in 1991, despite the number of approvals on a regional basis being lower again for a second consecutive year to the previous two years (1988 and 1989). Lismore showed substantial decreases while Tweed remained stable. (Department of Planning Population Monitor No. 14, July 1992.)

TABLE 6

LOCALITY		YEAR					
		1981	1986	1988	1989	1990	1991
Urban							
Byron Bay	No. Dwellings	1099	1421	1634	1747	1804	1864
	%p.a. Increase		5.3%	7.2%	6.9%	3.3%	3.3%
Suffolk Park	No. Dwellings	249	380	426	438	466	524
	%p.a. Increase		8.8%	5.9%	2.8%	6.4%	12.4%
Mullumbimby	No. Dwellings	815	913	942	979	1017	1059
	%p.a. Increase		2.3%	1.6%	3.9%	3.9%	4.1%
Brunswick Heads	No. Dwellings	598	632	658	691	705	715
	%p.a. Increase		1.1%	2.0%	5.0%	2.0%	1.4%
Ocean Shores	No. Dwellings	421	758	954	1120	1202	1287
	%p.a. Increase		12.5%	12.2%	17.4%	7.3%	7.1%
Bangalow	No. Dwellings	207	252	274	286	305	320
	%p.a. Increase		4.0%	4.3%	4.4%	5.6%	4.9%
Total Urban							
	No. Dwellings	3389	4356	4888	5261	5499	5769
	%p.a. Increase		5.1%	5.9%	7.6%	4.5%	4.9%
Rural							
Rural North	No. Dwellings	977	1221	1292	1323	1340	1361
	%p.a. Increase		4.6%	2.9%	2.4%	1.3%	1.6%
Rural South	No. Dwellings	387	1091	1229	1311	1351	1408
	%p.a. Increase		4.2%	6.1%	6.7%	3.1%	4.2%
Total Rural							
	No. Dwellings	1864	2312	2521	2634	2691	2769
	%p.a. Increase		4.4%	4.4%	4.5%	2.2%	2.9%
TOTAL SHIRE							
	No. Dwellings	5253	6668	7409	7895	8190	8538
	%p.a. Increase		4.9%	5.4%	6.6%	3.7%	4.2%

Table 4: Growth Rate in Dwelling Numbers by Locality 1986 to 1991

LOCALITY	ESTIMATED RESIDENT POP. 1988	OCCUPANCY RATE 1988	ESTIMATED OCC. RATE 1991	TOTAL EST. DWELLINGS 1988	DWELLING APPROVALS			TOTAL DWELLING EST. 1991	ESTIMATED RESIDENT POP. 1991
					1989	1990	1991		
Urban									
Byron Bay	3760	2.3	2.3	1634	113	57	60	1864	4287
Sidford Park	900	2.1	2.1	426	12	28	58	524	1100
Mullumbidgee	2450	2.6	2.6	942	37	38	42	1059	2753
Brunswick Hl.	1320	2.0	2.0	658	33	14	10	715	1430
Ocean Shores	2190	2.3	2.3	954	166	82	85	1287	2960
Barragulow	740	2.7	2.7	274	12	19	15	320	864
Total Urban	11360	2.3	2.3	4888	373	238	270	5769	13395
Rural									
Rural North	3600	2.8	2.8	1292	31	17	21	1361	3811
Rural South	3810	3.1	3.1	1229	82	40	57	1408	4365
Total Rural	7410	2.9	2.9	2521	113	57	78	2769	8176
TOTAL SHIRE	18770	2.5	2.5	7409	486	295	348	8538	21571

Table 1: Estimated Population of Shire by Locality -- 1988 to 1991

Housing

The preliminary 1991 A.B.S. census data gives a total of 9,299 dwellings in Byron Shire. Of this 7,680 are occupied private dwellings, 1034 are unoccupied private dwellings, 532 are caravans in caravan parks and 53 are non-private dwellings. Unoccupied private dwellings is significant at just over 10% of the total number of dwellings. Being a tourist destination, a number of these unoccupied dwellings are holiday homes. (See Appendix 5)

The Department of Housing has a five year waiting list in Byron Shire for public housing across the varying age groups. There is a high demand for aged accommodation public housing. In addition to the existing 70 detached and attached public housing units, a further 30 are to be built, specifically for aged pensioner accommodation.

TABLE 8 HOUSING/OWNERSHIP

LOCALITY	OWN OR BUYING HOME
Byron Bay	59%
Bangalow	71%
Brunswick Heads	43%
Suffolk Park	70%
Ocean Shores	70%
South Golden Beach	65%
Mullumbimby	75%

1986 ABS Census

Suffolk Park comes up as a strong growth area and will continue to do so over the next few years as the two new release areas develop. In 1989, twelve building approvals were given. In 1991 fifty-eight approvals were given. Ocean Shores is also maintaining strong growth with eighty-five building approvals given in 1991.

Income Levels

Of particular concern in this Region is the number of families with children living on incomes below \$15,000 per year. As can be seen from Table below almost one-third (32.5%) of all North Coast families with children have family incomes below this level, compared with 19.4% of N.S.W. families. Byron Shire has one of the highest number of families in New South Wales living in poverty, with 36.5% of families earning below \$15,000 per annum in 1986 (ABS Census). This is also reflected in the Shire's high unemployment rate.

Sickness benefits were at 1% or 160 people, second highest to Kempsey. Supporting parent benefits stood at 3.9% or 605 people, highest in the North Coast Shires and twice the expected number of beneficiaries. The percentage of adults in the Region receiving unemployment benefits was twice that of New South Wales and Byron Bay had around three times the average percentage. (Department of Social Security, 1989). At this time there were 14.7% of adults on an Aged Pension, or 1,935 persons and 3.9%, or 605 persons on an invalid pension.

In July 1992, there were a total of 2,115 persons receiving an Aged Pension, 555 persons receiving Family Allowance Supplement and 2,448 persons on Unemployment/New Start benefits. Single parent pension recipients and sickness benefit recipients are not included in these figures. Byron Shire traditionally has a high number of people in both of these categories and, if anything, numbers in these categories are likely to have increased due to recent recessionary years.

