

Japanese beats in Byron this weekend



Byron Taiko will host a three day Taiko drumming workshop, featuring famous Japanese percussionists Eiichi Satio and Hyota Matsuzaki. On Sunday, there will be a free concert at the Byron Youth Activities Centre (YAC). For more info, visit www.byrontaiko.com. Photo Jeff Dawson

REDinc art exhibited in Mullum

Local artists who are part of REDinc, a disability support service, will be exhibiting as part of their annual show this Friday November 11 from 6-8pm at 22 Tincogan Street, Mullumbimby.

Each year, they offer a diverse and eclectic range of art for sale that they have been working on throughout the previous year. The sales

income is split between the artists and funding their next year's art program.

This year the exhibition will be opened by local dynamic drawing teacher, Ron Curran, who has encouraged and inspired many artists in the region.

REDinc is a not-for-profit, grassroots community organisation and registered

NDIS provider and offers a wide range of services for people with disability. REDinc has been established for nearly 30 years in the local community on the north coast and was originally established in 1991 by a group of parents of school leavers with disabilities who were concerned at the lack of opportunities.

No guarantees with Bangalow Bowlo amalgamation, councillor warns

A local group of residents have warned of 'Unlimited pokies, Sydney ownership and minimal sporting club support' if a large entertainment corporation amalgamates with the Bangalow Bowling Club.

Club members will vote on the proposal at 11am, Sunday November 13.

Keep the Bowlo Local group spokesperson, and Byron councillor, Asren Pugh, is urging Bowlo members 'to do their homework before they vote on November 13 on the proposed amalgamation with Norths Collective'.

'We know it's an emotive issue. We all love our local Bowlo, and want to see it succeed, but we need to make sure we've all read the MOU [memorandum of understanding] for the proposed amalgamation.'

'Sure, the proposal might sound good on face value - but it's important to read the fine print.'

'Our beloved local Bowlo would be owned and controlled by people 600km away in Sydney.'

'Norths will own all land and buildings from day one.'



Keep the Bowlo Local group spokesperson, and Byron councillor, Asren Pugh. Photo www.asrenpugh.com

'The number of pokies will increase to ten and up to 15 after three years. And after ten years, they can put in as many as they like - who knows how many they'll squeeze in!'

'Sporting clubs are likely to be way worse off, with no guarantees on ongoing funding and support.'

'Quite frankly, there are no guarantees with any of it. There is a "get out" option for just about every clause.'

'We could see the Bowlo sold off after as little as three years and developed into something else entirely.'

'Once it's gone, it's gone forever.'

'What we are proposing

is an alternative - one that doesn't rely on pokies and keeps it in local hands.'

'The alternative is clear - local management, less, and then having no pokies, retained community asset and a three-step plan to fix and maintain.'

'We will stabilise within six months, then within 24 months embark on a pathway to profitability, and finally steady state and capital improvements within five years.'

'Read more at keepthe-bowlolocal.com'.

Proponents for the amalgamation with Norths claim the club's future would be more financially secure under Norths' management.

In July, the club's Vice President, Atosha Clancy, told *The Echo*, 'The financial situation has deteriorated since we were advised by the accountant in January to seek other options. The Bangalow Bowlo now sits on the edge.'

Atosha added, 'Personally, I can't see how the club will exist in another ten years without a massive (\$3M-\$5M) injection of capital.'

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