

Celebrating
130 years
OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

BYRON
COMMUNITY
CENTRE

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130 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT



**BYRON
COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
FY25**

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General Manager's Report

Louise O'Connell



As we celebrate *130 Years of Community Spirit*, it is with great pride and deep gratitude that I reflect on the achievements of the Byron Community Centre. This year has been one of consolidation, innovation and renewed community connection, as we continue to deliver vital services, cultural enrichment and inclusive spaces for all who live in and visit the Byron Shire.

Our community support service at **Fletcher Street Cottage** continued to be a lifeline for many. We strengthened partnerships with local health and welfare providers, extended outreach programs, including the launch of the **Women's Space**, and improved service delivery through dedicated case management.

The appointment of an **Operations Manager** - funded through generous donor support - has been a critical development, helping streamline operations and free up leadership capacity to focus on strategic direction and fundraising.

Our cultural and creative programs also thrived. The **Byron Theatre** hosted **185 shows**, including films, festivals and community events. It remains a cornerstone of arts and culture in our region, offering an inclusive and inspiring space for both professional and community-led productions.

The **Byron Markets** - Community, Twilight and Beachside - celebrated one of their strongest years to date. These markets are an important income stream for over **500 local businesses**, reflecting the essence of Byron's creative and community spirit while attracting locals and visitors.

Byron Spaces, our social enterprise providing affordable venue hire, co-working areas and community rooms, continued to expand its reach with over **1,000 space hires**. These spaces have been increasingly used by community groups, supporting connection, enterprise and social inclusion.

Volunteers remain at the heart of everything we do. Over **260 volunteers** contributed across our programs this year - offering skills, time and care that make our work possible.

As we move forward, our priorities remain clear - to build a resilient, inclusive and vibrant Byron Shire through responsive services, creative initiatives and strong community partnerships.

Thank you to our valued staff, volunteers, donors, Board and community supporters - you are the foundation of everything we achieve.

Chair's Report

Bruce Clarke



In 2025, we celebrated a remarkable milestone of *130 Years of Community Spirit* at the Byron Community Centre. It has been a privilege to reflect on this legacy and to see the organisation continue to grow as a place of connection, creativity and compassion for the people of Byron Shire.

Our focus at Board level has been to support the management team in strengthening systems and delivering on the strategic plan. The achievement of **Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES)** accreditation was a significant milestone, confirming the quality of our governance and operations, and positioning the organisation strongly for future funding opportunities.

The work of the Byron Community Centre across Fletcher Street Cottage, Byron Theatre, Byron Markets and Byron Spaces has continued to make a profound impact. We have launched new programs in 2025, including the **Byron Seniors Club**, **Women's Space** and **Byron Spaces Gallery**.

We were proud to celebrate Fletcher Street Cottage's **Breakfast Space** recognised as **2024 Community Initiative of the Year** and **Byron Theatre** awarded **2024 Outstanding Evening Economy Experience**. These achievements highlight both the professionalism of our teams and the trust our community places in us.

As Chair, I want to acknowledge the dedication of my fellow Board members, whose contributions of time, expertise and insight are invaluable. Together with our outstanding staff, 260 dedicated volunteers and generous supporters, we are ensuring that the Byron Community Centre remains at the heart of community life.

I would also note that the Board has been strengthened with the addition of **John Hertzberg**, **Kerry O'Brien** and the return of previous long-standing member **Peter Tanner**.

It should also be acknowledged that this was **Louise O'Connell's** last full year as General Manager. The Byron Community Centre is in an enviable position as a result of Louise's management skills, community involvement and fundraising successes.

This year has shown once again that our organisation is resilient, adaptable and deeply rooted in the spirit of Byron. On behalf of the Board, I extend my deepest thanks to all who have supported our mission. Together, we continue to honour our history while building the foundations for a strong and sustainable future.