TABLE 9 LOW INCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FOR NORTH COAST

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	FAMILIES BELOW \$15,000	
	NUMBERS	PERCENTAGE
Tweed	1,940	32.5
Byron	933	36.5
Ballina	1,035	31.3
Lismore	1,584	29.3
Richmond River	417	39.7
Casino	388	26.2
Kyogle	597	42.6
Copmanhurst	171	30.1
Maclean	504	34.9
Grafton	528	23.6
Nymboida	185	35.8
Ullmarra	277	41.1
Coffs Harbour	1,878	31.1
Bellingen	576	39.4
Nambucca	774	39.7
Kempsey	1,107	34.1
Hastings	1,669	30.8
North Coast	14,563	32.5
New South Wales	143,979	19.4

Source: ABS Census 1986

TABLE 10

EMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS RECIPIENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	UNEMPLOYMENT		SICKNESS	
	Number	% Adults	Number	% Adults
Byron	1,163	10.4	160	1.0
Tweed	2,122	5.7	355	0.9
Ballina	1,188	5.7	141	0.7
Lismore	2,176	7.3	191	0.6
Richmond River	513	8.3	37	0.6
Casino	642	7.6	48	0.6
Kyogle	613	8.3	32	0.4
Copmanhurst	178	5.1	17	0.5
Maclean	680	7.4	73	0.5
Grafton	819	6.8	72	0.6
Nymboida	160	5.9	14	0.5
Ulmarra	262	6.5	34	0.7
Coffs Harbour	2,261	6.2	302	0.8
Bellingen	738	8.8	78	0.9
Nambucca	1,048	8.3	87	0.7
Kempsey	1,634	8.5	249	1.3
Hastings	1,969	5.6	257	0.7
North Coast	18,616	6.9	2,146	0.8
New South Wales	141,458	3.4	35,330	0.8

Source: Department of Social Security, 1989

TABLE 11

RECIPIENTS OF SUPPORTING PARENTS BENEFITS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	SUPPORTING PARENTS BENEFITS	
	Numbers	% Adult Population
Byron	605	3.9
Tweed	1,025	2.8
Ballina	593	2.9
Lismore	978	3.3
Richmond River	175	2.8
Casino	270	3.2
Kyogle	200	2.7
Copmanhurst	64	1.8
Maclean	232	2.5
Grafton	366	3.0
Nymboida	61	3.2
Ulmarra	101	2.5
Coffs Harbour	993	2.7
Bellingen	308	3.7
Nambucca	366	2.9
Kempsey	703	3.7
Hastings	801	2.3
North Coast	7,843	2.9
New South Wales	70,422	1.7

Source: Department of Social Security, 1989

TABLE 12

AGED AND INVALID PENSION RECIPIENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	AGED PENSION		INVALID PENSION	
	Recipients	% Adults	Recipients	% Adults
Tweed	5,472	14.7	1,283	3.5
Byron	1,935	12.5	605	3.0
Ballina	3,150	15.2	730	3.5
Lismore	3,134	10.5	831	2.8
Richmond River	940	15.2	255	4.1
Casino	1,124	13.4	322	3.8
Kyogle	879	11.9	215	2.9
Copmanhurst	387	11.1	89	2.6
Maclean	1,492	16.2	366	4.0
Grafton	1,675	13.9	441	3.7
Nymboida	316	11.6	74	2.7
Ulmarra	413	10.3	140	3.5
Coffs Harbour	4,061	11.2	1,086	3.0
Bellingen	1,085	12.9	290	3.5
Nambucca	1,817	14.4	546	4.3
Kempsey	2,068	10.8	602	3.2
HASTINGS	5,774	16.5	1,296	3.7
North Coast	35,722	13.3	9,170	3.4
New South Wales	479,411	11.5	102,186	2.5

Source: Department of Social Security, 1989

Employment

Since May 1984, unemployment in the Shire has risen steadily and significantly. In the September quarter for 1991, Byron Shire had the twelfth highest unemployment rate, 20.1%, out of any in the country. This was at a time when the national rate was running at 9.7%. This was the highest unemployment rate in New South Wales. The December quarter showed an increase in unemployment to 21.8%, (DEET). The high rate of unemployment is mainly attributed to incoming migration of unemployed people as opposed to jobs being lost due to business closures. The combined numbers of people on unemployment, sickness benefits, aged pensions and single parent pensions indicate that a substantial proportion of the population is supported by Government. The major job creating sectors in the Shire are tourism, agriculture, welfare, building and service industries.

In 1988-89 a total of 617 dwelling units were approved in the Shire (ABS 1989). This compares to Ballina 608 and Lismore 414. The building "boom" tapered off after this period, but is still significant with 347 new dwelling approvals in 1991 (Department of Planning, July 1992). Due to the continuing population growth of the North Coast, the construction industry continues to remain strong and is a significant employment generating influence. The construction industry almost doubled its 1987 total from 8,500 to 15,200 people in employment in 1992 picking up after a downturn in 1990 (11,300) (Department of Planning, July 1992). Agriculture services has also increased the number of people employed over the five year period, August 1987 - August 1991, doubling the 1987 (1,9000) figure by 1991 (21,300).

Tourists have consistently been increasing in numbers over the past decade. The number of visitors almost doubled from 1982/83 numbers estimated to be 504,800 to 1990/92 visitor nights totalling 984,000. Tourism can place added pressure on already overused community facilities, such as swimming pools, parks and health services, particularly when considering the proportion of visitors compared to the permanent resident population of 22,824 persons in 1991.

For 1990/91 Tourism Expenditure in Byron Shire was \$69.84m, second only to Tweed and Ballina.

TABLE 13 EXPENDITURE (\$'000)

Local Government Area	1988/89	1989/90	% INC	1990/91	% INC
Ballina (s)	54.876	64.35	17.26%	71.99	11.87%
Byron (S)	54.875	66.074	20.41%	69.84	5.70%
Casino (M)	10.475	13.163	25.66%	6.01	-54.34%
Lismore (c)	32.938	39.771	20.75%	38.55	-3.07%
Tweed (S)	102.742	112.21	9.22%	112.02	-0.17%
Balance	4.664	4.746	1.76%	10.08	112.39%
Total					
Upper North Coast	260.588	300.314	15.25%	308.49	2.72%

Source: New South Wales Tourism Commission, 1992.

Byron Shire had a total of 54 manufacturing establishments in 1987-88 employing 330 people. This compared with Ballina Shire which had 61 such establishments, employing 323 people. Since these statistics, Byron Bay's industrial estate area has added a further 35 lots, which are currently being built upon. Mullumbimby added a further 10 lots as part of an industrial development area. Billinudgel and Bangalow have also recently created industrial estate areas.

In addition to the new industrial areas being created, the commercial heart of Byron Bay is also undergoing significant growth. Two new office/retail complexes are currently being built. The above figures suggest a continued level of investment confidence in the Shire and that tourism, associated services, and business will continue to expand.

Community Health

There are three Community Health Centres in Byron Shire: Byron Bay, Mullumbimby and Bangalow. The Mullumbimby centre is adjacent to the hospital. Through these centres the following services are provided:

- Community Nurse
- Dependency Service Worker
- Early Childhood Services
- Early Intervention - Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Speech Pathologist
- Adolescent Worker
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Occupational Therapist
- Women's Health Nurse.

Most, if not all of the services are divided between the three centres. The one psychologist's time is split between seeing children and adults only on a three days per week basis, with two of those days being spent in Mullumbimby and one day in Byron Bay.

