

### Hard decisions for Bruns photo comp



Simple Pleasures photo competition judges David Lowe, Billy Wrencher and Ros Goodchild, pictured on the other side of judge Tree Faerie's lens at the annual event. Photo Tree Faerie

Last week four artistic folk descended on Brunswick Heads for the judging of the annual Simple Pleasures photo competition.

Throughout the evening veteran judges Ros Goodchild, Billy Wrencher, *The Echo's* Tree Faerie and newbie photog David Lowe were presented with 114 entries on the theme of 'postcards from Brunswick Heads'.

Their task was to whittle down to four winners in the

child, youth and adult categories and choose an overall winner. Rumour has it that this year there will also be a special Tree Faerie prize.

#### Impressive entries

The children's entries were particularly impressive and 2017 was also a competition of note as it was the first year that shots from drones were entered. It wasn't easy but again the judges chose some great winners. A few of the

photos will be made into postcards and many, including the section winners, will be reproduced in the annual Simple Pleasures calendar.

All of the entries are now on display around town in shop windows - everyone is invited to take a stroll and vote for their favourite photo.

Entry forms are available at the visitor centre. An awards ceremony will be held on Sunday afternoon September 17. All are welcome.

### An evening of Beatles songs and stories Sept 23

With the Byron Theatre's Steinway grand piano in need of work, a fundraiser night of Beatles music is planned, along with an inside peek at the legendary band.

Local resident Joanne Petersen was personal assistant to Beatles manager Brian Epstein, and will be in conver-

sation with award-winning journalist David Leser.

Her time with the Beatles spans the years from *Rubber Soul* through to *Sgt Pepper*, and this will be the first time Joanne has told some of these tales in public.

Joanne also has original photos, which will be project-

ed on the big screen throughout the interview.

Either side of the talk will be two sets of Beatles tunes in various musical genres: classical, country, a 20-piece choir, Middle Eastern and guitar virtuosity.

For tickets visit [www.byroncentre.com.au](http://www.byroncentre.com.au)

### Creative call out for Wilsons Creek school

Got a creative gift you want to share? Wilsons Creek Public School is again running the Creative Beings program.

Principal Wil Constable says the program was designed to recognise that students learn in many ways and that many people can help students engage and learn in a number of meaningful ways.

'We recognise that learning is more than literacy and

numeracy, and that engaging in creating improves learning across all areas', he says.

'Each term, two Creative Beings work with every student to learn, create and engage with real life learning.'

'You may have seen some of our Facebook posts with students engaged in learning with a Creative Being. In the past two years we have had painters, sculptors, metal and

wood worker tutors. We have a language tutor who is teaching Indonesian and Japanese.

#### Passion

'You don't have to be a teacher to apply to be a Creative Being. You just need a skill and a passion to share that with our school.'

If you would like an application form, please contact the school on 6084 0132.

## Byron 'eager to get cracking' on renewables, forum hears

Christobel Munson

The keenly interested audience of more than 80 gathered at the Mullum Civic Centre on Thursday night were not disappointed by the promise of a night of action on renewables.

Yes, there was talk. But this was talk that packed a punch.

Keynote speaker Taryn Lane, a manager of Hepburn Wind, Australia's first community-owned cooperative windfarm in Victoria, provided details of how local communities around the world are working together to reduce their emissions through community investment in large-scale renewable projects.

She has just returned from a three-month Churchill Fellowship tour where she spoke to zero-net communities all around Europe.

Taryn said, 'Many communities globally have already paved the way for us to follow. Communities can secure their own renewable pipeline to 100 per cent. They can own it locally and benefit from it. Having local government leadership is pivotal to this.'

Dan Fitzgerald, from Small Giants, described the company's investment policy as 'being business as a major tool for positive social and environmental impact'.

The company is keen to



Mayor Simon Richardson with fellow panelists at last week's renewable energy forum. Photo supplied

provide initial funding for the development of large-scale solar PV projects in Byron Shire as a way for the Shire to reach its emissions reduction target. 110 members of the community could invest in these projects was outlined.

Chair of Zero Emissions Byron Limited (ZEB) Vicki Brooke presented the evening and launched a supporters group, while mayor Simon Richardson outlined the accomplishments of ZEB in its first two years of operation.

#### Lavertys Gap hydroelectric

COREIM's Dr Rob Passey listed the many challenges faced in attempting to resurrect the production of hydroelectric power at Lavertys Gap outside Mullumbimby, while

Giles Parkinson, founder and editor of *RenewEconomy.com.au*, Australia's leading website on clean technology and climate issues, facilitated the evening and the following Q&A session.

The following day an 'action tank' was held in Byron Council, aiming to get clear and specific about how large-scale renewable projects can be constructed in the Shire within the next 24 months. Key players, 'eager to get cracking in the mayor's words, ranged from Essential Energy, local investors and relevant providers through to the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. Expect a public announcement shortly.

Christobel Munson is from Zero Emissions Byron - for more info visit [www.zerobyron.org](http://www.zerobyron.org)

## Hempcrete builders scoop state award

A local company has won a prestigious award for a home that was constructed using hempcrete at Possum Creek.

Balanced Earth took out the 2017 *Energy Efficient Building* award from Master Builders NSW, at a ceremony in Sydney last Saturday.

Derived from hemp, hempcrete is known to be one of the most thermally efficient building materials available. Balanced Earth was co-founded by award-winning

architect Michael Lunge.

When building his new home in Byron Bay, his partner Tiffany Gee says she was adamant that there were not going to be any toxic materials used following the death of her father to mesothelioma (a cancer caused through exposure to asbestos).

'This is when the dream team was put together', Mr Lunge said.

'My mates Ture and Luke, now co-founders of Balanced

Earth, suggested we use a hempcrete and recycled timber construction.'

'They ticked all of Tiffany's boxes. Hemp is a product that is sourced from the Hunter Valley, is rendered with non-toxic lime and clay, and has excellent thermal insulating properties.'

'It took us three months to design and build and looks incredible. Then we realised this was the future of sustainable housing in Australia.'

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