Secretary's Report

Peter Tanner



The past year has been one of achievement, collaboration and resilience for the Byron Community Centre. We held regular monthly Board meetings, maintaining strong governance and oversight across all aspects of the organisation.

A major highlight was achieving **Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES)** accreditation, confirming our commitment to continuous quality improvement. This accreditation not only validates our systems and processes but also strengthens our eligibility for future funding.

Board activities this year have encompassed **finance, governance, fundraising, HR and risk management**, with each portfolio contributing to the Byron Community Centre's long-term sustainability. We developed the strategic plan and further improved organisational systems to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

In the past year, we have welcomed three new directors: **Kerry O'Brien, John Hertzberg** and myself, **Peter Tanner**. **Lindy Swain** resigned as Secretary, with **David Sweet** stepping into the role temporarily before my appointment. I bring prior experience on the Board, returning after a 2.5 year hiatus. Karen Hillen stepped down as Vice Chair and was replaced by Louisa McKay, while continuing as a Director and providing integral HR support.

The FY25 theme, *130 Years of Community Spirit*, has been integrated into our governance approach, reflecting the strength, continuity and adaptability of the organisation. Our Board and management team have worked to strengthen relationships with donors, funding bodies and partners, recognising that these connections are vital to our success.

This year has again demonstrated the resilience of our staff, volunteers and Board in navigating change while keeping our mission at the heart of every decision. Together, we have continued to uphold the Byron Community Centre as a cornerstone of creativity, connection and care in our community.

Treasurer's Report

Brandon Saul



In FY25, the Byron Community Centre celebrated *130 Years of Community Spirit*, a milestone that reminds us of both the history and collective strength of the community, donors and partners who make our work possible.

\$2,690,065

Invested in Community

\$1,270,417

Donations

\$285,903

Grants

This year saw the launch of two important programs making a real difference. The **Byron Seniors Club**, launched in January 2025, welcomed 396 seniors to connect and stay active. At Fletcher Street Cottage, the new **Women's Space** was made possible through donations and grants.

Encouragingly, the **NSW Street Count** (February 2025) recorded 291 people sleeping rough in Byron Shire - a **16% decrease** on the previous year. This decline highlights the vital role of Fletcher Street Cottage and its work connecting people with housing and support pathways.

The **Byron Theatre** celebrated its **21st Birthday** in 2024, staging 185 events across music, theatre, cinema and ideas. The **Byron Theatre Company**, launched in 2025, will premiere its first original production, *Displace I Call Home*, thanks to grants from Create NSW and Regional Arts NSW.

The **Byron Markets** supported 500 local businesses and partnered with the Byron Surf Festival in 2024. Meanwhile, **Byron Spaces** reached a record year, hosting over 1,000 events and meetings, and supporting 18 community groups, reinforcing its role as a hub for connection.

Financially, FY25 brought both challenges and opportunities. Total income declined to **\$2,690,065**, a 19% decrease year-on-year, with donations contributing **\$1,270,417**, down 26% from FY24. These results reflect the broader economic climate, a tightening philanthropic environment and the increasing importance of securing multi-year government funding to ensure long-term viability.

In response, we focused more than ever on deliberate allocation of resources, enabling the organisation to continue delivering vital services and prioritising new initiatives where they are the most needed. The **FY25 audit by Butlers Chartered Accountants** resulted in a positive, unqualified audit certificate.

As we reflect on this milestone year, we extend our deepest gratitude to our donors, volunteers, partners and the Byron community. Your support allows us to provide essential services, foster culture and creativity, and ensure that we remain a place of connection for all.

Celebrating

130 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

1895

Byron Bay School
of Arts



1913

Byron Bay
Literary Institute



1981

Byron Community
Centre

In 2025, the Byron Community Centre proudly celebrated 130 years of connection, creativity and care in the heart of Byron Bay. Did you know the building once hosted a library, coffee parlour, skating rink and the town's first silent movie theatre? What began in 1895 as the **Byron Bay School of Arts** has grown into a vibrant hub supporting locals and visitors through essential services, social enterprises and cultural programs.