There is one full-time and one part-time Drug and Alcohol worker in the Shire. The full-time worker is based in Mullumbimby. The part-time worker is based in Byron Bay, three days per week. The large transient population travelling through Byron Shire often brings with it people with drug and alcohol related problems adding to the demands of the resident population.

The Buttery, located near Bangalow, is renowned in the State as a drug rehabilitation centre. The Health Centre workers work closely with The Buttery, providing a detoxification (detox) service to their clients as well as providing a forty-eight hour holding period for clients who require a safe protected environment which the detox programme offers. These clients are then placed in one of the hospitals in the Shire. They are not regarded as medical patients but still utilize a hospital bed.

The Drug and Alcohol Services has been integrated with the HIV Prevention Service within Byron Shire. Byron Shire has the highest number of people who are HIV positive in rural Northern N.S.W. Mullumbimby has an HIV Prevention and Drug and Alcohol Service called Two Shades. It has been temporarily closed for two months so as to be restructured. The service opened in June, 1991, to cater for people with drug and alcohol problems and who are at risk with HIV, AIDS. Homeless street people and a large proportion of transient people with such related problems are also catered for. The service is funded by the HIV/AIDS Prevention Service. It provides a needle exchange, HIV/AIDS information and education in the form of videos, counselling, referrals to other health professionals or agencies, and full in-house drug and alcohol service in a comfortable, informal setting. Because clients are often unable to keep appointments due to the lack of public transport and money, the service also provides irregular transportation for clients to appointments. During the first month of operation there were 674 clients attended to. (Brunswick/Byron Health Service, Drug and Alcohol Planning Report, July 1991.)

Byron Shire also has the highest number of injecting drug users. (Regional Office Health Department).

Other programmes offered by the Drug Dependency Workers are specialised awareness programmes for high school education (limited), Quit for Life, and a Detoxification Programme.

There may be a growing need for specialised aged health care.

SECTION III

AREA ASSISTANCE SCHEME PRIORITY AREAS

Youth Services and Facilities

There are a total of 3,098 10-19 year olds in Byron Shire. They comprise 12.5% of the total population. Youth are very poorly catered for in Byron Shire in terms of either services or facilities. There are two high schools, one at Byron Bay and one at Mullumbimby. Venues for youth activities are still in short supply even though this has been identified as an absolute need in every study of community services conducted in Byron Shire since 1984. Land has been made available in Byron Bay for a Centre, but little funding has been attracted for the building. This has been aggravated by a decline in recreational and entertainment opportunities in recent times. Byron Bay no longer has its picture theatre or roller skating rink. The Youth Development Officer, who has just become full-time in the last month, organises a recreation night once a week, available in both Byron Bay and Mullumbimby. The nights are run by volunteers. The Byron Bay night is held at the Byron Community Centre and relies completely on community support. The Mullumbimby night is held at the Pioneer Hall and is totally funded. This youth service is to cater for 12-25 year olds, although teens are seen as a priority category. The priority is also to work with settled youth, as opposed to transient youths.

There are various government programmes offered such as Kickstart, Workplace and Job Club. All of these are based in the Community Centre, Byron Bay, and may go to the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre one day per week.

The Health Department provides an Adolescent Worker. The worker is based mostly in Mullumbimby and is available three days per week. This is to cover the entire Shire.

One of the major difficulties facing youth in the Shire is the lack of public transportation particularly in rural areas. Byron Shire is a rural one. Towns and villages are scattered throughout the Shire, connected by roads in poor condition, many of which flood. The only bus service is the school bus service which does not operate at night or on the weekends.

Unemployment is another major issue for youth in Byron Shire. Provision of emergency accommodation and the difficulty by young people in finding permanent accommodation in the rental market are recurring issues. Rental accommodation is relatively expensive in Byron Bay and in certain areas in the surrounding countryside.

A Youth Refuge catering for 6-8 people is situated in Byron Bay operated by Byron Emergency Accommodation Project (B.E.A.P.). This is short-term accommodation. Exit House, located in Sunrise Beach Estate, Byron Bay, is medium-term accommodation for youths. These emergency accommodation centres are all located in Byron Bay but serve the entire Shire and are funded by the Department of Community Services.

Lack of tertiary education facilities, (i.e. colleges for further education), further exacerbates the youth problem. TAFE Colleges are located in Ballina, Lismore and Tweed Shires. With public transportation being so limited youth often find it extremely difficult or are unable to get to these facilities. The same applies with respect to the University in Lismore.

The Youth Development Officer provides counselling, referral and advocacy services (concerning social security, legal, accommodation, financial assistance). Clients are usually seen on an ongoing support basis.

Sport is traditionally the most important recreational past-time for young people. There are sporting fields in each of the main towns in the Shire, as well as those associated with the two high schools. Rural areas are generally lacking in level playing fields, notably in areas of increasing growth such as Federal and Coorabell. Indoor sporting facilities are generally inadequate given the number of people playing sports, such as basketball and volleyball, the increasing popularity of such sports and the incidence of high rainfall during summer months. Existing indoor facilities are not sufficient to meet the current or expected demand.

The Federal Government Department of Health, Housing and Community Services has identified Byron Shire, along with Ballina Shire and Lismore Municipality as a combined area of high need in regard to youth activities services. This need is determined on the basis of socio-economic statistics, existing services and the number of youth.

A 1984 study on youth identified a youth centre, catering for live music, theatre, cafe facilities and workshops as a high need. From that study it was stated that based on the issues raised at the Byron Shire Community Services Forum (November 1984) and consultation with Byron Youth Service Development Officer and youth groups in the Shire, the following priority issues/needs were identified:-

1. Lack of a Youth Centre or building to function as a venue for both structured and unstructured youth activities.
2. Non-existent or poor public transport links to existing local and regional services and facilities.
3. Insufficient entertainment opportunities for those under 18 years etc.

A 1989 S. and S. Consultants Community Services Capital Works Study identified four major capital works projects that should be undertaken based on community response to perceived needs. One of these was a Byron Youth Activity and Indoor Sporting Centre. The above issues/needs are still relevant today as recognised by Council and the Youth Development Officer for Byron Shire since they have still largely not been acted upon. Specific youth facilities for social, educational, employment and recreational activities within the Shire are of high priority need.

Council, in its recognition of this problem has been strongly supportive of the Byron Youth Activities Steering Committee in securing land in Byron Bay for a Youth Activities Centre. However, funding is still required to build the Centre.

