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Fresh News

Dr Rosemary Stanton



Natural nutrients

by Dr Rosemary Stanton

The recent problem with some supplements makes it a useful time to take a fresh look at natural sources of nutrients.

Australian foods can easily provide all the nutrients most people need. The quality of produce is a good guide to vitamin content and if the spinach is wilting or you can bend the carrots in the bottom of your fridge, lots of vitamins will have leached out.

The best methods of cooking vegetables to preserve vitamins are microwaving, steaming or stir-frying. Boiling leads to greater losses. Some vitamins are lost in cooking, however, so don't forget to include raw vegetables as salads.

Fruits are rich sources of nutrients, including vitamin C. We're lucky that so many citrus fruits come into season during the winter months, right when their vitamin C and bioflavonoids are especially useful.

Organically grown products usually contain similar levels of vitamins to conventional products, but a recent study found that organic products have higher quantities of some antioxidants. These compounds act as natural pesticides for the plant and when plants are sprayed with artificial pesticides, they make less of their own valuable compounds. A similar thing occurs when we take some supplements and our bodies cut back on their own production of the same substances.

Fruits and vegetables are great sources of vitamin C and the carotenoids; sprinkle some extra wheatgerm on your porridge or wholegrain cereal for more vitamin E and many of the B complex vitamins and for calcium, try low-fat dairy products or calcium-enriched soy beverages. Fresh fish, meats and poultry also contribute many important nutrients.

'The Fresh Food People'
WOOLWORTHS

Greens propose direct freight service

The Queensland Greens have proposed a direct intermodal rail freight service between northern New South Wales and the port of Brisbane.

With the takeover of the former Northern Rivers Railway at Casino by Queensland Rail, the Greens consider that there are real opportunities for better rail freight services in the area currently served by the Casino-Murwillumbah line.

'Ideally, intermodal rail freight centres would be established at Lismore, Casino and Murwillumbah, to enable QR to run a regular rail freight service several days a week, augmenting the existing trains carrying fly ash', a spokesperson for the Greens, Rod Milne said.

'Currently, the Murwillumbah line carries very little of the district's freight, despite serving several major regional centres in NSW, Murwillumbah being the southern rail head for the large and rapidly growing Gold Coast urban conurbation', Mr Milne added.

The Greens consider that the availability of direct standard gauge rail access to the port of Brisbane at Fisherman Islands should encourage greater use of this mode for containerised export freight.

'The road transport industry in this country is subsidised to the tune of at least \$7 billion annually, and there are major environmental benefits in shifting freight from

road to rail haulage, even for short hauls such as from Lismore', Mr Milne said.

'It is high time that our governments, and operators like Queensland Rail, took bold and creative steps to make our rail system more vibrant', Mr Milne said.

The Greens consider that Murwillumbah should function as the major interstate rail head for the Gold Coast area, providing a conduit to all the other mainland states.

'Currently, only one tonne in every five tonnes of freight travelling between Brisbane and Sydney goes by rail, and the modal share for rail transport is even worse than that at Lismore and Murwillumbah', Mr Milne concluded.

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It's those naughty Councillors

From front page

then the only comment I would make about it is that she became too involved in the politics rather than the administrative processes required of the general manager,' Cr Tardif said.

Of Ms Read's departure, Mayor Tom Wilson said last week, 'I am disappointed that Council and the community is losing such a dedicated professional.

'The general manager has made a significant difference to Council's overall performance and its standing in the eyes of the community and dare I say the Department of Local Government. I wish her the very best and fully respect her decision to leave.'

Ms Read said, 'I believe much has been achieved during my time at Byron Shire. Council is now well positioned to make a real difference for the residents.

'I thank particularly the Mayor and the staff for their unwavering support.'

Ms Read has repeatedly declined to discuss her reasons for resigning, saying they were private.

Councillors were due to discuss the recruitment process for a new general manager in confidential session last Monday.

■ **Attitude, page 5**

SUPPORT SERVICES

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The main Hospital access is from Uralba Street where limited car parking is available.

The main Entrance forecourt is small and has limited spaces.

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THE BYRON SHIRE ECHO

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'Dysfunctional Councillors' the problem, says Gay

Eve Sinton

Reacting to general manager Robyn Read's resignation, shadow local government minister Duncan Gay said on a visit to Mullumbimby last week that Byron Shire Council has 'an underlying problem with dysfunctional Councillors that has gone across a number of general managers. This is less than helpful to the local community and has been a concern for some time.'

Mr Gay, who has been vociferously critical of Council in the past, said, 'During the current general manager's reign there was a genuine attempt to improve, with a degree of success. Most local government people will regret her leaving.'

He said his recent meetings with the current mayor and general manager have been helpful, and wished Council well in getting a new general manager.

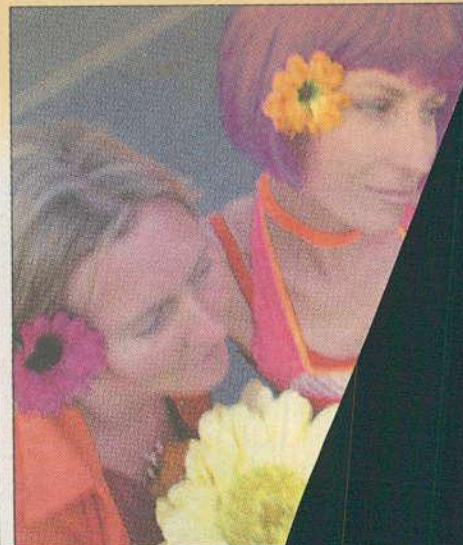
After closely following Mr Gay's public utterances, Cr Bob Tardif told *The Echo*, 'With the departure of Robyn Read the word "dysfunctional" has recently leapt into the vocabulary of Byron Shire residents and other interested parties such as Duncan Gay. For the casual observer this could well be a understandable observation.'

'However, before passing judgement on the Council it should be understood that its make-up is in fact a reflection of the views of the

community. The current Council can be roughly seen as 50% green or environmentally concerned, 30% pro development at any cost and 20% pragmatic.

'It's this final 20% prag-

Hug me like the



You'll never regret it, I finally say.

Then I reach across the table, squeeze my daughter's hand and offer a silent prayer for her, and for me, and for all the mere mortal women who stumble their way into this most wonderful of callings.

GEOFF BATEMAN
Capeen.

A mother's love

I RECEIVED the following thought-provoking and wonderful expression of a mother's love and dedication from an acquaintance and thought it worthwhile sharing:

We are sitting at lunch one day when my daughter casually mentions that she and her husband are thinking of starting a family.

"We're taking a survey", she says half-joking. "Do you think I should have a baby?"

"It will change your life," I say, carefully keeping my tone neutral. "I know," she says, "No more sleeping in on weekends, no more spontaneous vacations."

But that is not what I meant at all. I want her to know what she will never learn in childbirth classes. I want to tell her that the physical wounds of child bearing will heal, but becoming a mother will leave her with an emotional wound so raw that she will forever be vulnerable.

I consider warning her that she will never again read about disasters in a newspaper without asking, "What if that had been MY child?"

That when she sees pictures of starving children, she will wonder if anything could be worse than watching her child die.

I look at her carefully manicured nails and stylish suit and think that no matter

how sophisticated she is, becoming a mother will reduce her to the primitive level of a bear protecting her cub.

That an urgent call of 'Mum!' will cause her to drop a soufflé or best crystal without a moment's hesitation.

I want my daughter to know that everyday decisions will no longer be routine. That a five-year-old boy's desire to go to the men's room rather than the women's at McDonald's will become a major dilemma.

That right there, in the midst of clattering trays and screaming children, issues of independence and gender identity will become all important.

Further, as her child grows, that a Mother's love never diminishes. She will share the frustrations and sometimes painful process of personality development.

There will be many times when heart-wrenching decisions have to be made and, there will be times when her offspring will not understand that love prompts these difficult decisions.

However decisive she may be at the office, she will second-guess herself constantly as a mother and that her life, now so important, will be of less value to her once she has a child.

I want to describe to my daughter the exhilaration of seeing your child learn to ride a bike.

I want to capture for her the belly laugh of a baby who is touching the soft fur of a dog or cat for the first time. I want her to taste the joy that is so real it actually hurts.

My daughter's quizzical look makes me realise that tears have formed in my eyes.

■ Continued next page

Beach butts under fire

Campaign draws a line in the sand

By WENDY FITZGIBBON

FIRST they were banned from dining areas in pubs and clubs, and now smokers are being told to get their butts off the beach — cigarette butts, that is.

A campaign aimed at preventing cigarette butt littering was launched at Coogee beach last week by Sydney Coastal Councils Group chairperson Patricia Harvey.

Cr Harvey said the 16 member councils recognised the significant problem of cigarette butt littering.

"Cigarette butts are a big aesthetic and water-quality problem," she said.

"Due to their abundance and small size, cigarette butts are making it to our beaches.

"Nicotine is poisonous not only to humans but aquatic animals as well."

Cr Harvey also launched a resource package for local government which aims to educate the community that dropping a cigarette butt is littering, environmentally damaging and aesthetically degrading.

The package includes some enforcement ideas, educational



■ No butts about it: Sydney Coastal Councils Group chairperson Patricia Harvey, Clean Up Australia chairperson Ian Kiernan, Randwick mayor Dominic Sullivan and Keep Australia Beautiful NSW CEO Matthew Taylor.

Photo: CRAIG WILSON

projects, stickers and coasters.

The launch was attended by Clean Up Australia chairperson Ian Kiernan and Keep Australia Beautiful NSW chief executive Matthew Taylor.

Mr Kiernan described cigarette butts as an "insidious pest".

"Cigarette butts have been an issue of concern for Clean Up Australia since its inception in 1989," he said.

"On Clean Up Australia Day, the most common item collected has been the cigarette butt."

Over the next month, the 16

member councils of the group, including Waverley, Randwick and South Sydney, will be cracking down on cigarette litterers with a Cigarette Littering Prevention Blitz.

The councils will be giving out \$60 fines for dropping a cigarette butt and a \$200 fine for dropping a lit cigarette butt, even from a moving car.

The councils also produced the disturbing statistic that every year about nine billion cigarette butts are thrown away in NSW alone — enough to fill seven Olympic-sized pools.

BN 25.7.67

Byron Shire

The Scout knows you've all been hanging out for this vital piece of information - last year's Census puts the population of the Byron Shire at 29,556, up from the 26,620 counted in the 1996 Census.



