

# Local News



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## Tourism awards dinner

The 'Celebration of Tourism Dinner' to declare the winners of this year's Regional Tourism Awards will be held at Thursday Plantation, Ballina, on Monday evening October 27.

Organisers say guests will be surprised and delighted by the amazing array of entertainment currently being planned for this spectacular 'night of nights'. One performer is Peter Ryan, Tabulam (finalist in the Channel 10 *Australian Idol* program). Flavours of the Northern Rivers will also be reflected in the cuisine, with ingredients unique to the region to tempt all taste buds.

Dinner bookings are now open. Please contact Cathie Johnston (Awards Coordinator) at Northern Rivers Tourism on 6626 9197. A dinner booking faxback form is also available on the Northern Rivers Tourism website [www.northernrivers-tourism.com.au](http://www.northernrivers-tourism.com.au)

The Northern Rivers Regional Business Enterprise Centres (BECs) have formed part of the judging team this year.

## Paid parking

From front page resident's parking sticker, which will be issued by Council to all residents who can prove they own a car registered within the Shire. The stickers will be issued between now and the start of the trial.

Coupon parking involves the purchase of parking coupons from commercial outlets, which will be established both within and outside the paid parking area. These coupons will allow the purchaser to nominate the day, date and time and must be clearly displayed to show proof that the parking fee has been paid. Existing parking time limits will continue to apply.

All visitors will be required to pay the \$2 per hour fee from 9am to 6pm, seven days per week. The minimum coupon price will be \$1, which will allow parking for 30 minutes.

Between now and December 1 Council will publicise the trial through signs, advertising, information brochures and further press releases. Information brochures will be provided at places of accommodation, visitor centres and selected coupon outlets.

Council has more information on paid parking at its website [www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au) under 'Current Issues'. It has also set up an information hotline on 6626 6800.

## On a clear day you can see your IQ



Island Quarry coordinator Shane Rennie showed Family and Community Services project officer Lindsay Blount around the former Ewingsdale quarry during Saturday's open day. The day saw the launch of SCENE - Sustainable Community Employment Network Enterprise, which will provide opportunities for participants in Work for the Dole and Mutual Contribution programs.

## Lions invade Bay for convention

Byron Bay is going to be inundated with Lions this week when 500 Club members meet for their yearly convention. The District comprises 85 Lions Clubs from Queensland and Northern NSW that will take part in three days of guests, speakers and entertainment. The event is a chance for members to exchange ideas and get informed on other projects as well as being a social gathering. Surprise entertainment has been lined up and official guests include Richmond MP Larry Anthony and artist Rayley Delaney.

Organisers had to work particularly hard to finalise details for the convention as there was no venue large enough in Byron Bay to cater for so many people under the same roof so they were grate-

ful to be given space at Byron High School. Even so, they'll have to work just as hard on Sunday at the close of the event to get the auditorium ready for school exams the next day.

The whole thing kicks off Friday with bowls and golf games, an official welcome from Byron Shire Council Mayor Tom Wilson and forums on how to improve communications between the Clubs.

Saturday is a huge day featuring more talks and concluding with the District Governor's Banquet themed 'The Byron Bay Beach Shirt Banquet - The Big Kahuna Night'. As they say in their own newsletter, 'let's all get lei'd together', indicating this pride of Lions is going to let its mane down.

The members will return to their respective homes after presentations from Dr Arne Rubenstein discussing the issue of raising teenage boys and talks about youth services on Sunday.

Brunswick Mullumbimby club member Louise Van Angeren said it has taken a lot of work to organise the convention, the planning of which is in conjunction with the Byron Bay Lions Club branch. 'Everything has to be done by us, so it's a very big thing,' she said.

'I'm very proud, it's not every day we get to host such a big event, it's definitely not small. We're so grateful for the Brunswick and Beach Hotels for sponsorship and also Carmel Thew from the high school, nothing has been too much for her.'

## Rail cut fears

From front page border project issue, Coolangatta Airport options, Queensland suburban links and Northern Rivers services.

Ballina MP Don Page meanwhile is planning to raise the transport issue in state parliament this week and call on the Minister to increase rather than decrease rail services on the North Coast. 'Since the release of the Parry Report into transport services in NSW the Premier and Transport Minister have failed to rule out the closure of the Casino to Murwillumbah rail line,' he said.

'Yet there is anecdotal evidence of its imminent closure, with NSW Transport refusing to take bookings for the service beyond January 2004.

'The Carr Government should rule out any closure of the Casino to Murwillumbah

rail line and reassure local residents that their service is secure. If the government is serious about viable Countrylink services on the North Coast it should extend the branch-line into South East Queensland.

'A technical feasibility study was done on extending the Casino to Murwillumbah branch line to connect with the Queensland system in 1994 and it is feasible. I will be approaching the New South Wales Premier, the

Queensland Premier, the Prime Minister and Federal Minister for Transport to see if they will jointly fund the line's extension.'

To boost his presentation in the Parliament, Mr Page is circulating a petition, which he will bring with him. Petitions can be signed at Don Page's office in Ballina, Garrard's Butchery in Brunswick Heads, Bangalow Newsagency, and Phillip Davis Mullumbimby Chemworld Pharmacy.

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