Children's Facilities and Services

Byron Shire is notable for the fact that there is no long day care service in the Shire. In a growing 0-4 age group the Shire is served by ten (10) pre-schools, well placed throughout urban and rural areas of the Shire, a half day occasional care centre (unable to offer fee relief), Ballina/Byron Family Day Care and one private home catering for five (5) children per day which is booked up with three families. The Ballina/Byron Family Day Care has twenty-seven carers operating throughout the Shire. Only two of these operate in Byron Bay. The occasional care centre takes fifteen children per day, but can only take two children under two per day. The centre closes at 1.00 p.m. (See appendix 8). Many playgroups are in operation throughout the Shire.

Community Health

The Community Health Centres in Byron Bay, Mullumbimby and Bangalow offer children's services by way of a speech pathologist, early intervention-occupational therapist, physiotherapist and psychologist. The early childhood services are those of immunisation for 0-5 year olds and ante-natal classes.

The Early Intervention-Occupational Therapist position is part-time and is spread out between Mullumbimby and Byron Community Health Centres, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There is one full-time Speech Therapist for children, whose time is divided between Bangalow, Mullumbimby and Byron Bay. A second speech therapist works one day per week in Mullumbimby.

The Early Intervention Physiotherapist is available for the entire Shire one day per week in Byron Bay. The Community Health Psychologist is available for both children and adults, although adults have first preference. The position operates three days per week, with days being divided between Mullumbimby on Monday and Wednesday and Byron Bay on Friday.

Byron Shire is the only Local Government area on the North Coast not to have a Family Focussed Early Intervention Service. The Department of Community Services funds a service in Ballina which caters for 27 children, 0-6 years of age. Two of these are children attending Bangalow Pre-School but who live in Ballina Shire. It is estimated that 1% to 2% of the child population in the Shire is severely handicapped. Based on this and given the 0-4 year age group total population in Byron Shire is 1,736 children, there may be between 15 to 20 children requiring an Early Intervention Service in Byron Shire. Early intervention work also involved moderately handicapped or delayed children with respect to growth motor skills, fine motor skills, personal social skills and receptive and expressive language. Family Focussed Early Intervention allows workers to go to individual homes and work with the families of the affected children, as opposed to clinic-based early intervention where children must be taken to a clinic. In an area of no public transportation, a child may be further disadvantaged if the family has no access to a vehicle.

HEALTH SERVICE & FACILITIES IN BYRON SHIRE

<u>HOSPITALS</u>	Mullumbimby, Azalea Street	29 beds
	Byron Bay, Shirley Street	31 beds

AGED ACCOMMODATION

<u>Byron Bay</u>	Feros Village, Marvel Street 857667	39 Permanent Residents 1 Respite Care
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	Australian Orthodox Home for the Aged Butler Street 856728	20 Permanent Residents 1 Respite Care
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	Housing Commission Units	13 Units (mixture of one bedroom and bedsitter type of accommodation.
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	Byron Bay Nursing Home Broken Head Road Suffolk Park 853301	60 Permanent Residents Nursing Care available for those unable to walk.
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<u>Mullumbimby</u>	Coolamon Villa, Azalea Street St Vincent de Paul Home Aged and Disabled Units Morrison Avenue	50 Permanent Residents 2 Respite Care 10 Units (mixture of one bedroom and bedsitter type of accommodation)
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<u>Brunswick Heads</u>	Housing Commission Units	20 Units (mixture of one bedroom and bedsitter type of accommodation)
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SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

<u>Byron Bay</u>	Marvel Street
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DAYCARE FOR THE AGED

<u>Mullumbimby</u>	Pioneer Hall
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<u>Brunswick Heads</u>	Community Centre
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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

<u>Byron Bay</u>	Bangalow Road
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<u>Mullumbimby</u>	Azalea Avenue
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<u>Bangalow</u>	Granuaile Road
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Through these Centres the following services are provided:

Community Nurse, Dependency Service Worker, Early Childhood Services, Early Intervention - (Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Speech Pathologist), Health Education, Mental Health - (Psychiatric Nurse, Adolescent Worker, Psychologist, Social Worker), Needle Exchange Co-Ordinator and Worker, Occupational Therapist, Social Worker, Speech Pathologist, Women's Health Nurse.

Cultural Facilities and Activities

Byron Shire has a wide variety of performing artists, theatre groups, musicians, painters, potters and writers.

There is no recognised "theatre" in Byron Shire. Live theatre performances are held in the Old Drill Hall in Mullumbimby, the Civic Centre in Mullumbimby or at respective high schools. Currently, Byron High School is looking to build a proper theatre space on its school grounds for the use of all the community theatre groups. In Bangalow, the A. and I. Pavilion in the showground is being renovated, part of which will be a proper stage for theatrical performances.

Art shows are held in the Byron Community Centre and the Byron R.S.L. Recent community consultation raised the lack of decent venues as an issue. It was suggested that any art space built should comprise performance space, cafe, office, art gallery, exhibition space, music and dance studios, seat 300+ and be placed centrally in Byron Bay. Once a proper venue is in place an artist-in-residence may be established as well as having visiting performers, directors and writers-in-residence. Byron Shire does not lack the people involved in the arts, but it is sadly lacking in performance space for such artists.

In the 1991 Report, "Making Art Work", a comprehensive report into the art industry of the Northern Rivers Region of New South Wales, total artwork sales for the Shire were \$2,914,800, far and above that of any of the adjoining Shires. Tweed generated \$1,545,500, Lismore generated \$1,183,000 and Ballina's total was \$1,313,500 in art sales. Byron also comes out ahead in sheer numbers of artists, as compared to Tweed, Lismore and Ballina. For the purposes of the Report professional artist was defined such that the author of the Report, Peter Wynn-Moylan suggests the total number of artists listed may be multiplied by 5 to get a true picture. "From Grafton to Tweed there are more artists and craft workers per head of population than anywhere else, including the cities", and Byron Shire would likely have the highest proportion per capita.

Recreation and Leisure and Sport

Much of Byron Shire's appeal is focussed on the ocean, with a coastline stretching the length of the Shire and a backdrop of green, rolling hills. It is the natural environment that is the key attraction of the Shire, as opposed to its built environment. With a sub-tropical climate of mild, dry, winters and hot, wet summers, recreation and leisure is oriented to outdoor activities. Swimming, surfing, sailing, fishing, windsurfing, bushwalking, hangliding, scuba-diving, horse-riding and bicycling are all popular recreation and leisure activities. Most, if not all, of these rely on the natural environment with little built infrastructure. Team sports such as basketball, volleyball, cricket, football and soccer are also popular. The latter sports, however, require fields or courts and those currently in existence are constantly used.