BN 25.7.02

Dogs

The Scout was interested to read a Press release from the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding **dogs** in the new Arakwal National Parks. If any rangers had ventured to **Broken Head** last weekend they would have had a field day. While out in the surf enjoying some waves at Broken point on Saturday, The Scout saw a woman with a couple of dogs on the beach and on Sunday saw a couple up on the headland with three dogs. Dogs on the beach at Broken are not that uncommon.

3029/8/62

walkers on a number of different beaches including Tallow Beach. Information on the new regulations and animal exercise areas is being widely distributed by council.

Thirdly, dogs attacking birds is not the main problem. The very presence of dogs near roosting and nesting areas is observably distressing to birds. Anyone who watched David Attenborough's 'Life of Birds' will know that they have a very delicate balance between energy input and expenditure. One stressful incident may start an irreversible downward spiral for a bird. That 'seagull' a dog is chasing may be an endangered Little Tern, just flown in from Siberia.

Fourthly, it would seem to be obvious that we have trashed our living space in the last 200 years to a degree that the locals didn't achieve in in thousands of years. It is our responsibility to start to address that fact.

Fifthly, whatever else the recalcitrant dog owners are, they are not drongos. There is only one Australian species of drongos - Dicruris Hottentottis, the Spangled Drongo. Its acrobatic displays are a common sight around our hilltops. It has a distinctive profile, with a strong flash of deep, deep green on its wings. By nature it is both friendly and fearlessly protective of its habitat. In fact it is a most worthy candidate for our community's emblem.

Finally, a huge congratulations to those dog owners who have adjusted to the new

regulations. For some this has come with much anguish and sacrifice. Thank you.

Paul Everingham
Byron Bay

Call to protect Whian Whian from logging

The conservation group that started the historic Terania Creek protest has called on Premier Bob Carr to finalise the protection of the whole of Whian Whian State Forest as a National Park.

The Terania Native Forest Action Group says that 'Whian Whian has paid its dues to society by being heavily logged for many years.

'It now needs to be allowed to fulfill its other du-

ties as a critically important water catchment and as habitat for one of the highest concentrations of threatened species on the continent. Most importantly, it is also an extremely significant Aboriginal cultural area.'

Spokesperson Nan Nicholson said the state government has unreasonably delayed the protection of this north coast icon and the National Party's Larry Anthony has reneged on his pre-elec-

tion promise to push for its protection. The area of Whian Whian that remains under State Forest control continues to be threatened by logging and proposed mining exploration.

'It is vital that management of this internationally important area is unified under National Park control and that it is not locked up for the benefit of logging and mining companies,' Ms Nicholson said. 'The social,

financial and environmental benefits that would flow from the creation of Whian Whian National Park.'

Environmental campaigners are urging residents to contact Mr Anthony, Ballina MP Don Page and Mr Carr and call on them to protect Whian Whian.

Mr Anthony's number is Freecall 1800 812 125 or 07 5524 2466, fax 07 5524 9366, mail PO Box 1001, Tweed Heads NSW 2485.

Ref 11-6-07

Concern over sandmining proposal

The state's peak environment group has expressed concern about reports state cabinet was considering a proposal that could allow sandmining within NSW marine parks.

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) said the plan, currently before state cabinet, had been devised as a stopgap measure to protect beachside residences at Byron Bay from naturally occurring erosion at Belongil Beach, at public expense.

The Byron Bay proposal involves countering the beachfront effects of erosion

with sand mined from within the proposed boundaries of the Cape Byron Marine Park. This would require an amendment to the NSW Marine Parks Act, allowing sandmining for the purposes of 'beach nourishment', which NCC said could open up other marine parks to a host of environmentally damaging sandmining operations.

NCC executive officer Kathy Ridge said the proposal undermined the integrity of protected marine areas. 'Neither the environment nor the public should bear the cost of protecting the value of beachside properties from a naturally occurring phenomenon.

'The gradual northward movement of sand along Belongil Beach cannot be stopped by constantly piling

imported sand on top of old car wrecks, sandbags and metal spikes that have been put there by residents and the Council to try and keep the beach in place.

'This proposal would see an open-ended procession of barges dumping sand on the beach at great public expense, without any real knowledge of the environmental effects within the Cape Byron Marine Park itself.

'In 1995 the then Opposition leader Bob Carr committed his party to opposing any new mining in sensitive coastal areas, of which Cape Byron Marine Park is a perfect example. There is no plausible scientific or environmental reason for this stance to change,' Mr Ridge concluded.

Sewerage upgrade go-ahead

Byron Council has finally given the go-ahead for a vital upgrade of the West Byron Bay sewage treatment plant.

At a special meeting on Tuesday, the council adopted an amendment put up by mayor, Cr Tom Wilson to upgrade the works to a 6.95 megalitre a day (ML/day) plant - the same capacity favoured by Greens councillors - but with added safeguards.

Under Cr Wilson's amendment, an investigation of the environmental impacts of a plant bigger than 6.95 ML/day will be carried out.

There also will be an investigation of the impact of festivals on the plant.

Cr Wilson yesterday said the adoption of his amendment meant there would be no disparity between the population growth that would come from the Byron Settlement Strategy and the size of the new plant.

He said he had proposed at last week's meeting that the council reduce

the population growth in the settlement strategy as a means of finding a solution to what was a long-standing problem, but it had been blocked by the Greens.

It would have been totally irresponsible to proceed to build the plant while there was a mismatch between the figures, he said.

"Council's professional advice indicates that it is highly likely that we will reach the current settlement strategies predicted growth quickly and a 6.95ML/d plant will not cope with the load," he said.

"I believe the only responsible thing to do is to make the population growth and the 6.95ML plant capacity match and we do that by tailoring population growth."

Greens councillor, Jan Barham, said yesterday she was happy and relieved with the outcome.

Cr Barham said the decision would guarantee the protection of Belongil Creek

and would still deliver significant development growth.

She said the settlement strategy that was advertised in 2001 could be implemented within the 6.95 ML/day plant capacity.

Cr Barham said the recent Census figures for 1996 to 2001 confirmed there had been 3.1% growth in permanent residents per year.

She said there was the capacity for 3.1% growth in permanent population for 15 years. There also was capacity for a growth in tourism, at more than 3% growth.

The calls for a bigger plant meant more development, she said. Residents of this area deserved to have their quality of life respected, especially when they endured the impacts of tourism with such a generous, tolerance.

Cr Hugh Ermacora who described last week's vote as a "recipe for polluting the environment", on Tuesday pushed unsuccessfully for an 8ML/day plant.

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(1. Belch et al.)



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Bereavement

When someone close to you dies it can be hard to know where to turn for help and advice. Along with the trauma of losing a loved one, the family has to cope with finalising the person's affairs. Centrelink can help with valuable information, advice and financial support.

Centrelink should be contacted as soon as possible because a person's death doesn't just have a profound emotional impact. It may also have implications in terms of associated changing circumstances and payments.

Centrelink customers may be entitled to assistance following a bereavement. The assistance available depends on the type of payment the bereaved is receiving and their relationship to the deceased (for example, partner, carer, parent or guardian). If the bereaved person is not receiving a payment, he or she should contact Centrelink to establish whether there may be an entitlement to bereavement allowance. This allowance is paid to assist recently widowed persons without children.

A number of different provisions apply to cases of bereavement and it is therefore important that people contact Centrelink for information on assistance that may be available.

Centrelink has other services besides payments. The assistance of its social workers is available to bereaved persons having particular difficulties coping with their loss. They can offer support and counselling, and can organise referrals to other services if warranted. Centrelink's Financial Information Service can also provide financial information to bereaved persons who are affected by changed financial circumstances.

To assist bereaved persons, Centrelink has prepared a comprehensive booklet entitled *Are you needing help after someone has died?* It contains useful information and includes a list of organisations which relatives may need to notify of the death. Copies are available from Centrelink Customer Service Centres, or by calling 13 2300. The booklet can also be viewed at the Centrelink website at www.centrelink.gov.au ■

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How to spot a financial scam

From the Australian Securities and Investments Commission

While the vast majority of investments are legitimate, there are a number of financial scams affecting Australians. Do you know how to spot the clues? Here are some tips.

It looks real

Scams that catch people often look realistic and are presented professionally. Scammers often go to a lot of trouble to:

- print attractive documents and set up a business-like website;
- choose names that sound like reputable companies;
- tell a persuasive story using the right jargon; and/or
- mention names of people you know to build your trust.

The clues

Bigger and faster profits than real investments.

Scams always offer a higher return than genuine investments. Some offer 20% a year, others go for 300% a year or even more. **It's too good to be true.** By comparison, Australian shares are some of the most successful investments, and their value has grown about 7.9% p.a. over the long term.

Less risk, less effort than real investments.

Most scams say that financial success is easy and risk isn't a problem. But real wealth demands careful planning and effort. Even regular investors

have to weather market volatility.

Something special that genuine investments don't offer. It could be a 'secret' offer, 'inside information' or 'new techniques'. There's always some feature to make you feel like you've got an edge over other people. But chances are it's a fairytale—and it won't have a happy ending.

More urgent than the real thing. Every scam

gets dressed up as an opportunity, so scammers often say 'don't miss out' and 'act quickly' to make you hurry 'before it's too late'. They're really just trying to grab your money before you have a chance to check properly.

Offered by a stranger.

Many scams come from overseas, through unsolicited email or surprise phone calls. Others get sold through



'wealth creation' seminars or on the grapevine. While the people can sound genuine, they rarely have any real credentials, such as an Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) licence to give advice or sell financial products.

How to protect yourself

Always use Australian businesses that have an ASIC licence to sell financial products or give financial advice. Visit the ASIC consumer website FIDO at www.fido.asic.gov.au or call ASIC on 1300 300 630 to check for free. ■

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Mature Age and Partner Allowance changes

IMPORTANT

The Government has announced changes to Mature Age and Partner Allowance that may affect any new claims, including those by partners under age pension age.

From 20 September 2003, claims will no longer be granted under the Mature Age Allowance and Partner Allowance provisions. Instead, other payments, paid at the same rate, will be available—this will usually be Newstart Allowance.

If your partner currently gets either Mature Age or Partner Allowance, there will be **no change to their payments as long as these payments remain current**. Should your partner's payments stop after 20 September 2003, and they need income support from Centrelink again in the future, they will have to claim a different payment.

However, if your partner is planning to claim one of these payments, they must tell Centrelink that they intend to claim **by Friday 19 September 2003**. Telling Centrelink that they intend to claim will not guarantee that your partner will get this payment.

For more information about these changes, please call Centrelink on **13 2300**. ■

Older People's Reference Group

The Centrelink Older People's Reference Group met in Adelaide in April 2003. The Group discussed the services Centrelink provides to its older customers.

