

Local News

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Nativity moves on to Eden



In a move that is bound to have theologians scratching their heads, Jesus is reborn at the garden of Eden. The wonderful Nativity scene which for at least a decade has drawn thousands of families to Pearl Varcin and Maurie Dun's home in Paterson Street every Christmas has found a new home at Eden at Byron - just to further mix Bible stories, that's opposite the Easter bluesfest office. In the picture Maurie and Pearl are being offered goodies by Santa's helpers Marie, Katie, Fi and Karl. Photo Jeff 'Crib Notes' Dawson

New Years Eve permits now on sale

Byron Shire residents are advised that New Year's Eve Special Event Permits are now available from the Byron Visitor Centre. Any vehicles seeking access to Byron Bay CBD from 6am on December 31 to 1am on January 1 must display either a Special Event Permit or a CP Sticker. Only one permit per vehicle is required.

In an attempt to reduce the number of vehicles coming into Byron Bay CBD one Special Event Permit per household will be issued free of charge to Byron Shire residents on presentation of valid ID and proof of address only. Any additional permits required per household may be purchased from the Byron Visitor Centre for \$60. Those residents that have a CP Sticker already displayed on their vehicle will not require a Special Event Permit to access Byron Bay CBD.

Event manager Jacqueline MacRae said that Special Event Permits are essential to minimise vehicle traffic in the CBD. 'We encourage people to plan ahead and to take into consideration traffic delays and parking difficulties,' said Ms MacRae.

Residents are also asked to encourage any visitors they may have staying with them to avoid using their cars in and around Byron Bay on New Year's Eve.

Off-site parking facilities will be available at the Byron

Bay High School, St Finbarr's School (opposite the Byron Bay High School) and at Belongil Fields Camping Ground. Tickets to these areas cost \$20 per vehicle and may be purchased from the security check points at the road closures on Ewingsdale Road and Bangalow Road on December 31. Blanch's Bus Service will operate bus shuttle transport every 15 minutes. Tickets cost \$3 per person each way and may be purchased from the bus driver.

Celebrating cloud forests

This Thursday Rainforest Rescue is celebrating the saving of fifty hectares of rainforest as part of the Ecuador 'Save a Hectare' Project. The project is protecting rainforest in a vital corridor between the Andean cloud forests and the low-

land forests of the Awa Ethnic Reserve in northwestern Ecuador.

TP Health, Red Rose Reality and the Beach Hotel are some of the local businesses that have helped out with a donation to the project and join a growing number of individual supporters.

Rainforest Rescue will be celebrating the successful start to the project this Thursday at the Buddha Bar in Byron Bay (front entrance) from 7pm.

in brief ■ The IQ SCENE (Sustainable Community Employment Network Enterprise) continues to flourish with a great crew of volunteers involved in a range of exciting activities at IQ Arts & Eco Centre. IQ SCENE is providing unemployed and volunteers with hands-on experience from bush regeneration to web design; and is providing assistance to arts and eco organisations and businesses to create flexible training and employment opportunities. There are 10 to 15 positions available for Work for the Dole, Centrelink Approved Activity, etc. For more information, contact Shane Rennie on 6685 9999, drop in to IQ Tuesdays/ Wednesdays, or visit www.IQ.org.au

■ Brunswick Valley School of Dance Presents 'In Rhythm' at Byron Bay High School Auditorium this Friday and Saturday night. Enrolment day for next year is Saturday January 22.

■ Case's yearly Christmas exhibition, The Summer Show, at the Piece Gallery in Mullumbimby includes work by John Dahlsen, Paula Bannon, Suvira McDonald, Christine Porter, Lucille Martin, Leonie Lane, Anita Hochman, Stephen Giese, Virginia Reed, Carolyne Lewis, Ainee, Jaye Pearse, Jenny Kitchener, John Walters, Christopher Coffey, Narani Sissons, Kaye Wearne, Lana Levi, Sonya Want, Katie Alleva, and Denise McCormick.

■ The 6.1 metre beaked whale that washed ashore at Byron Bay earlier this month has been identified as a Cuvier's (koo-vee-air) beaked whale, and is only the second time this species has been recorded stranding in NSW. Cuvier's beaked whales can grow to over seven metres in length. They inhabit the open ocean in water deeper 1000 metres feeding mostly on squid, fish and crustaceans.

■ Cycle Rickshaws is celebrating its business success with a BBQ on Thursday from 5pm at Clarkes Beach BBQ area.



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