The rural areas of the Shire are primarily lacking in level playing fields. This is in part due to the nature of the terrain and the fact that there has not previously been the need until recently with the increasing population in the rural areas. Many of the existing (rural) schools in the Shire are old, in some cases 100 years old, and did not have playing fields constructed as they were not considered a priority or necessary at the time. Many of the schools were built, like in the case of Wilsons Creek School, on only 0.8 ha. whereas now the requirement is generally 3 ha. for a school. As the schools grow, demountable classrooms are added, taking up what little playing area is left.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Both the Byron Community Centre and Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre provide similar and varied community services to their respective towns. These include:

- * Tourist information
- * Emergency relief
- * Youth Services
- * Family Services
- * Community Transport bookings
- * Project Worker
- * Hot showers
- * Adult Education (Byron)
- * Referrals system for hiring a piano to where to get counselling
- * Food co-operative facilities (Mullumbimby).
- * Meeting rooms

Services for People with Disabilities

The Department of Community Services is one of the main funding bodies of services for people with disabilities, along with the Health Department. These two agencies offer a variety of services.

Through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Service, Home Modification and Maintenance, Home Care, Respite Care and Ballina/Byron Disability Service and Community Transport are available. Byron Shire is amalgamated with Ballina Shire by the Department of Community Services for the purposes of providing services.

The Health Department has three community health centres in Byron Shire. Limited services are offered for people with a disability. Counselling and therapy are provided by workers in Mullumbimby, Bangalow and Byron Bay.

One major omission in Byron Bay has been a central toilet block for wheelchair-bound and frail aged people. Generally, towns within the Shire could provide better toilet facilities for physically disabled people.

Services for Women

There are no specific programmes for women on offer in Byron Shire. Most programmes serving the Region are generally based in Lismore. Of the four refuges in Byron Shire none are specifically for women. This was raised at a recent community consultation session as a major need in the Shire, as was the need for counselling services specifically for women on a 24 hour basis. Women within the Shire could also benefit significantly from a communication network to exchange information is required for women within the Shire.

There are approximately equal numbers of women and men in the Shire scattered throughout the various locations with a high proportion of single parent mothers. It is recognised that with high rents generally required for houses/units in the Shire, house sharing has become a necessity rather than a choice.

Change rooms with facilities for infants and stroller access are noticeably scarce in many of the towns in the Shire. As mentioned previously, day care services for young infants are not adequately catered for. With only one occasional care centre operating a half day and Family Day Care not having enough carers, women may be prevented from pursuing either employment or education.

Services for Aborigines

The Aboriginal population is negligible in Byron Shire. It is estimated to be 196 persons in 1992 or less than 1% of the total population. The 1986 ABS Census showed a total of 112 aboriginal people in the Shire. There were 19 in Ocean Shores, 15 in Mullumbimby and 35 in Byron Bay. This was the lowest percentage of the population for the North Coast Local Government areas. The Canowinda Tweed-Byron Aged and Disabled Aboriginal Corporation has approval for building a home for the frail and aged Aboriginal people. It will cater for thirty (30) people. In view of the small aboriginal population present in the Shire, few specific services for Aborigines have been provided.

Services for the Aged

People 60 years and over account for approximately one-fifth of the Shire's population. Byron Bay has by far the greatest actual number of aged person for a locality, but Brunswick Heads has the highest proportional number. Approximately 30% of the population is aged 65+ in Brunswick Heads. Mullumbimby and Ocean Shores are next highest with 21% of the population aged 65+ and are third and second respectively in terms of actual number of people.

There are four homes for the aged - three in Byron Bay/Suffolk Park and one in Mullumbimby. The Housing Commission has units for the aged in Brunswick Heads, Mullumbimby and Byron Bay. This currently appears to be sufficient to cater for the demand.

The Department of Community Services (DOCS) and the Health Department are the major providers of services for the Aged in the Shire. Meals on Wheels, Home Care, Community Transport, and Respite Care are some of the Services offered by DOCS. The Health Department offers occupational therapy, counselling, information and outings. Public transportation is a major need for the Aged. The Tweed-Byron-Ballina Community Transport bus provides a geographically wide-spread service. However, with limited funding, the bus is under-utilised.

The aged were not represented at the recent community consultation associated with the compilation of this report. Any identified needs came largely under the disability needs. As the aged population continues to increase, as predicted by the Health Department, more issues/needs will become apparent. At this stage it appears, from the information that is available that most of the aged coming to the Shire are retired and have superannuation packages or other means of supporting themselves.

Services for Non-English Speaking Background (N.E.S.B.) People

The non-English speaking background population is negligible in Byron Shire. No specific services are available for them. TAFE offers an English as a second language course in Byron Bay through the Community Centre.

CONCLUSION:

Many past studies have identified the Shire's inadequate transport infrastructure, particularly public transport, and the high level of unemployment as two key areas which contribute to increasing need for a range of community services and facilities. The transport situation has been aggravated by dispersed settlement patterns which, in the past, have not had adequate regard to the proximity to and need for services nor the capacity of the Shire's roads network. Unemployment in the Shire, apart from affecting peoples self-esteem, has also had a significant contributing effect on the income structure of many households in the Shire. A lack of sufficient employment opportunities has contributed to a number of families with a low level of income (i.e. less than \$15,000 p.a.). The number of people in the North Coast Region living on low incomes are recognised as being much higher than the average for New South Wales. This is a particular matter for concern given the relationship between poverty and a higher incidence of acute illness and emotional health problems reported in the Australian Health Survey 1978.