The meeting included a visit to





CAMPING SPECIALISTS: Noel Bailey of Bunyips Great Outdoor Centre is standing in front of a Great Outdoors Family Dome which is reduced by \$80 to \$299.

Specialists in outdoor gear

SHOP at Bunyips Great Outdoors Centre in Keen Street tomorrow as part of the Lismore city-wide stocktake sale.

Noel and Helen Bailey of Bunyips are pleased to take part in the big sale, opening their shop from 9am to 3pm tomorrow.

Outdoor clothing on special includes pure cotton Gondwana shirts for men. Normally priced at \$49.95, for tomorrow only the shirts will be reduced to half price — \$24.95.

If you're heading to the snowfields, you'll want to know Bunyips has high performance Polartec 200 fleece jackets in Gondwana brand reduced from \$149 down to \$99 for the duration of the sale.

These jackets suit both men and women.

The biggest family tent on display at Bunyips also is included in the sale. Normally retailing for \$1599, the Great Outdoors brand Colisium tent is reduced to \$1399 tomorrow only.

This New Zealand-made tent has a large bedroom, a large living room and a 2.4 metre awning at the front.

"The Sunday stocktake sale is generally a pretty good trading day," Noel said.

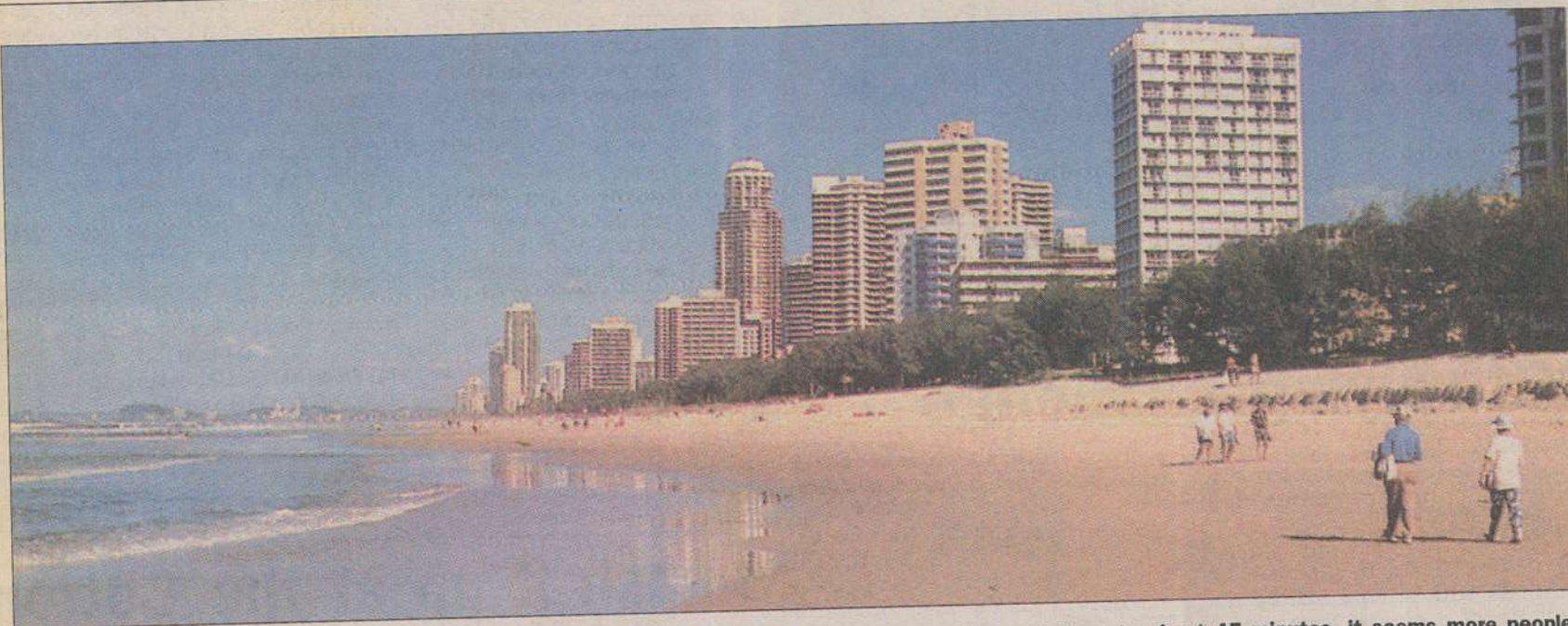
"We whack on plenty of specials so don't miss out if you want a bargain."

Picture: EMMA CAPP

A banner featuring a circular logo with "1 YEAR" and "20% OFF" in large, bold letters.

A banner with the text "The ever popular triarte" and a small image of people.

A banner with the word "FREE:" in large letters, followed by "Delivery within 30 km." and an image of a delivery truck.



JUST DOWN THE ROAD: With the new highway open and a trip between Byron and the Gold Coast down to about 45 minutes, it seems more people are visiting Byron than ever before.

Byron Bay: Newest Gold Coast suburb?

By KATE O'NEILL

Less than a month after the new Yelgun to Chinderah highway opened, Queenslanders appear to be flocking to Byron Bay in greater numbers than ever before.

And with a trip between Byron and the Gold Coast now slashed to about 45 minutes, some have even suggested Byron is 'just another suburb of the Gold Coast.'

On Sunday, the top end of

Jonson Street was buzzing, despite wet and cold conditions.

Queensland number plates were everywhere and the shops and cafes were busy all day.

Ask people where they were from and the Gold Coast/Brisbane was the overwhelming response.

"Business has definitely picked up," said Virginia McCoull a sister at Twisted Sista Cafe.

The cafe is busy year-round but, since the highway opened, she said trade was even better.

Other shop owners have also reported a boost in trade, mainly on the weekends.

In what is normally a quiet time of the year, they are enjoying the extra business.

At the Cape Byron Lighthouse, weekend visitor numbers are also up. Ranger Gina Baker said on International Lighthouse Day, a few weekends ago, tours of the lighthouse were filled to capacity all day. Most names in the visitor book were from the Gold Coast.

Carol and Brian Stockley of Sanctuary Cove were among those enjoying a day-trip to Byron on Sunday. The first-time visitors said they had spent the day browsing the shops, having lunch and taking in the scenery. They said that with the new section of highway open, they'd definitely be back.

"The highway is marvellous," said Carol.

Planning the way ahead

Michael McDonald

Byron Shire Council has found some way ahead after three years of work on a settlement strategy for Byron Bay and Suffolk Park. After three hours of debate last week, it voted 5-3 in favour of Cr Jan Barham's proposal, which will see concurrent preparation of an amendment to the 1988 LEP based on the density proposals contained in the 2001 settlement strategy and of a new place-based LEP for Byron Bay and Suffolk Park.

There are questions – notably on levels of land release and rezonings – surrounding the value of the 2001 strategy compared to the 2002 strategy. Residents will have another chance to comment when the documents go on public exhibition.

There are also questions on the timeline put up by staff for the concurrent completion of the amendment and place-based LEP. Some in the community with planning backgrounds suggest the process could move quicker. Whatever the case, legal advice obtained by PlanningNSW suggests the sewerage moratorium will be valid until the sewage treatment plant upgrade is running in 2004, so the planners will have to get their skates on.

In attempts to reject the value of Cr Barham's proposal, there was a remarkable sympathy in the aims of the Mayor and the general manager with those of Jo Gardner, the Planning NSW regional coordinator, who was at the meeting to present her department's view and offer advice to Councillors.

Some Councillors seemed to feel it is important to fall in with what PlanningNSW

bureaucrats want rather than represent the wishes of the community in formulating the settlement strategy. What bureaucrats want was not all that plain from Ms Gardner's addresses, which were long on rhetorical flourishes and short on



Attitude

cogent reasoning. In any case, she is about to be replaced by a new regional coordinator, Steve Murray, who may develop different interpretations of the way forward.

Ms Gardner took as her sword and shield the North Coast Regional Environment Plan (NCREP), the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy and the upcoming PlanFirst approach to state planning. The first is a statutory document, the second a feelgood statement of philosophy, and the third chiefly a glimmer in the planning minister's eye.

The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy has been described as 'a whole of region strategy which brings together in a single plan: land use planning, economic development, social and environmental management issues, to ensure that future growth

in the area is ecologically sustainable and based on the aspirations of its communities'. Like most strategies put together by peak bodies, it is supported by warm and fuzzy statements and, like Byron Shire's 'Greenprint', hard to defend on the ground. You might find its website (www.nrrs.org.au) temporarily out of order.

As for PlanFirst, it will be the case of the tail wagging the dog as councils such as Byron Shire's provide the templates in place-based LEPs from which Planning NSW can build up its regional approach. A spokesperson for the planning minister told me that it will take five years to have it up and running.

Ms Gardner's position on Cr Barham's LEP amendment proposal was that the NCREP does not allow a decrease in density, though in her same remarks she said the amendment 'wouldn't help you a lot in limiting growth'. So what's the problem? As far as I can see the NCREP makes no reference to a need to maintain or increase a specific density but section 43 does say a council 'shall not grant consent to development for residential purposes unless: (a) it is satisfied that the density of the dwellings have been maximised without adversely affecting the environmental features of the land'. Wasn't that one of the ideas behind the settlement strategy?

The NCREP seems to be an all-purpose grab-bag from which one can manufacture a position to suit the prevailing mood, which in Ms Gardner's case seemed to be chiefly the

need to 'satisfy demand'. Those wanting to form their own opinions on north coast planning can reach PlanningNSW online at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/ and can view the NCREP in all its labyrinthine glory at www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_reg/ncrep384/.

In the final analysis the value of any Byron Bay LEP will not be dependent solely upon Council's or PlanningNSW's opinion, but through its trial by fire in the courts. Well-paid lawyers will find loopholes and attempt to drive very large vehicles through them. Yet another round of tightening planning instruments in order to save what's left of our fragile environment will begin. It has been ever thus since roughly 10,000 BC to 8,000 BC, when the establishment of agriculture brought with it property rights, formalised around 2,000 BC in the likes of Shugli's Code, which at least provided some protection for the poor.

On another note, there was some emphasis at Council's meeting on the amount of work heaped upon its strategic planners, and there is certainly a case for more resources to be made available, preferably via the state government. But let's look at what our poorly-paid, necessarily part-time Councillors had ahead of them that night – a 300 page business paper, crammed with important decision-making. The workload is clearly preposterous for an under-resourced local representative body which bears the brunt of Macquarie Street's legislative output.