Honouring Our Legacy

The theme *130 Years of Community Spirit* ran throughout our programs, reinforcing the values of connection, inclusivity and resilience. Archival photos and stories were shared, in collaboration with the **Byron Bay Historical Society**, connecting past generations with today's community.

Looking Forward

This milestone was not only a chance to celebrate but also a reminder of our responsibility to continue evolving. By honouring our history, we are strengthening our commitment to the future - ensuring we remain a place of support, creativity and belonging for the next generation.

Celebrations & Events



In 2025, we hosted a diverse series of community events for our 130 Years celebrations, from a seniors showcase to murals and an art gallery launch.



130 Years: Byron Murals

June 2025

Local artist and Byron Markets stallholder Valentina Di Blase (*ValeVale Art*) created vibrant public murals, capturing our unique Byron culture and community.

Time to Shine: A Seniors Showcase

March 2025

A variety show at Byron Theatre for the **2025 Seniors Festival** celebrated creativity, vitality and community spirit across generations.



Flower Power: Volunteer Week

May 2025

A volunteer celebration brought together over **100 staff and volunteers** in a 60s fancy dress tribute to the heart of our organisation.

Fringe Festival: Byron's Got Talent

December 2024

Fringe Festival showcased local performers in a joyful community Christmas celebration of creativity and homegrown talent.



Byron Spaces Gallery Launch

June 2025

A new program providing free exhibition opportunities for local artists, enriching our community spaces with art and connection.

Community Services



1,500

Information & Referrals

100

Byron Counselling

17

Christmas Hampers

19

Tax Help

Information & Referrals

- **Information & Referrals** – 1,500 enquiries were processed by our Reception team and volunteers, linking community members to vital local services and resources quickly and effectively.
- **Tax Help Centre** – Two ATO-accredited volunteers assisted 19 low income earners with their tax returns between July and October 2024, reducing financial stress and building confidence.
- **Byron Counselling** – Free and subsidised counselling supported community members, staff and volunteers through 100 phone, online and in-person sessions to improve mental health.

2024 Christmas Hamper Appeal

The “*Adopt a Family*” Christmas Hamper Appeal brought festive relief to families in need, with 17 gift hampers distributed to those doing it tough, and a **Kindness Tree** adorned with messages of hope.



Fletcher Street Cottage



\$1,270,417

Donations

12,548

Visits

489

New Service Users

15

Staff

24

Visiting Services

125

Volunteers

3,265

Volunteer Hours

Overview

In FY25, Fletcher Street Cottage's staff and volunteers worked together to provide a safe, welcoming place for those facing hardship. We supported more than **900 visits each month**, with service users accessing essential aid such as meals, showers, laundry, casework and referrals to co-located services.

We continued to offer successful creative and wellbeing programs, including Breakfast Space and our weekly Art Space, and launched a new **Women's Space** in March 2025 in response to increasing demand.

Partnerships with **24 external providers** ensured wraparound care in areas including health, legal aid, housing and counselling.

Advocacy & Impact

16%

Decrease in
Rough Sleepers

291

Street Count
2025

Fletcher Street Cottage is an active participant in the **Ending Rough Sleeping Collaboration Byron Shire**, contributing to the *By Name List* and broader strategic discussions. While the Byron Shire continues to record the highest rates of rough sleepers in regional NSW, real progress is being made. The 2025 Street Count recorded **291 rough sleepers**, down from 348 in 2024, resulting in a 16% decrease.

Programs & Services

Fletcher Street Cottage is open four days a week from Tuesday to Friday and offers the following services:



Showers & Laundry

7am - 11:30am

Access to hot showers and laundry facilities provides people with a sense of dignity, comfort and restored wellbeing.



Office Support

8am - 12pm

Information sharing, practical assistance and access to phones, internet, printing and document help, all in a welcoming space.