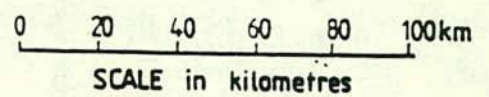
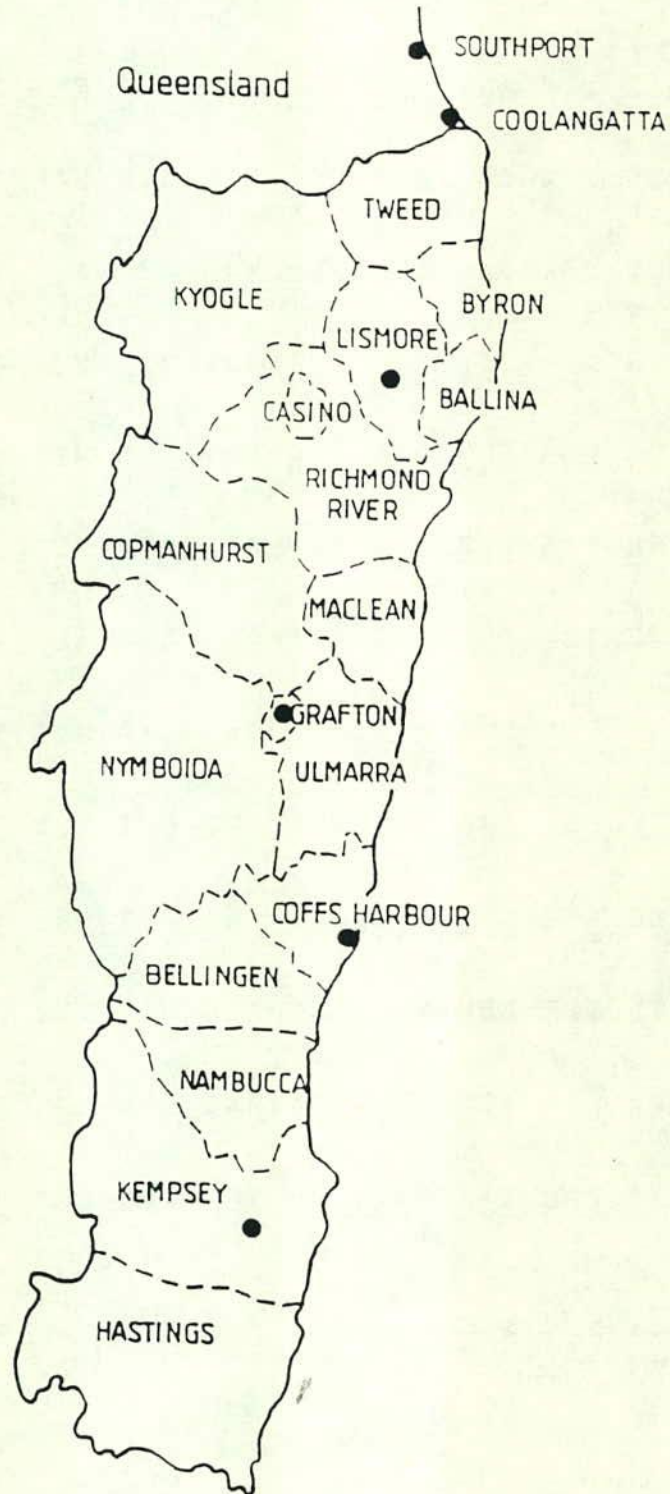
It is recognised that the issues of road/public transport and employment generation are more long term issues requiring a co-ordinated approach from the public and private sector. These issues are particularly of concern to the Council and are to be addressed through a variety of short and long term initiatives. The more immediate community facilities/ services needs that have been identified by past studies and this review continually relate to the provision of:

1. Adequate child care facilities (particularly long day care facilities).
2. A variety of adequate youth facilities.
3. Emergency accommodation and consultation, particularly for women and the Shire's youth.

These are all services which are primarily reliant on the need for capital works funding. The Council's capacity in the past has been limited due to the large size of the Shire and its needs relative to its population size and income generating capacity. As a result, funds have usually been prioritised for the Shire's more major infrastructure needs. Furthermore, it is only in more recent years that the extent of need for community services/facilities has become apparent in the Shire, due to the increased amount and quality of information that is becoming available. Any assistance that the Council and community groups can receive in respect to the above priority areas would significantly alleviate the backlog in provision of such services/facilities.

APPENDICES

The North Coast LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS



DISTRICT	SEX	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75+	TOTALS
New Brighton	M	8	21	17	10	10	7	19	20	15	5	4	5	4	8	4	8	165
	F	7	16	15	4	5	0	18	22	13	5	4	0	9	10	9	4	141
	P	15	37	32	14	15	7	37	42	28	10	8	5	13	18	13	12	306
Ocean Shores	M	99	90	93	73	50	61	82	103	92	57	37	44	79	117	81	67	1225
	F	98	97	89	62	45	72	104	102	84	51	59	64	101	112	71	60	1271
	P	197	187	182	135	95	133	186	205	176	108	96	108	180	229	152	127	2496
Suffolk Park	M	54	58	34	37	29	34	58	61	47	23	20	10	22	26	27	29	569
	F	52	43	48	26	23	40	68	66	53	27	22	28	29	34	21	63	643
	P	106	101	82	63	52	74	126	127	100	50	42	38	51	60	48	92	1212
Bangalow	M	44	55	39	36	15	18	34	49	30	17	12	10	11	13	9	12	404
	F	37	43	36	28	11	26	48	59	35	10	9	13	14	13	15	21	418
	P	81	98	75	64	26	44	82	108	65	27	21	23	25	26	24	33	822
Byron Bay	M	153	182	173	171	203	217	238	222	228	165	92	95	93	100	81	102	2515
	F	138	152	175	148	184	207	259	257	177	116	93	106	104	115	91	162	2484
	P	291	334	348	319	387	424	497	479	405	281	185	201	197	215	172	264	4999
Rural North	M	199	261	208	150	81	130	177	260	253	160	99	89	99	72	68	49	2355
	F	192	215	166	140	73	129	223	241	179	125	102	93	75	69	37	59	2118
	P	391	476	374	290	154	259	400	501	432	285	201	182	174	141	105	108	4473
Rural South	M	171	187	156	99	68	99	165	220	171	114	56	58	96	53	47	45	1805
	F	140	174	137	95	60	104	174	215	122	85	62	57	82	70	35	44	1656
	P	311	361	293	194	128	203	339	435	293	199	118	115	178	123	82	89	3461
Brunswick Heads	M	48	38	44	36	31	36	52	44	40	49	37	33	89	104	74	65	820
	F	38	41	39	32	38	41	55	37	41	41	47	55	88	87	82	83	845
	P	86	79	83	68	69	77	107	81	81	90	84	88	177	191	156	148	1665
South Golden Beach	M	41	49	43	25	18	11	32	41	35	16	12	19	18	14	15	0	389
	F	43	36	35	19	8	28	51	36	33	11	19	16	21	20	11	4	391
	P	84	85	78	44	26	39	83	77	68	27	31	35	39	34	26	4	780
Mullumbimby	M	94	98	78	82	64	53	88	91	80	68	67	60	56	76	62	88	1205
	F	80	105	110	90	46	71	103	113	89	69	67	74	68	89	80	147	1401
	P	174	203	188	172	110	124	191	204	169	137	134	134	124	165	142	235	2606
TOTALS	M	911	1039	885	719	569	666	945	1111	991	674	436	423	567	583	468	465	11452
	F	825	922	850	644	493	718	1103	1148	826	540	484	506	591	619	452	647	11368
	P	1736	1961	1735	1363	1062	1384	2048	2259	1817	1214	920	929	1158	1202	920	1112	22820