Further attacks on the Aboriginal Embassy

However, as white Australia has belatedly realised, the Aborigines are survivors, and persistent ones at that. The Embassy once more rose from the ashes, and successive governments since then have learnt to put up with it, though never very willingly. The campsite has been built up over the years, but it still stands out in the planned and spotless environment of the parliamentary city as a stark reminder of how far indigenous Australians have been left behind by their political masters.

Recently a cooking fire spread to one of the buildings and the local brigade had to be called. The Territories Minister, Wilson 'Ironbar' Tuckey pounced. The Embassy, he announced, was not only an eyesore and a health risk; it was now a serious safety hazard.

He showed his deep concern by cutting off the campsite's makeshift power supply, explaining sententiously that he didn't want to be responsible for any electrocutions. Later the same day two movable latrines were carted away, underlining Tuckey's health concerns. The next midnight blitz cannot be far away.

The operation was always

going to excite a suspicion of racism, but with Tuckey in charge the suspicion becomes a simple fact. Tuckey is probably (hopefully) the only member of the current parliament who has an actual criminal record involving Aborigines.

Twice before Tory ministers have called in the cops to remove what they see as both a challenge and a reproach to their authority.

by Mungo MacCallum

In his pre-parliamentary existence he owned a pub in Carnarvon which made a healthy living from a largely Aboriginal clientele. On one occasion a recalcitrant customer refused to leave when ordered to do so; in order to show the blackfella just who was boss Tuckey's brother held on to him while Tuckey himself whipped him around the face and head with a braided copper battery cable (hence the misnomer 'Ironbar'). Tuckey was subse-

quently tried and convicted for assault in the Perth Magistrate's Court.

When the incident was canvassed in parliament later he took a quiet pride in it; that was the kind of no-nonsense fellow he was. He proceeded to regale his col-



be an unexpected bonus. We can only hope that the cameras, both national and international, are ready to add his next move to the Howard government's bulging shame file.

So Nicholas Whitlam of the NRMA thinks his not very severe sentence for corporate fraud is actually an attempt to get at his illustrious father – another conspiracy from the right. If the family scion had the self-deprecation which always leavened his father's tendency to arrogance he would have realised that the reverse is the case; that his increasing megalomania has been excused and tolerated in the past simply out of regard and consideration for Gough and Margaret, however bumptious and insufferable it became.

But a conviction for outright fraud is something else. During his exile from the boardroom, young Nick might like to ponder the fact that his father too was prepared to put up with a lot from his ministers, but never direct dishonesty. Once that happened, they were out. Just like Nicholas, in fact.

Greenbelt septic campaigner dies

Lloyd Smith, campaigner for the Greenbelt septic system, died at the Pinehaven nursing home on August 12, aged 85. He moved there following the death of his beloved wife Sheila, a noted poet and staunch supporter of Lloyd's campaigns.

Formerly a Canadian health inspector, Lloyd became an avid campaigner



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REGIONAL COORDINATION PROGRAM
NORTH COAST
120 DALLEY STREET
LISMORE NSW 2480

File no: SPD 00291 / 2

**Proposed meeting of Northern Rivers Mayors and General Managers
with State Government Agencies – Wednesday, 26th July 2000, Wollongbar**
RSVP



WLS
YES, I WILL ATTEND THE MEETING ON 26TH JULY 2000

Tom Wilson
Roy Kent

Name

Mayor
General Manager

Position Title

Byron Shire Council

Organisation

NO

UNFORTUNATELY I AM NOT ABLE TO ATTEND

Name

Position Title

Organisation

LOCAL GOVT. AREA	ISSUE OR AREA OF INTEREST	STATE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE

PLEASE FAX TO NORTH COAST REGIONAL COORDINATION PROGRAM (02) 6620 1613

Issues involved in assessing your DA

This is the second in a five-part series of articles by Byron Shire Council on the development application (DA) process.

HOW WILL MY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION BE PROCESSED?

Once your application is lodged, it will be given a preliminary check to make sure it is complete. It will then be referred to one of council's assessment officers, who are trained in disciplines including Planning, Engineering, Building and Environmental Assessment. Council will write to you, advising who is managing your application, how to contact that person (including an email address, which is the preferred means of contact), and details of any additional information you need to submit before the application can be assessed.

Depending on the issues involved, the assessment officer may call on additional expertise such as traffic engineering, environmental health, or ecology to assist with the assessment. Council may also need to refer

your application to various government departments for their consideration, and may need to advertise it for community comment.

Your application will be considered in terms of council and NSW government planning instruments and policies, including Byron Local Environmental Plan 1988, Byron Development Control Plan 2002, other relevant DCPs, the North Coast Regional Environmental Plan, State Environmental Planning Policies and other applicable policies and legislation. The assessment officer may request a meeting or additional information from you to assist with that assessment.

The assessment officer will then prepare a report and recommendation for determination of the application, based on the results of the assessment.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The development assessment process relies on co-operation between you, as the applicant, and the council and its staff, as the determining authority.

It is your responsibility to provide council with all the information it must have to assess your application.

It is council's responsibility to assess your application efficiently, professionally and impartially, in accordance with its statutory obligations.

The time taken to determine a DA will be affected by a number of factors, including:

- Whether you have had discussions with council staff prior to lodging your application, to seek some guidance about council's requirements;

- Whether you have submitted sufficient information, and the quality and professionalism of that information, to enable council to meet its legal obligations to assess your application;

- The response to your application from your neighbours and the wider community;

- Whether council considers there is a need for you to vary your proposal to meet planning requirements or community concerns;

- Responses from government agencies involved in assessing your application;

- The resources available to process your application; and

- Whether your application can be determined entirely under delegation, or whether it needs to be reported to councillors at an Environmental Planning and Local Approvals Committee meeting.

All relevant forms, the Help Guide and lodgement information are available on council's website, www.byron.nsw.gov.au, or by contacting council's Duty Planner on 6626 7000.

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Refugees welcome

Kris Latona wants more people to know that the Byron Shire is officially a "welcome shire" for refugees.

time at Byron Bay. 'you are welcome here.' We are putting out the hand of friendship. "We have so much and their lives have been shattered." Anyone who wants to get involved in Rural Australians for Refugees can call Ms Latona on 66807462.

Ms Latona, a spokesperson for the local branch of the Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) group, said Byron Council's decision early this month to declare the shire a welcome shire for legal refugees, was like putting a rainbow over the area.

"It's a motherhood thing," she said. "It's symbolic, it's a welcome mat out for people instead of shutting the door."

In declaring the shire a "welcome shire" for legal refugees, the council voted to back RAR in its support for legal refugees to settle in rural areas of Australia.

It also said it would warmly welcome refugees who had recently been released from detention centres on Temporary Protection Visas.

Ms Latona said there were probably already about 40 people involved with RAR in the Byron Shire who were offering practical support for refugees.

She said that support included making houses available in the shire for refugees for respite holidays.

A handful of refugees already had spent

Council is committed to the principles of LEO and provides a smoke free workplace.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - CONSULTANTS

In accordance with Byron Shire Council Policy No. 3.2, expressions of interest are sought from suitably qualified consultants in the following fields:

- Strategic planning, environmental planning and development assessment including specialist skills in one or more of the following:
Planning, Flora/Fauna Assessment, Heritage Assessment, Aboriginal Archeology, Architecture, Landscaping, Structural Engineering, Civil Engineering, Onsite Effluent Disposal, Bushfire Risk Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment, Noise Assessment, Urban Design, Mechanical/Electrical Design and Engineering.
- Legal Firms with specialist skills in one or more of the following:
Property matters, conveyancing, minor contract matters and local court prosecutions.

Parties should be aware that any use of consultants will be subject to performance measures or standards.

This information is required to update Council's data base of consultants interested in undertaking work in the above areas for Council valued at \$10,000 or less for the next twelve months. Interested persons should submit details, qualifications, experience, specialty areas and charges. Submissions should be addressed to "Environmental Planning Services"

Expressions Close: Friday, 22 August 2003

Enquiries: Margot Coggan (02) 6626 7126

(margot.coggan@byron.nsw.gov.au)

AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2004

In This Edition:

Paradise Springs Sold Out



Land Sales in South East Queensland Booming



Varsity Lakes Project to Commence



Body Corporate Business... Growing all the time



Connections www to be upgraded

Paradise **SOLD**

The fifty-two Townhouse Development Paradise Springs Country Club Estate located on Paradise Springs Golf Course at Robina is now 100% sold out and development completed.



Again we are pleased to report that there have been a number of re-sales at increased prices thus profits for our initial purchasers. Congratulations to those who pre-registered and purchased early.

Avalanche Coming

Our spy was last week invited to attend the Bernard Salt lunch on at Tweed Heads. Mr Bernard Salt is Australia's leading population analyst whose book "The Big Shift" mapped the "Seachange" trend for coastal living. Mr. Salt made the point that baby boomers were "Hitting" the coast from Ballina to Surfers Paradise. With 4.1 million "Boomers" retiring over the next 10-15 years the sunshine belt of Northern New South Wales / South East Queensland better get ready for the avalanche in property value growth and increased demands for retail and services like coffee shops, restaurants, etc. he warned.

Welcomes and Goodbyes

Welcomes go to:

Lyn Crear	Ray White Strata Management
Michael Troung	Ray White Strata management
Irina Saveluc	Ray White Strata Management
Paul Curtis	STM Ballina
Laura Horne	STM Ballina
Debbie Workman	STM Tweed

Goodbyes go to:

Chris Martin	Ray White Strata Management
James Frawley	Ray White Strata Management

Employee of the Quarter



Lisa McCoustra

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BREAKING NEWS

Ferrari sacks pit crew

Modena, Italy: The Ferrari Formula 1 Team fired their entire pit crew yesterday. The announcement followed Ferrari's decision to take advantage of the New Zealand Government's "Work for the Dole" scheme - and to hire unemployed Maori youths.

The decision to hire them was brought on by a recent television documentary on how Maori youths were able to remove a set of car wheels in less than 6 seconds without proper equipment, whereas Ferrari's existing crew can only do it in 8 seconds with the aid of millions of dollars worth of high-tech gear.

This was thought to be an excellent yet bold move by Ferrari management.

As most races are won and lost in the pits, Ferrari would have an advantage over every other F1 team.

However, Ferrari got more than they bar-

gained for as, during the Maori pit crew's first practice session, not only were they able to change all four wheels and tyres in under 6 seconds, but within 12 seconds they had re-sprayed, re-badged, and sold the vehicle to the McLaren Team for ten dozen slabs of beer, an HQ Holden and a quick glimpse of Coulthard's bird in the shower.