Breakfast Space

7am - 9am

Breakfast provides nourishment, connection and a safe entry for people to engage with support services.

Emergency Relief

Financial aid for prescriptions, phones and transport, plus vouchers for food, fuel and clothing. Provision of tents and sleeping bags.



Personalised Care

9am-12pm

Our Community Support Workers offer personalised care, referrals, service navigation and advocacy.

Visiting Services

We work closely with a network of specialist co-located services, providing wraparound care and holistic support to address complex needs.



Health Services

Adult Survivors Program (NSW Health)

Community Engagement Team (NSW Health)

First Light Healthcare (GP)

Footprints Community (Care Finder Program)

Hairdresser

Homelessness Health Outreach Team (HHOT – NSW Health)

Needle and Syringe Program (NSW Health)

Northern Rivers Podiatry

Southern Cross University Naturopathy Clinic

Legal & Advocacy

Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

NSW Community Corrections

Public Space Liaison Officers (Byron Shire Council)

Social Futures (Connecting Home)

Domestic & Family Violence (DFV) Support

My Momentum (DFV Services)

Women's Resource Service (DFV Services)

Community & Education

Byron Community College

Assertive Outreach Housing Team
(Momentum, Social Futures, Homes NSW)

Uniting (Disaster Recovery Team)



"After three decades in community services, it's an honour to lead the team at Fletcher Street Cottage. Every day I'm inspired by the people around me and the difference we make together. Times are tough for many, but the support we receive from the wider community sends a powerful message of hope."

— Damian Farrell, Fletcher Street Cottage Manager

Programs

In FY25, Fletcher Street Cottage continued to deliver impactful programs that address both the emotional and physical needs of our community.



Breakfast Space

Tuesday to Friday, 7am - 9am

Breakfast Space provides food, warmth and connection each morning, with a seasonal menu served in the garden courtyard. Made possible by our dedicated volunteers and generous donors, it offers nourishment, dignity and a vital sense of belonging for our community.

"I'm continually inspired by our diverse team of breakfast volunteers, whose care, generosity and kindness create genuine connections and support within our community."
— Steve Strang, Breakfast Coordinator



Winner of **Community Initiative of the Year** at the 2024 Byron Shire Community Awards



Art Space

9:30-11am Every Thursday
1-3pm Women's Afternoon

Our weekly Art Space is a safe, welcoming program where participants can explore creativity in their own way. With access to art resources and gentle guidance, it offers a soft entry into artistic expression, reducing stress, building confidence and fostering connection.

"Through art, participants find calm, focus and self-expression, creating a space where everyone connects and co-regulates together." — Jennifer Abed, Community Support Worker & Art Space Facilitator



2,086

Women

135

Women's Afternoon

Women's Space

Launched on International Women's Day (8 March) 2025, Women's Space provides a safe, supportive environment where women can access emergency relief, psychosocial support and connection, developed in response to rising demand for women's services.

Women's Afternoon 1-3pm Weekly

In May 2025, the program expanded with a new **Women's Afternoon**, which provides showers, laundry, meals, emergency relief and one-on-one support with Community Support Workers. Women enjoy creative art activities, afternoon tea and access to laundry and shower facilities. Specialist services for women include housing and tenancy support, legal advice, mental health support, financial aid and domestic violence casework.



"Over the past three years, we have seen an increase in women arriving at Fletcher Street Cottage overwhelmed, isolated and unsure where to go. These women are often fleeing domestic and family violence, facing homelessness and do not have access to basic needs such as food, showers and safe shelter. A dedicated Women's Afternoon creates a safe, welcoming space where women can be heard, supported and connected to the help they deserve. Sometimes, a quiet conversation and the right support can change the course of someone's life."

— Maddi Powell, Assistant Manager &
Community Support Worker

Impact Stories

Ways your support of Fletcher Street Cottage helps us to have impact in our community.



