

which (as far as we can tell) is telling us for months that the flood has been stemmed, the tide has turned, the hordes have been repulsed, and so forth. The decision to con- for individual MPs, guided by their own consciences and also by a ferocious and vindictive campaign led by the Vatican. John Howard's conscience really would have to step in. Her name, incidentally, is Janette.

# Council's settlement strategy stalled

Byron Shire Councillors were unable to reach a decision on adopting the Settlement Strategy for Byron Bay and Suffolk Park at their meeting on Tuesday last week.

Legal advice provided by consultant John Mant has indicated that Planning NSW requires a Local Environment Study (LES) to be prepared as an interim step to producing a new LEP (Local Environment Plan).

Part 3 of the EP & A Act has detailed provisions on how a LEP or DCP should be made. For a LEP Council usually has to prepare an Environmental Study (LES) before exhibiting a draft set of controls. Mr Mant says in his advice, 'Council chose to go down the path of preparing a land release strategy as part of its Town or Village Settlement Strategies. Apparently, it was

decided to use this non-statutory process rather than the Part 3 statutory process to involve the community in the future planning controls for the existing urban areas, as well as to consider any proposed rezonings from non-urban to urban use.

'I cannot comment on the reasons for this, but I repeat that the process used by Council to prepare the Town and Village Settlement Strategies is no substitute for the Part 3 process to change the actual wording of the controls in a LEP or DCP.'

He goes on to say, 'Council is currently operating in a less intensive development climate than may otherwise be expected due to the continuation of the "sewerage moratorium". A small window of opportunity in 2001 made it obvious that there are large

developments in various stages of planning, waiting in the wings, which would be lodged were it not for the restricted sewerage treatment capacity.

'It is expected that the new sewerage [sic] treatment plant will be commissioned at West Byron in late 2003. It should not be assumed that all applicants will wait patiently until capacity is physically available before they lodge their DA.

'Based on community consultation during the development of the Byron Bay and Suffolk Park Settlement Strategy, it is apparent that the existing LEP will not serve the community well if it

is still in place when sewerage capacity becomes available. More time is available in the other areas experiencing sewerage restrictions (Brunswick Heads, Mullumbimby and Bangalow) as the upgrading works for their respective STPs are not likely to occur until 2004.

'A new shire-wide LEP is almost certainly unachievable in the time available. New planning controls for Byron Bay and Suffolk Park must therefore be delivered either through amendment of the current LEP or through a new locality based LEP.'

The issue has now been deferred to Council's ordinary meeting on April 16.

## Training day for Mullum SES

The Mullumbimby branch of the State Emergency Service (SES) reports a good turnout to its training last month and hopes that good working crews can be formed for Mullum and Byron Bay units.

The next training morning is on Sunday April 14 at 9.30am at the old Council depot in Tunnel Road, Mullumbimby. Focus on general rescue, new members always welcome.

<p><u>Sydney</u></p> <p><u>Brisbane</u></p> <p><u>Melbourne</u></p> <p> Northern Rivers Gateway</p>	<p><b>"Dingo Blues"</b></p> <p>Looking for a new internet provider? reliable &amp; friendly service? Want to support the local economy? We're doing our bit, are you?</p> <p><b>Northern Rivers Gateway</b></p> <p><b>6622 3488</b></p> <p><b><a href="mailto:admin@nrg.com.au">admin@nrg.com.au</a></b></p> <p>(Byron Shire's longest established local ISP)</p>
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P.T.O.

having spent much of his life painting sets for TV, murals, and producing all manner of professional works. Kell Doley, 17, watched her dad paint from the time she was born, and has won many accolades in art for her short highly talented painters and this is their first combined exhibition, so don't miss it. There will be some of that excellent coffee, free from Espressohead, as well as food and wine, altogether a great night out.

## Council approves SAE DA

At a special meeting last Thursday, Byron Shire Council approved the SAE development application following a successful rescission motion on the approval.

A new motion to give approval with an additional consent condition to limit the operating hours of the college component got up instead. This was seen to be appropriate by the Council-

lors to protect the residential amenity of the adjacent 2(a) residential area of Sunrise Beach.

'Despite my lack of support for the process for the SAE and concerns about various aspects of the proposed development I gave support to add in the condition for operating hours,' Cr Jan Barham said in a press release on Monday.

## Funds for ag strategy

'Council was successful in accessing additional funding assistance for the Byron Sustainable Agriculture Strategy,' said Mayor Tom Wilson in a press release last week..

'The development of this strategy is being undertaken with a \$20,000 grant from the Natural Heritage Trust, which has now been matched with equal funding from the Lismore Living Centres Project of Planning NSW.

'Council is grateful to Planning NSW for making the funding available and looks forward to working with them to deliver the strategy,' the mayor added. 'It is likely that the Byron Sustainable Agriculture Strategy will be used by Lismore Living Centres for the development of their Northern Rivers Strategic Plan for Rural Lands.

'Council will now appoint a project consultant and a project steering committee to prepare the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy, the development of which will rely on an extensive consultative and facilitation processes with relevant stakeholders to develop best practice land management guidelines for rural landholders in Byron Shire.'

For further information contact Hank Bower on 6626 7135.

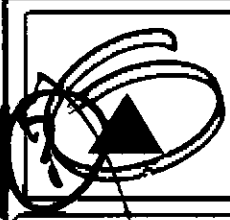
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services, at Byron Shire Council on 6626 7000.



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