Giants at home today

Mullumbimby Giants Rugby League Football Club will play Grafton Ghosts at Mullumbimby today (Sat July 26). The U18s will kick off at 2pm. This should be a fantastic game.

Grafton Ghosts have a top flight U18 side with skills and size all around the paddock.

The Giants U18s have been very impressive this year and it is a genuine grand final side. Coach David Parker has moulded the side into a very cohesive and balanced team.

The Reserve Grade will have its work cut out containing the Ghosts but if they fire like they have shown they can and have a full complement then the side can win.

The A Grade game will be pure football entertainment. Many regard the outcome of this game an indicator of whether or not the Giants are semi final contenders.

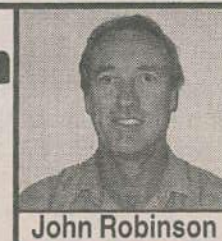
The Giants should be at full strength after the bye last weekend. There is no question of the Giants commitment and heart. At times the exuberance of players leads to costly mistakes.

If the Giants play basic skills football and leave the razzle dazzle in the dressing rooms until half time the side should come home to win.

This afternoon will be big in Mullumbimby.

Go the Mighty GIANTS.

Robinson Watson Fenton



John Robinson

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In a recent report to Byron councillors, council's planning staff were highly critical of a private certifier of development. The report stated: "The people responsible for the implementation of this consent have had a very casual attitude to compliance with the terms of the consent." and "The private certifier has been ineffective in ensuring timely compliance with the consent."

It is a risky proposition for Council planning staff to publicly criticise private planners. There is no shortage of criticism coming Council's way. Also it may be considered defamatory or at least detrimental to professional reputations.

Becton's North Beach development is now getting a fair slab of exposure. The lunatic fringe are outraged, traumatised and horrified. None of them are against the development, which they think is quite tastefully designed. It's just the affront to the environment and the social fabric of Byron. Frogs will become extinct. Crude millionaires with their garish wealth will predominate. It is a hell of a shame that a bunch of special, talented, gifted, creative, innovative and burnt out old hippies can't buy and develop the land. That way the myth could be perpetuated. Many residents now fully understand that stopping Club Med was a big mistake. The odds on stopping North

Beach are not worth taking but the rhetoric is entertaining.

Mullumbimby author, historian and cultural identity Reg Byrnes is enjoying great success with his book on the history of early Mullumbimby titled "Mullumbimby Happenings". Due to excellent sales it has gone to its second printing.

We oldies at the Saturday Star can only watch and be amazed at the actions of the next generation of business people now coming into their own and wonder what on earth the next generation after this will get up to.

As an example it was only last week we learned Liz Smart of Uncle Toms Pies for her next birthday was getting a tattoo and Mark Ward of Wards Truck and Machinery Service was having his ears pieced. Can you believe this? Enough to make you shudder.

Members of our local emergency services are raising money for cancer research and treatment at Westmead Childrens Hospital. Two members of the Far North Coast Zone of the Rural Fire Services, Fire Control Officer Bob Wilcox and Mullumbimby Brigade member Mark James aim to raise \$1,000 each before August 2. They will shave their heads to show children with cancer it is "cool to have no hair". (You should see these heads with hair.) People wishing to make a donation should contact Leah Ross on 0419 484 853 or the Fire Control Centre on 6684 3662.

Death Notices

Nancy Bower: Passed away on 4th July 2003. Nancy was born at Mullumbimby and was a dearly loved sister of Carmel Mitchell, Kevin Bower (Mullumbimby), Rhonda Noonan (Byron Bay) and loved aunt of their children.

Bus to ECKA



Monday August 11. The Mullumbimby Show Bus will depart from the Mullumbimby Showground at 6 am sharp for the Brisbane Exhibition.

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Andrew Sochacki

Dummy bidding

New controls to combat 'tricks and practices' at auctions which come into effect from August 1, aim to remove artificially inflated prices.

A major concern of consumers has been 'dummy bidding' which is the practice of planting a non-genuine bidder at an auction to create the impression that there is more interest than really exists.

Under the new Act, the number of bids which can be made by vendors at an auction of residential property or rural land will be limited to one, which must be notified in the conditions of sale. The Act makes a distinction between rural and other land auctions which are not covered.

'Rural land' is defined as land used for grazing, dairying, horticulture or any other purpose declared by the regulations to be a rural purpose.

The auctioneer is now required to state clearly that the bid is by the vendor, or someone on behalf of the vendor or auctioneer, as

soon as it is taken. Essentially, while one 'dummy bid' can still be taken, it is intended that it be exposed.

Auctioneers will require bidders to register and prove identity before the auction starts. Bidders are then given a number which is recorded in the register. A bidder who is unregistered due to the failure on the part of an auctioneer may still make a valid bid but the auctioneer may be subject to a \$11,000 fine if he accepts it.

Failure of vendors and their agents to follow the new rules may result in fines of up to \$22,000. Agents who fail to properly maintain the bidders register may be fined up to \$11,000.

There are still some 'grey areas' such as friends of vendors bidding or members of family trusts seeking to buy trust properties.

For more information you are advised to consult your solicitor.

Andrew N. Sochacki is a locally based solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW and High Court of Australia. He can be contacted on 66 842 842.

Exempt and complying development review

The Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, Craig Knowles is considering a review of Exempt and Complying Development legislation.

The provisions introduced in 1998 by Mr Knowles had the intention of freeing up councils' planning assessment workloads by not requiring development applications for basic developments such as houses, sheds, garages, fences and pergolas providing they met certain structural and amenity requirements.

Regrettably some councils including Byron Shire used the opportunity to further complicate the assessment processes. Mr Knowles is reported to have conceded that the exempt and complying planning provisions have not

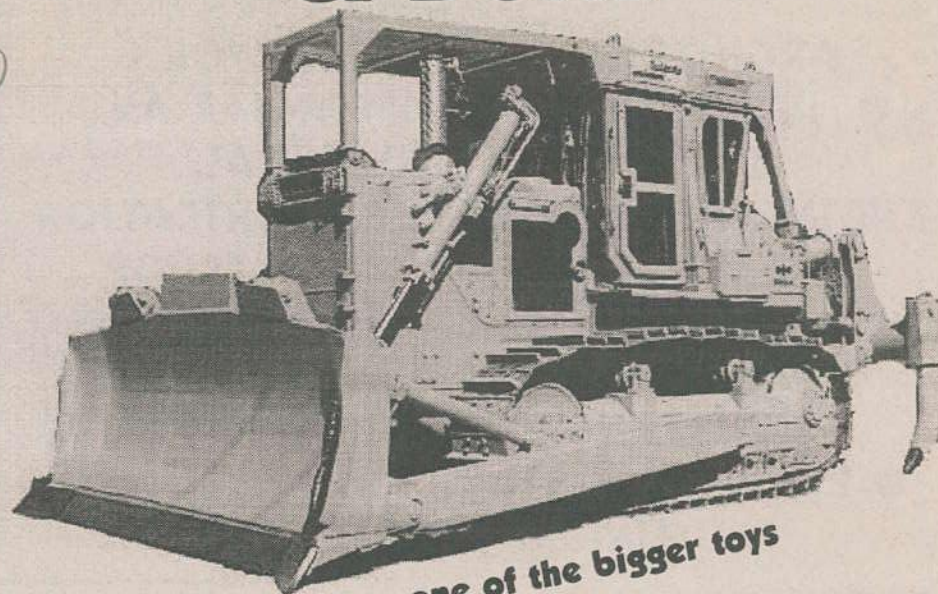
worked and the system is now more "cumbersome".

The review will be conducted by Sydney architect Neil Bird. It will consider whether the list of exempt and complying developments can be expanded.

In Byron's case it is more important to review the threshold requirements.

For example a cubby house is exempt for planning assessment only if it has a floor area of less than 10m² a maximum height of 2.4m and it must be positioned/designed to satisfy DCPs. Similarly clotheslines are exempt provided they are installed to manufacturer's specifications, positioned and designed to satisfy DCPs and only located in the rear yard.

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Byron Bay sports fields

Council's purchase of 40 hectares of land on Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay for as sporting and recreational uses is highly commendable.

Currently the only public sporting facility in Byron Bay is the Recreational Ground. This land suffers from over utilisation, an inability to meet community demands and highly degraded infrastructure.

Activities such as the Blues and Roots Festival are held at the privately owned Byron Bay Rugby League Ground and Splendour in the Grass at Belongil Fields. It is possible that these could be held on the newly acquired land.

The land, located immediately west of the Byron Industrial Estate and opposite the Island Quarry site, was purchased for \$1.8m. This amount has already generated comment.

Was Council "conned" when it paid this amount? Did it make its decision without a valuation/assessment report?

On the face of it, \$1.8m seems excessive when the land was purchased by the previous owner for \$1.085m in May 2002. Prior to that purchase the land sold for \$290,000 in 1998.

The issue of the value of land in Byron Bay versus the cost of land in Byron Bay has as many opinions as there are dollars attaching to the land. Suffice to say that if you want Byron Bay property you will have to pay dearly.

Council when making its decision did have an assessment done by the Lismore Branch of the State Valuation Office.

As commendable as the purchase is, residents of Byron Bay will need to be vigilant to ensure that this land is used for the purpose for which it was purchased - to provide much needed sporting and recreational facilities.

The land is zoned 1(d) Investigation Zone. Council will need to rezone the land to 6(a)

Open Space to allow the construction of sporting facilities.

It is during this process that minority groups using a 'green' umbrella will discover allsorts of rare frogs, remnant wetland ecosystems of national significance, any amount of secret, indigenous, cultural sites of great fertility and threats to the fragile, pristine coastline.

These groups are well organised and they will generate many submissions against the rezoning. The pro-sporting crew will assume it is a 'fait accompli', do nothing and get done.

The Ocean Shores sports fields saga is evidence of this possibility.

A spineless Council is likely to flop around and finally agree that the site should be a nature reserve or a national park.

Another threat stems from Council's purchase mechanism for this land. Approximately 25% of the purchase money came from the Sewer Fund. Therefore Council may have to use approximately 10 ha for sewage treatment. Perhaps a wetland or a Melaleuca forest. Not much sport can be played in such conditions. Then Council could impose upon itself a restriction on any use at all within the 400m buffer zone of a sewage treatment plant.

Perhaps the last threat comes from the economic rationalist, redneck thugs who may see value in rezoning the land 4(a) Industrial (the land adjoins Byron Bay Industrial Area), subdividing it into 1000m² blocks and flogging them for great profits.

This threat is unlikely to materialise because Byron Council has never been capable of successfully developing land to the economic benefit of its ratepayers and this group cannot get a majority on Council.