CHANGE IN AGE STRUCTURE 1961 - 1991 BYRON SHIRE

CHANGE IN AGE STRUCTURE 1961-1991 BYRON SHIRE

AGE CATEGORY	1961 No.	%	1966 No.	%	1971 No.	%	1976 No.	%	1981 No.	%	1986 No.	%	1991 No.	%
0-4	1196	11.5%	901	9.1%	776	8.0%	888	8.3%	1232	8.0%	1570	9.0%	1736	7.6%
5-9	1207	11.6%	1078	10.8%	876	9.0%	895	8.4%	1370	8.9%	1463	8.4%	1961	8.6%
10-14	1208	11.6%	1117	11.2%	1057	10.9%	980	9.1%	1246	8.1%	1422	8.2%	1735	7.6%
15-19	698	6.7%	794	8.0%	829	8.5%	891	8.3%	998	6.5%	1111	6.4%	1363	6.0%
20-24	498	4.8%	468	4.7%	580	6.0%	728	6.8%	1151	7.5%	1056	6.1%	1062	4.7%
25-29	534	5.1%	460	4.6%	470	4.8%	735	6.9%	1265	8.2%	1417	8.1%	1384	6.1%
30-39	1280	12.3%	1043	10.5%	976	10.0%	1045	9.8%	2230	14.5%	3233	18.6%	4307	18.9%
40-49	1264	12.2%	1201	12.1%	1155	11.9%	1011	9.4%	1360	8.9%	1767	10.1%	3031	13.3%
50-54	585	5.6%	593	6.0%	580	6.0%	650	6.1%	763	5.0%	715	4.1%	920	4.0%
55-59	449	4.3%	596	6.0%	612	6.3%	669	6.2%	875	5.7%	944	5.4%	933	4.1%
60-64	449	4.3%	500	5.0%	588	6.0%	685	6.4%	872	5.7%	1128	6.5%	1158	5.1%
65+	1024	9.9%	1202	12.1%	1238	12.7%	1539	14.4%	2004	13.0%	1592	9.1%	3232	14.2%
TOTAL	10392	100	9953	100	9737	100	10716	100	15366	100	17418	100	22822	100

TABLE 3: ESTIMATED POPULATION GROWTH OF NORTH COAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	EST. POP'N GROWTH JULY 1986 - JUNE 1992		EST. POP'N GROWTH JULY 1989 - JUNE 1990 (POP.MON.12)		EST. POP'N GROWTH JULY 1990 - JUNE 1991 (POP.MON.13)		EST. POP'N GROWTH JULY 1991 - JUNE 1992 (POP.MON.14)	
	Number	% PA	Number	% PA	Number	% PA	Number	% PA
Ballina	5 190	3.3	1 200	4.5	770	2.8	570	2.0
Bellingen	1 060	1.7	270	2.5	160	1.5	150	1.3
Byron	3 350	2.9	910	4.6	440	2.1	430	2.0
Casino	- 80	- 0.1	30	0.3	20	0.2	- 10	- 0.1
Coffs Harbour	7 590	2.8	2 100	4.6	1 100	2.3	570	1.2
Copmanhurst	700	2.7	170	4.0	150	3.4	130	2.8
Grafton	- 170	- 0.2	- 50	- 0.3	0	0	10	0.1
(Greater Grafton)	(420)	(0.3)	(N/A)	(N/A)	(80)	(0.4)	(100)	(0.5)
Hastings	5 660	2.2	1 680	3.9	850	1.9	960	2.1
Kempsey	1 820	1.3	570	2.4	380	1.6	370	1.5
Kyogle	530	0.9	180	1.9	80	0.8	50	0.5
Lismore	2 670	1.2	510	1.3	920	2.4	430	1.1
Macleay	2 410	3.3	590	4.8	360	2.8	380	2.9
Nambucca	2 890	3.1	690	4.4	400	2.5	730	4.4
Nymboida	750	3.7	150	4.4	120	3.4	120	3.3
Richmond River	680	1.4	150	1.9	140	1.8	170	2.1
Tweed	11 890	4.0	2 320	4.6	1 930	3.7	1830	3.4
Ulmarra	610	2.0	160	3.2	80	1.5	100	1.9
NORTH COAST REGION	47 550	2.3	11 630	3.4	7 900	2.2	6 990	1.9

Notes: * The figures for "Greater Grafton" comprise the City of Grafton plus an area around the City within a radius of approximately 65 kilometres. It includes the satellite dormitory suburbs/villages of Junction Hill in Copmanhurst Shire, Waterview Heights and Courtts Crossing in Nymboida Shire and Ulmarra in Ulmarra Shire. The North Coast Region totals do not include the "Greater Grafton" populations because the entire local government areas of Grafton, Copmanhurst, Nymboida and Ulmarra are already included in this total.

N/A means data not available.

APPENDIX 5

HOUSING - BYRON SHIRE 1991 ABS CENSUS (PRELIMINARY FIRST COUNT)

	OCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS	CARAVANS IN CARAVAN PARKS	UNOCCUPIED PRIVATE DWELLINGS	NON-PRIVATE DWELLINGS	TOTAL DWELLINGS
BYRON BAY	1561	193	287	25	2066
SUFFOLK PARK	426	27	79	4	536
BANGALOW	277	0	16	4	297
MULLUMBIMBY	962	0	75	8	1045
OCEAN SHORES	919	0	103	4	1026
BRUNSWICK HDS	590	174	80	8	852
NEW BRIGHTON	113	0	58	0	171
STH GOLD BCH	259	0	34	0	293
RURAL NORTH	1489	36	200	0	1725
RURAL SOUTH	1084	102	102	0	1288
TOTAL	7680	532	1034	53	9299

APPENDIX 6

BYRON SHIRE

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Buttery
Lismore Road
BINNA BURRA

Residential rehabilitation for people with addiction problems.

Home Care Service
Jonson Street
BYRON BAY

Funded through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program. It offers practical assistance to frail and aged people with disabilities and families in crisis.

Ballina-Byron Family
Support Service
Moon Street
BALLINA

An information and referral service for families with dependant children whose capacity to support themselves is limited.

Respite Care Service
Treelands Crescent
BALLINA

Funded through HACC. The Service is based in Ballina, but covers Byron Shire. It gives relief to carers of the frail, aged and young people with disabilities by relieving them of their caring role for short periods of time.

Ballina/Byron
Disability Service
(Community Workers)
River Street
BALLINA

Funded by the Department of Community Services: 2 Community Workers (Mullumbimby)
2 Area Workers
4 Accommodation Support Services
Workers deal with people of any age with a developmental disability. There is some direct and indirect client work. They link in with the Education Department through the schools, Home and Community Care, Early Intervention Service (based in Ballina), Skillshare, Department of Health, Housing and Community Services (Federal Department). This service is based in Ballina but services Byron Shire.

Home Modification &
Maintenance Service

Funded through H.A.C.C and serviced 175 clients in 91/92 year.

Department of Social
Security

Trained Social Workers are available to help people in crisis. Two full-time workers are available to provide advice about the Department's Services and other services such as financial counselling.