Ross Tucker

Brunswick bridge

Byron Council has delegated authority to Crs Jan Mangleson, Richard Staples and Sandra Heilpern to negotiate an outcome with the RTA over its application to build a new road bridge over the Brunswick River as part of the Yelgun to Brunswick Heads section of the Pacific Highway upgrade.

On May 27 councillors, acting against planning staff advice to approve the RTA's development application for the new bridge, decided to ask the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources and the Minister for Roads to visit the shire for discussions with concerned residents.

The ministers did not visit. They did not answer their invitations.

Instead Paul Forward, Chief Executive of the RTA wrote to Council advising he had referred the DA to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources for his determination. Mr Forward also advised Council that it should now forward relevant documentation to the Minister.

Council has never had much authority in this application. An application for the bridge was only necessary because a very small part of it was on SEPP 14 Wetlands over which Council has sole consent authority. If the works had not encroached, Council would have no consent authority in the matter.

Council can approve the application and only apply conditions which are acceptable to the Minister. Council cannot refuse the application without the approval of the Minister.

Councillors have not given Crs Mangleson, Staples and Heilpern much to work with in their negotiations.

Council should have approved the DA but puffing up the shirt every now and again certainly keeps the spotlight on its performance.

from page 1

DCP to limit development

rides any DCP. A DCP cannot prohibit development that is permissible in an LEP. A DCP can be legally challenged.

The most likely strategy for using a DCP to develop density controls is to draft the DCP with all the restrictions that currently exist in LEP 107.

This would result in inconsistencies between Byron LEP 1988 and the new DCP. Council would then prepare a draft amendment to change Byron LEP 1988 making it consistent with the new DCP. This has been done for DCP 2002 and the problems are now starting to emerge.

Logically, as Byron LEP is a statutory document, any inconsistencies between it and a DCP should be removed by making the DCP consistent and complementary to the LEP. To reverse these roles will be seen as dodgy.

Ratepayers in Byron Bay and Suffolk Park have been bruised by LEP 107. However they did not acquiesce. They objected with intelligent and soundly reasoned arguments. They will do it again because the DCP will not gain acceptance due to its haste and less than transparent development. PlanningNSW's concurrence may not be required by Council but the Department will be kept well informed of every step in the process.

Councils that mess with land rights through planning get planning administrators.

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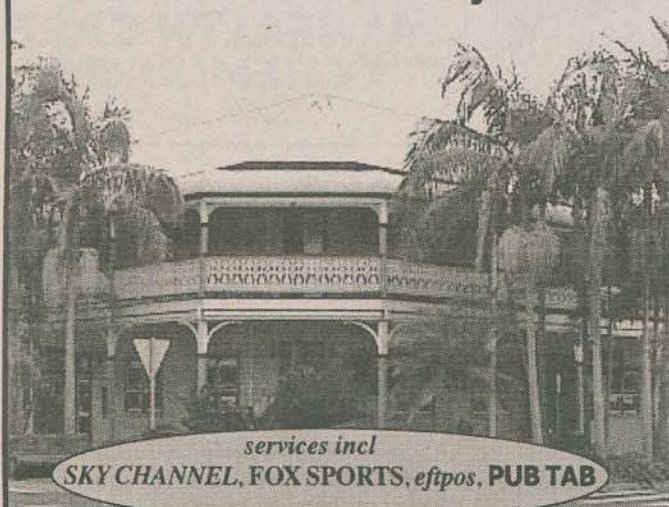
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the Saturday Star

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Volume 8 Number 7

July 2003

Ph: 6684 3820

DCP to limit Byron Bay development

Byron Council at its July 8 meeting abandoned its highly controversial amendment to the Byron Local Environmental Plan which aimed to control housing densities in Byron Bay and Suffolk Park (LEP 107).

Instead Council will seek to introduce the same restrictions via a Development Control Plan.

Opponents to LEP 107 cited flawed planning documents, flawed Council resolutions, inconsistencies with State planning policies, economic losses, legal issues and denial of natural justice as major problems.

Council planning staff acknowledged some of these objections were valid and the process was flawed. It also indicated that a legal challenge was likely and would be successful.

Had Council continued with LEP 107 it had to decide whether or not it would call a public hearing into the LEP. A decision to hold a public hearing is triggered if a person making a submission so requests. 56 submissions called for a public hearing into LEP 107.

Council staff gave councillors five options:

- Proceed with LEP 107.
- Abandon LEP 107 and go with a place based plan LEP 106.
- Abandon both LEP 106 and 107 and conduct a shirewide review.
- Recommence and revise LEP 107.

- Prepare a residential density DCP for Byron Bay introduced before the West Byron sewage treatment plant upgrade is completed.

Council staff recommended the DCP option which was supported by Councillors Richard Staples, Duncan Dey, Sandra Heilpern and Hugh Ermacora. Councillors Bob Higgins, Bob Tardif, Jan Mangleson and Ross Tucker opposed it.

Councillor Staples, acting in the role of chairman of the meeting (Mayor Tom Wilson and Deputy Mayor Jan Barham were absent) used his casting vote to carry the DCP option.

Perceived advantages of the DCP are that: it can be prepared in a shorter time; can take into account submissions made on LEP 107; it is consistent with density control measures in many other council areas; it does not require Planning NSW endorsement and it does not rely on LEP definitions. These advantages are questionable in a planning process that should be open, fair, procedurally correct and have checks and balances. In essence it is a quicker process with less scrutiny and transparency. Some councillors saw the option as cynical and deceptive.

The DCP route is not without its problems. Byron's LEP is a statutory document and over

cont page 2

August edition "on the streets"
Saturday August 30

But cannot be consistent with LEP 107

'Best in the world'

\$40m college launch

From being a session guitarist in recording studios in Sydney, Tom Misner sure has come a long way.

By his own admission, he is a wealthy person, "one of the richest people in Australia".

Which is why he probably can afford to sink \$40 million into building the latest of his SAE College (School of Audio Engineering) facilities at Byron Bay and not expect to make a profit.

Sitting behind his desk in his office at the SAE College in Ewingsdale Road, Mr Misner, told the News the college was designed "not to make the big bucks", but to be the world headquarters of the college.

But having said that, he does expect the college to "tick over" and break even.

Even when fully booked with students, the college, he says, can never recoup the \$40 million investment.

So, ah, why did you do it Tom?

"Because I wanted to. Because I can."

And ah, why Byron Bay?

"Because I am here. There is no other rea-

The \$40 million School of Audio Engineering (SAE) world headquarters at Byron Bay will be officially opened tomorrow night. Byron News Editor, Gary Chigwidden, spoke to founder Tom Misner, about the project

son whatsoever, only because I am here.

"There has been no market survey done. There has been no budget building this. I wanted to build this. It's my way of giving back to Australia.

"This represents only three or four percent of my (worldwide) business.

"I did start in Australia, so Australia gave me a go."

Mr Misner migrated with his parents to Australia from Austria when he was 14.

As a young man, he played guitar in different bands and eventually gravitated towards recording studios.

Learning from people around him in the studio, he moved on to become a record engineer and producer.

After a working trip to the USA, he returned to Australia where he was consistently asked by people to teach them how to produce records.

"Everyone, including

me, learned it like a trade, hanging around a studio," he said.

"There were no colleges, universities, schools anywhere in the world which taught audio engineering.

"So, by default, I invented audio education."

Thus SAE was born. That was 1976. Now there are 44 schools around the world, the latest of course the world HQ at Byron Bay, to be officially opened tomorrow evening.

All has not gone according to plan, says Mr Misner, simply because there has been no plan. Well, maybe a rough one.

Describing himself as the project's architect and designer, he said he had a vision for what he wanted on the 15-acre site and then set about bringing it to life.

It hasn't been a totally smooth path though. Without getting into the nitty-gritty, there were "untold" problems with Byron Council, greenies and people suspicious of what he was up to.

There are some in the community, he says, who view him as "this rich guy" developer who "must be a bastard ripping off people, tearing down the environment to build a mine and nucle-



SAE founder, Tom Misner, behind the \$1.6 million console in one of the college's sound studios

ar dump somewhere in Belongil Fields".

"I am wealthy and one of the richest people in the country, but I support the environment.

"I don't build bad things. I don't build ugly things. I don't tear down trees. I am more green than the narrow-minded Greens."

"Environmentalists here don't have a clue any more. In Byron Shire and Australia generally, they have become very aggressive."

But whatever your political colour, a stroll around the leafy, university-style SAE campus will reveal a devel-

opment of quality where seemingly, no expense has been spared.

Everything, according to Mr Misner, down to studio doors and insulation, is "way above" the standard required.

And that's especially true of the electronic wizardry that has been installed.

Just one monster console in one of the 13 audio studios cost a cool \$1.6 million.

"It's without a doubt, the most modern technology college in the world in audio and film based on the gear we have and the huge technology library," he said.

Mr Misner sees the college has having nothing but a positive impact on Byron Bay, a place he fell in love with during a holiday in 1972 and a place he moved to permanently six years ago.

The first intake of 80 Byron Bay SAE students will happen in October this year and in 12 months, there will be a full enrolment of 400 students - the majority from overseas.

These students and visitors will have immense spending power, said Mr Misner.

"It will be good for businesses in the town," he said.

I don't build bad things. I don't build ugly things. I don't tear down trees.

I am more green than the narrow-minded Greens

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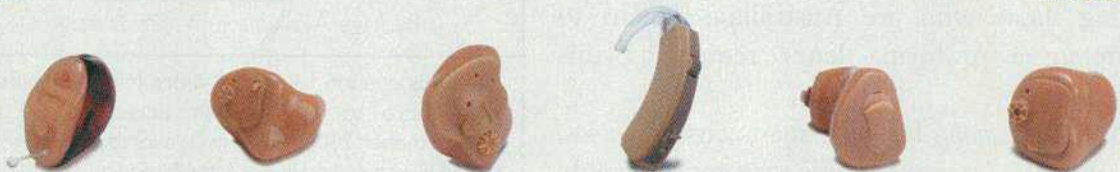


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The urge to merge is a slippery thing

Michael McDonald

Now that you've found out how your car works with the help of a manual, author Gabrielle Morrissey has come along with the next best thing: a DIY guide to sex.

Called *Urge*, the book is described by HarperCollins' publicists as 'an infotainment sex manual geared to sexually savvy adults. A sizzling combination of sexual pop culture, sex therapy, quirky sex trivia, and between the sheets information.'