APPENDIX 7

EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS - 1992 ENROLMENTS

SCHOOL	ENROLMENTS
1. Billinudgel	299
2. Byron Bay	473
3. Byron High	734
4. Bangalow	202
5. Brunswick Heads	177
6. Coopers Creek	34
7. Coorabell	67
8. Durrumbul	64
9. Eureka	119
10. Goonengerry	37
11. Main Arm	62
12. Mullumbimby High	942
13. Mullumbimby Primary	371
14. The Pocket	49
15. Wilsons Creek	95

NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS - 1992 ENROLMENTS

SCHOOL	ENROLMENTS
1. Mullumbimby Convent School 11 Murwillumbah Road, Mullumbimby	170
2. North Coast Christian Community School Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby	69
3. Seventh Day Adventists Primary Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby	37
4. Mullumbimby Christian School Stuart Street, Mullumbimby	10
5. Cape Byron Rudolph Steiner School Balrath Lane, Ewingsdale (Kindergarten to Grade 4)	145
6. Byron Community Primary School 53 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay (looking for land so as to expand to 60 students)	45
7. St Finbarr's Convent School (Ruskin Street, Byron Bay)	240
<hr/>	
* Primary Enrolments 1992	2049
* Projected Primary Enrolments 1997	2236
* Secondary Enrolments 1992	1676
* Projected Secondary Enrolments 1996	1799
(From Alison Taylor - Department of School Education)	

*** * * * * ***

ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT FUNDED EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. Byron Adult Education Group

Non-accredited, short-term courses offered at various venues throughout Byron Bay and Bangalow. Funded by the New South Wales Board of Adult and Community Education (B.A.C.E.) Based in the Community Centre, Byron Bay.

2. Mullumbimby Adult Learning Association

Non-accredited, short-term courses offered at venues throughout the north of the Shire. Funded by the New South Wales Board of Adult and Community Education (B.A.C.E.), based in the Cultural Centre, Mullumbimby.

3. Technical & Further Education (T.A.F.E)

Limited courses are offered in Byron Bay through the Ballina T.A.F.E. Courses are offered in Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby through the Murwillumbah T.A.F.E. The courses only run if there is enough interest.

APPENDIX 8

PRE-SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	ENROLMENTS
1. Bangalow Community Pre-School - Deakin Street, Bangalow	106 (approx - (waiting list for 3 year olds)
2. Byron Bay Pre-School Kindergarten Kingsley Street, Byron Bay Cavanbah, Marvel Street, Byron Bay	100 (always waiting list for 3 year olds)
3. Mullumbimby Community Pre-School 133 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby (to be moved to Fern Station)	60 (waiting list)
4. Wilsons Creek Pre-School Assoc. Wilsons Creek Road, Wilsons Creek	25 (Mon-Tue-Wed) (waiting list for 3 year olds)
5. Billinudgel Community Pre-School Shara Boulevarde, North Ocean Shores	75 (40-50 on list)
6. Brunswick Community Pre-School Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads	40 (waiting list)
7. Federal Pre-School Binna Burra Road, Federal	54 (licenced for 25 per day - no day has this)
8. Cobbers' Pre-School (Private) Gordon Street, Mullumbimby	
9. Durrumbul Community Pre-School Main Arm Road, Durrumbul.	40 (4 waiting)
10. Periwinkle - A Rudolf Steiner Pre-School (Private) Sunrise Boulevarde, Byron Bay	36-38 (not Wed) (40 waiting list)

DAYCARE

1. Ballina/Byron Family Daycare
Cherry Street, Ballina
27 carers
operating in
Shire
2. Lorna's Place (Private)
122 Paterson Street, Byron Bay
5 children per day
(3 families)
3. Toddlers Inn Occasional Care Centre
Masonic Hall, Fletcher Lane,
Byron Bay
100 - 15/day
(can only take 2
children under 2
per day)
4. Vacation Care (During Holidays)
Byron Bay Community Centre
Jonson Street, Byron Bay

APPENDIX 9

BYRON SHIRE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

JUNE, 1992

ATTENDANCE:

Bert De Luca, Douglas Elliot, Marcia White, Danni Benton, Ron Thompson, Gayle Hultgreen, David Lawson, Cr. G. James, Sharon Gray, Beryl Wilson, Alan Blake, Heather Parker, Julie Williams, Fasha Steen, Karen Armstrong, Mick Maloney, Ruth Winton-Brown, Denise Robinson, Rohena Duncombe, Ann McCabe, Dr. Brian Pezzutti, D. Robertson, Peter Wynn-Moylan, Jane Anderson, Bruce Francis, Wilma Graham, Hazel Amor, R.D. Johnston, Mal Waller, Ken O'Brien, Brian Shultz, Sharon Burstall, Olive Legge, Alok O'Brien, Melissa Armstrong, Wendy Boyd, Judith Shelley, Jenny Hicks, Jenny Johnson, Karen Moyle, Alan Riordan, Ross Phillips, Shelley Bourke, Peter Hamilton, Jill Keogh, Bernie O'Neill, M. Summers, B. Allen, Marg Andrews, Richard Cary, Lynel Nicholson, Lorna Landers, Lynne Stephens, Penny Chapman, Michelle Vogel, Joan Passlow, Ann Burnett, Dee Rosborough, Julie Shepherd, Councillor Ian Kingston, Jenni Quane, Jane I'ons, Garry Bargh, Pauline McElvey.

Tricia Shantz opened the meeting and outlined her role as Community Project Officer (C.P.O.). She also gave a brief overview of the Area Assistance Scheme.

Shire President, Ian Kingston addressed the meeting outlining the benefits for the community through A.A.S. He stated Council's three elected representatives to the Local Ranking Committee: Councillor Bob Higgins, Councillor Gwyn James, Councillor Ian Kingston, with Ms. Susie Shepherd as Council employee.

Vicki St. Lawrence, Regional Co-ordinator of the North Coast Area Assistance Scheme elaborated on the A.A.S., stating that the role of the C.P.O. was also a developmental role to enable groups working in isolation to keep in contact or share information.

As a whole group, the following needs and issues were identified for Byron Shire and were subsequently workshopped in individual groups. These are in no order of importance.

- * Cultural facilities (space for performers and arts centre).
- * Children's services (pre-school, occasional care, early intervention, family day care).
- * Aged, women (crisis centre), men, disability (access to services).
- * Youth activities (sporting, recreation, cultural, emotional support).

- * Transport (lack of public transport).
- * Housing (lack of affordable low income public housing).
- * Unemployment (and resultant welfare needs).
- * Community development (information exchange, co-operation, lack of communication and interaction network).

When the group re-formed nominations for community representation on the Local Ranking Committee were called for.

The nominees were:-

Danni Benton
 Jenny Hicks
 Sharon Burstall
 Jayne I'ons
 Beryl Allen
 Peter Wynn-Moylan
 Melissa Armstrong
 Judith Shelley
 Jenny Johnston.

The following were elected representatives:-

Danni Benton
 Melissa Armstrong
 Jenny Johnson
 Jenny Hicks.

The meeting closed at 1.00 p.m.