Lest you think it a lightweight lexicon of lust, know that Morrissey, at only 30, has an impressive record in the sexology field. With a Masters in Human Sexuality Education from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in Health Science from the Curtin University of Technology, Morrissey went on to present her doctoral sex research in Paris at the 2001 World Congress of Sexology, sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Morrissey earned her PhD in Sexology from Curtin University of Technology in Perth, where she now works as a lecturer and heads the sexology program. It is an elective course in which young adults confront their own beliefs and feelings about human sexuality. Morrissey also has a one-on-one counselling practice and is developing a masters course in forensic sexology, which looks at sex offences. While Morrissey is not able to directly gauge the positive benefit of sexology in this area,



Author and sexologist Dr Gabrielle Morrissey.

she says her work with rape survivors has helped to steer them back into a healthier life.

Her latest bedside manual was preceded in 1996 by *Sex in the Time of Generation X*, the successful sexuality book for teens and young adults. It was very heavily geared to safer sex, says Morrissey, and gave youth 'all the right messages'.

Urge, however, is for the real grown-ups who want to know more about releasing the sexy beast within. It touches on cosmic sex, multiple orgasms (for men and women), the best sexual positions from men's and women's perspectives, fantasies, 'sexperimenting', one-night-stands, celibacy, sexual taboos, and more.

people who mix sex and spirituality together – not just tantric sex but all kinds of spirituality.'

So where does sex begin and sex end?

'There is no one answer to that,' says the author. 'It's truly an individual experience – it's both an individual and sharing experience.'

'The perception of a sexual experience is quite individual. There are nearly as many answers as there are people.'

And the key ingredient to a good sexual relationship?

'It depends on the kind of sexual relationship one wants to have,' says Morrissey. 'People even talk about one night stands in terms of some sort of connection.'

'Connectedness seems to be essential, whether people feel their souls are connected or it's just a physical connection. Without that connection people might as well go masturbate.'

Not only that, it has a Byron connection, which notches it seriously up the sexual totem pole. Morrissey spent six months doing research in Byron, where she also visits her famous author-mother, Di Morrissey. (The Morrissey family seems to eschew under-achieving.)

'Byron sex could be its own book,' says Morrissey. 'What I found about Byron that I really appreciated is that it's a melting pot – by and large people were considered and thoughtful about what they wanted me to say.'

'There's a chapter on cosmic orgasm and a chapter on celibacy and I did those chapters up here as there's a lot of people to draw on, people who practise celibacy and talk about the benefits and

Quite. And a big factor in the initial connectedness seems to be a 'love chemical' called PEA – phenyl ethylamine. It gives you that tingly feeling, destroys your concentration and helps couples to bond up to 18 months after the initial 'connection'. After that, you might need to rely on a box of chocolates, which trigger PEA, and some aromatherapeutic roses. Or you could read Morrissey's manual of mutual merging and pick up some new techniques.

■ *Urge* will hit the bookshelves in paperback this week, with autographed copies available from Linley Jones Bookstore and Book City in Byron Bay, and Dymocks Lismore.

BE 23-7-02

Deputy PM opens SR office

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National Times

Pinecam 209

6E23-7-02

Govt overhauls planning system

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cations for building works valued at more than \$50,000.

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five years to roll out and would see the 'redrafting' of local environmental plans (LEP) to take into account the requirements of state government agencies. The idea was to streamline the system so all information on a block of land would be available on one document instead of in some 5,000 separate documents.

Parson 210

Pathways meet in Arnhemland for young boys



A gathering of Pathways To Manhood participants.

A unique opportunity has arisen following an invitation earlier this year to take a group of boys from the NSW Pathways program to Bawaka in Northern Arnhemland to spend time with a group of Yolngu boys. The aim is for a cross-over of cultural education with each group sharing knowledge which the other does not so easily access, for example the Yolngu men sharing their knowledge of connection with the land and bush skills with our local boys, while the men from here will be sharing with the Yolngu boys their knowledge of life skills and experience of living in modern Australia.

The workshop content will be delivered by both Yolngu and local facilitators. It will include respect as a primary

learning tool, discipline, responsibility, aspects of traditional lore, ceremony, financial management, health, connectedness and visions for the future.

This sharing of knowledge and experiences is seen as an invaluable opportunity to create a positive outcome for both Yolngu and local youth. It will be documented as a pilot with a view to a unique avenue towards both reconciliation and innovative education. Unfortunately funding for the project is still \$4,500 short of the amount required and must be raised in the next fortnight for this program to proceed. Pathways to Manhood would like to thank the many local peo-

ple and business houses who have given their support to the program in the past and as well as this current venture. Local fundraising is continuing as well as in Arnhemland.

Pathways to Manhood is a program that is a north coast initiative and has been running Australia-wide since 1994. It aims to assist young men to realise their potential and to be full of hope and inspiration as they look to the future.

The next local program will be held in November and registrations are now open. For booking/enquiries and sponsorship of the Arnhemland program contact Dr Arne Rubinstein on 6684 5561.

Local News

Cohen dives in to nuclear protest



Eve Sinton

Ian Cohen all at sea. Photo courtesy Greenpeace Australia

Greens MLC Ian Cohen made international headlines on Monday when he jumped into the water near the British Nuclear Fuels Ltd ships *Pacific Pintail* and *Teal*. The ships had tried to run through a protest flotilla between Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands in the Tasman Sea under cover of darkness.

Greenpeace's Nuclear Free Seas Flotilla comprised 11 vessels including the *MV Tiama* with Ian Cohen aboard.

'As an elected member of the NSW parliament, representing many Australians who have expressed strong anti-nuclear sentiment, it is an honour to join the 50 people from ten nations who are participating in the Nuclear Free Flotilla at their own expense and considerable risk to help create a safe nuclear free future,' he said.

The *Pacific Pintail* and *Pacific Teal*, carrying a cargo of faulty MOX, which includes 255 kgs of weapons-usable plutonium, left Japan for the UK on July 4. The shipment is being returned to the UK because its producers, the

government-owned British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), falsified critical safety data on the fuel and the Japanese refused to use it.

Ian Cohen and Stuart Lennox of Tasmania were dropped into the water at dawn, after catching up with the two plutonium ships in an inflatable boat. They held up a banner, which read 'Nuclear Free Pacific' as the ships passed.

'I wanted to make sure that there was no doubt in these shippers' minds that they are not welcome in this region,' Mr Cohen said.

According to Monday's *New Zealand Herald*, BNFL spokesman Mark Scott said protesters had behaved recklessly by pursuing the ships.

He claimed the two protesters who threw themselves off an inflatable boat in front of one of the ships forced the skipper to take evasive action. The ship passed within 70m of the pair.

'To throw themselves into the water in front of the vessel is the height of maritime lunacy and does Greenpeace

no credit whatsoever,' he said. He said Mr Cohen was 'someone who should know better'.

'We have no objection to legitimate protest. This was not legitimate and could have created a situation with grave consequences... They should be condemned for their stupidity.'

Before leaving Sydney to participate in the flotilla, Mr Cohen said, 'Deadly plutonium and other nuclear waste is being shipped around the planet as a matter of routine with no one really prepared to face up to the fact that eventually one or more of these ships will be lost at sea, either through natural disaster or hijacking.'

He added that fanatics could poison a large part of the earth with this waste with no nuclear bomb technology needed.

'Yet the Australian government will not oppose the transport route through the Pacific or even refuse a way through our territorial waters for these deadly shipments.'

Local artist wins international award



Mullumbimby artist and enameller Carolyn Delzoppo, pictured above in her studio, has taken out second prize at the world's most prestigious international enamel exhibition in Tokyo, Japan.

Carolyn was given the Award for Excellence for a framed cloisonné enamel miniature from a recent series dealing with the issue of global warming. She says, 'I have been using this artform for several years to make a commentary on environmental issues, especially those dealing with the over-development of the coastal strip of eastern Australia.'

'I feel that small-scale art can be a powerful means of expression and communication. The enamel, which is glass, is very beautiful, and the fine detail of the medium draws the

viewer in, inviting intimacy that fosters communication.'

Cloisonné enamel is the technique of firing glass onto metal and is characterised by the thin lines of metal suspended in the glass. It is an ancient and very demanding craft, and one which Carolyn has mastered and adapted for contemporary expression.

Carolyn is considered one of the top enamellers in the world and has won many awards nationally and internationally for her miniatures and jewellery. In 1993 she was awarded first prize at this exhibition, which attracts entries from Europe, United States and Asia.

There is currently a small display of her enamelled jewellery at The Bookshop, Mullumbimby. Photo by Jeff 'Little Jewel' Dawson

Everything turns Japanese at Factory 3

Factory 3 Artspace have had a huge response to their idea of a 'Japan' exhibition. The local Japanese community has surfaced and interest in the culture and country has sparked.

of Japanese artists and crafts people, as well as local artists, creating Japanese inspired work.

There will be paintings, sculptures, ceramics, woodwork, cushions, furnishings,

The exhibition will run for three weeks until August 23.

Factory 3 can be found down the lane next to Shikara at the south end of Jonson Street.

It is open 11am-4pm.

To Kim Allan
CCSU RECORDS SECTION

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Strategic Projects

BRANCH: Regional Coordination Program - North Coast

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The deceitful propaganda of public liability

with Paul Recher

OZTRALIA is too small for Australian insurers to stand alone. They require underwriting by the world's big players such as the three trillion dollar USA insurance industry. Our premium rates are dependent on what happens overseas.

The Center for Justice and Democracy, a USA-based consumer advocacy group with Ralph Nader and Erin Brokovich on the board, has released its scathing report on the insurance industry.

The insurance industry's claim that the dramatic rise in public liability is primarily due to September 11 plus ever-increasing multi-million dollar payouts for negligence and malpractice settlements is incorrect. The truth is these premium increases are an exorbitant, exploitative rip off by the insurers to finance their stock market portfolio.

The study's analysis of the past 15 years conclusively proves insurance companies are 'big investment vehicles' deriving the bulk of their cash flow from stock market investments. When the market was riding high, the companies lowered premiums to stupidly low levels.

Now that the stock market has declined considerably, they cry imminent disaster, raising premiums by 100 per cent, 200 per cent and more.

The insurer's push and legislative drive for limiting a person's right to sue as well as capping payouts on claims is called tort reform. In the USA, some States have adopted this tort reform.

This same study analysed tort reforms. There was absolutely no relationship between premiums being kept lower in States with tort reform compared to those that did not adopt such reforms. In reading the following extract, substitute the

word 'Australia' for 'USA's CJ&D Executive Director, and co-author Joanne Doroshow states, 'The property/casualty insurance industry has repeatedly threatened to pull the rug out from under the US economy, State governments, critical businesses and professions in order to get what it wants. Today, we are seeing this power used to push for an indefensible Federal bailout to cover losses from terrorist attacks and limitations on people's rights to sue, ostensibly in order to cut insurance rates despite evidence showing that such measures won't reduce premiums.'

History repeatedly shows how the insurance industry freely intimidates lawmakers and creates 'crisis' atmospheres to promote its legislative agenda while at the same time escaping any meaningful public scrutiny or regulatory control. The insurance industry represents a critical sector of the US economy, yet it is accountable to no federal agency, subject to virtually no US regulatory laws and only limited State authority. Urgent steps are needed to reign in this industry and prevent it from inflicting additional serious harm to US consumers and taxpayers.

It is the same reality in Australia. The Australian Plaintiff Lawyer's Association (APLA) agrees. APLA states its studies came up with the same analysis and conclusions as those in the USA.

Until I heard this information on 'The World Today' I had been dumb-sucked in by the propaganda. I surprised myself once again by underestimating the deceitful machinations and underhanded motives of people and companies.

I keep forgetting I am a bad judge of character.

Byron Echo 23rd July 2002

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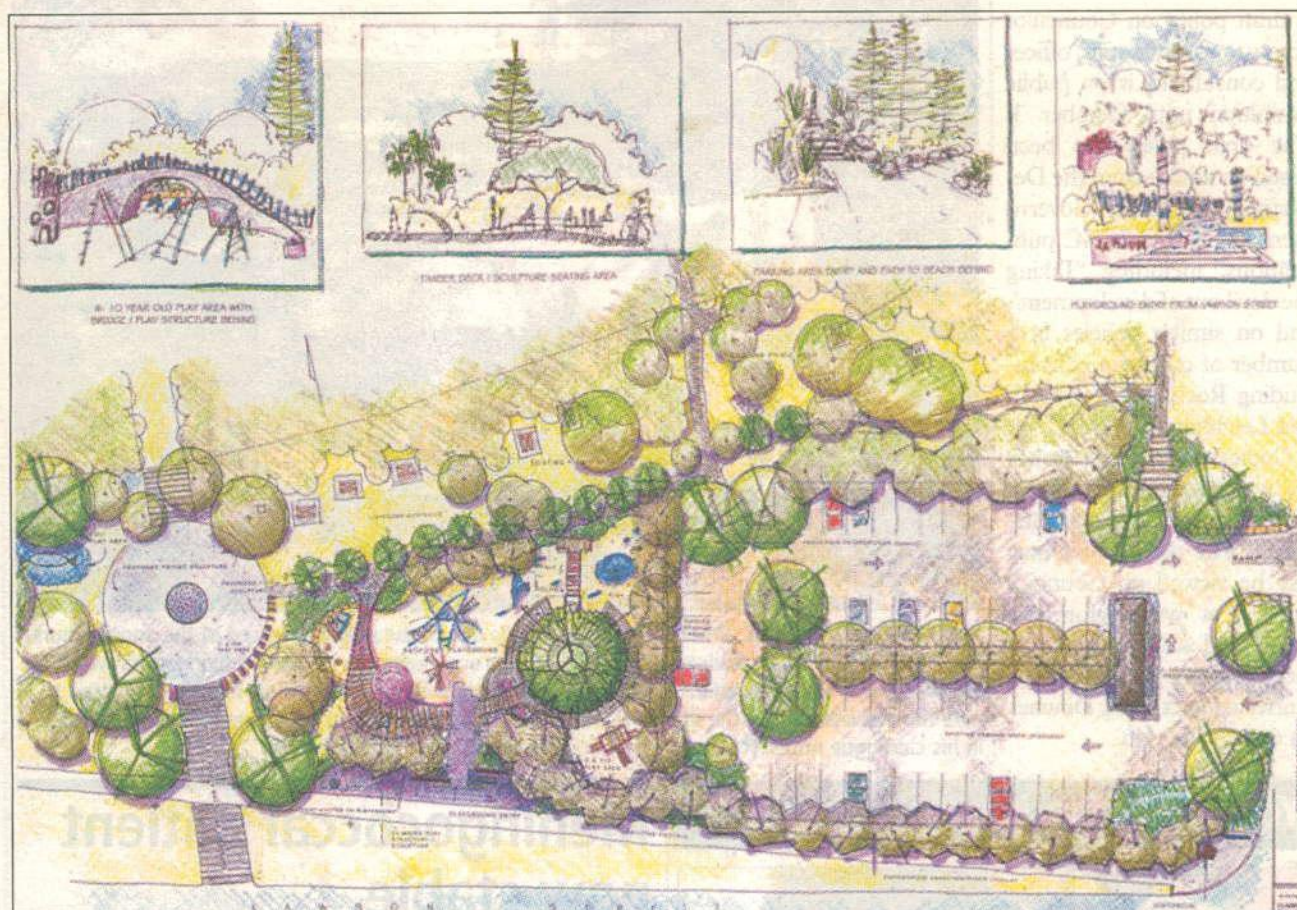
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Making a place for kids to play



Michael McDonald

While Tweed Shire contemplates the next godawful megamillion development on its sand dunes, the mothers of Byron Bay are out to create a beachfront playground. Thanks to the determination of the mothers and some talented professionals giving their time for free, the Jarjum Playground is set to brighten up and reinvigorate the grassy foreshore near the Clarks Beach carpark.

According to one of the project organisers Soray Barnham, 'Jarjum Playground will be a place where children of different abilities, and families of different backgrounds can meet and play together - one playground for all.

'Jarjum will offer four levels of play equipment, for children of various ages and stages of development. Play is the language that brings children of different abilities together.

‘Through playing with other children they develop

social skills and learn about behaviour, communication, acceptance and friendship.'

So far the project has attracted support from many different quarters. Collaboration between a landscape architect, local artists, play environment consultant and the community has shaped and driven the design. Arakwal elders have supported the project and have donated the name 'Jarjum', which means children.

Byron Shire Council is supportive of the project and an alliance has been formed to assist in management issues and applying for government funding.

Landscape architect Lisa Hochhauser says the project aims to establish a 'state of the art' play space, a clearly designated parking area with native trees for screen planting, and shaded parkland fashioned with the general aesthetics associated with

well integrated outdoor facilities. This particular parking facility will service the proposed play area as well as this section of coastline for beachgoers, kayak recreation and the local fishing industry.

The proposed playground area is to be a community effort in its conception and will incorporate the sculpture of local and indigenous artists. The sculptures will be interactive and educational and will comprise a large portion of the actual play equipment, thus becoming the mainstay of the play space.

The entire development of the playground and associated uses will be encircled by a native regeneration area, reinforcing endemic vegetation as well as providing for the needs of those utilising the beach, play space and parking amenity.

'The planting, sculpture, education and historical aspects are all to be achieved in

conjunction with the Arakwal custodians of this land with the ultimate respect and reverence for our natural habitat and environment.'

The pre-fabricated equipment will be the Kompan brand, which can be seen online at www.kompan.com.

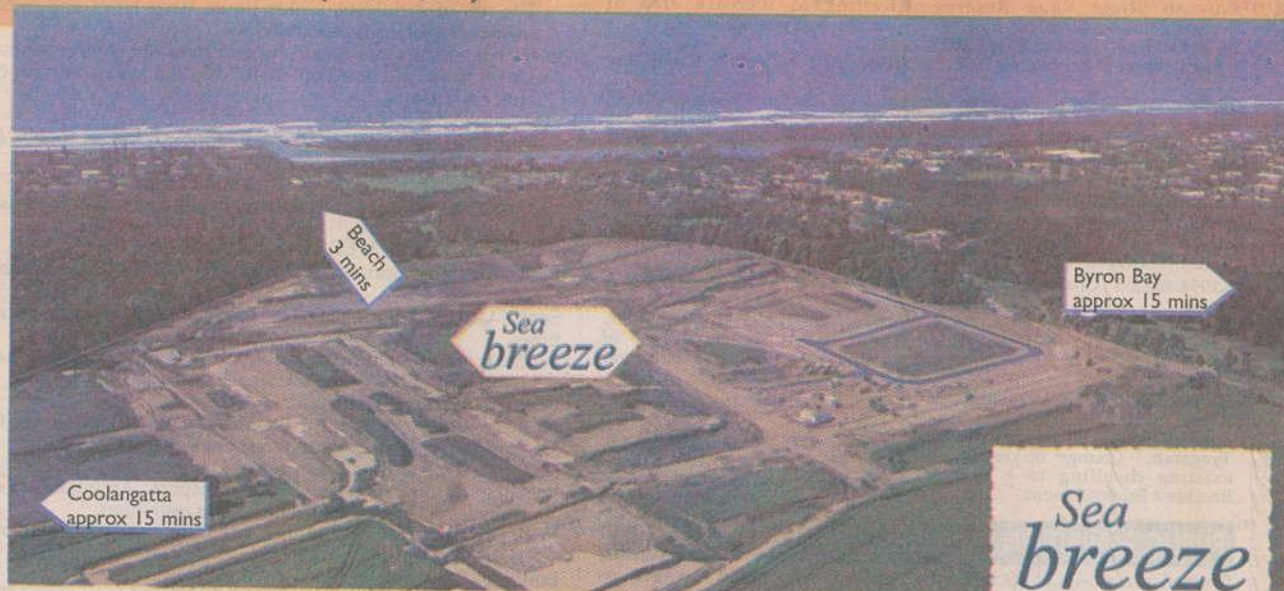
Of course such an ambitious project will cost a lot, and much of the money will need to be raised locally.

The first fundraising benefit sees Australian music legend Paul Kelly, supported by local performers Ava and Noel, playing at the Great Northern this Wednesday night.

For more information
about the playground contact
arjumphplayground@hotmail.com.

While most projects in the Bay concentrate on maximizing development potential and profit, here's a chance for locals to give a bit of the coastline to the children.

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- Consult with Denise re use of stash of paving tiles about 8.0m behind the Community Centre against the eastern bank.
- Lay above existing G.L with 1 in 50 fall to the West. Lay Agricultural line on the east side of the path with discharge line under the paving, and running to the west.
- CAUTION Note there are two poly pipes (side by side) carrying water from the control valves (beside the stairs to the access road) which run (at a depth of 2-300mm) from the Water Filter under the Decking to the centre of the present access to the laundry.
- Lay Blue metal dust under the tiles with min. depth of 50 mm (tamp and wet).
- Lay cement edging to min. 75mm below natural G.L.
- Relocate and resize existing gate to swing from the south-east handrail post onto the new landing with auto clasp when open and auto lock when closed.

(i) Mid hand-rails to be mortice and tenon fixture.