Young Mother in Crisis

A young mum was homeless, recovering from surgery and unable to afford rent, food or transport. Her child couldn't attend school and the family had no access to government support. A Community Support Worker provided emotional support, assisted with documents and applied for a \$1k emergency grant. Two weeks later, she returned - healthy, hopeful, her child back in school, their car repaired and new housing in sight.



An Addiction Journey

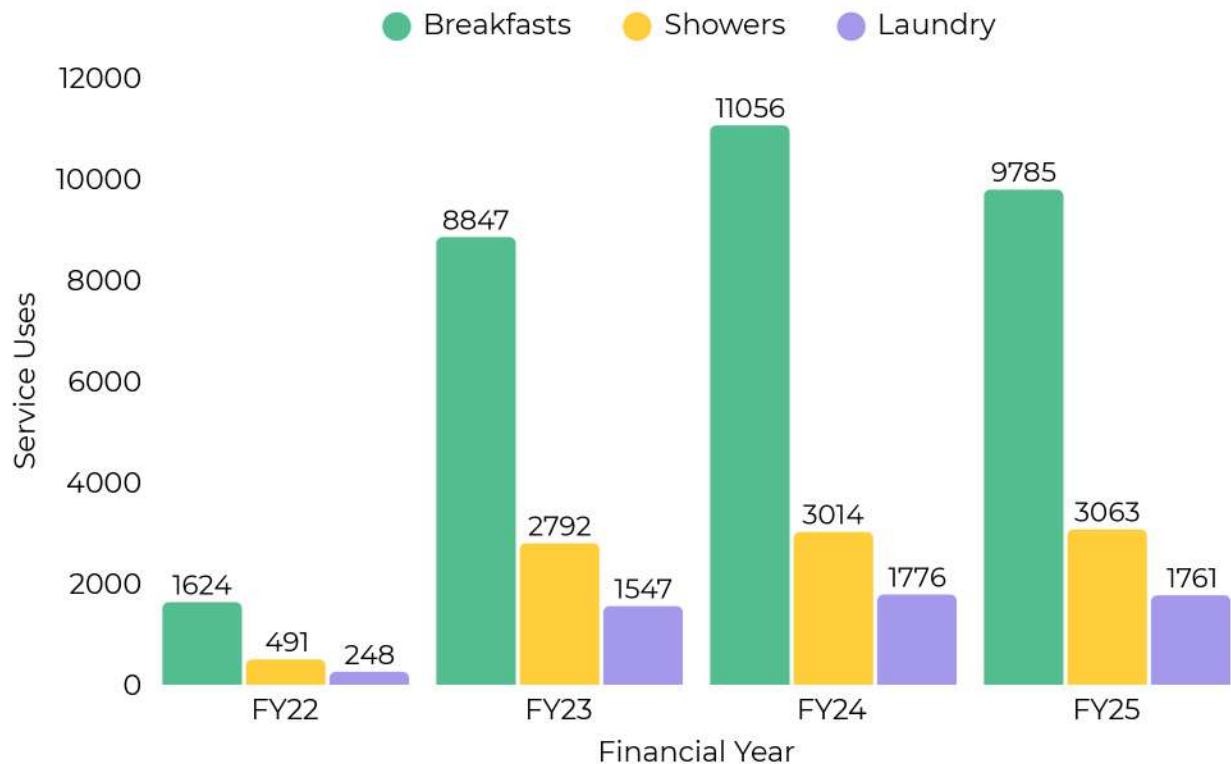
Over a period of three months, a young man was supported at Fletcher Street Cottage while working to overcome alcohol and drug addiction. Our team connected him with crisis payments, temporary accommodation, legal and housing support, and provided practical assistance such as fuel vouchers to attend essential appointments. These supports have helped him maintain sobriety, access services and take steps toward stability.

Housing Support for All Abilities

A man with a hearing impairment left unsafe housing in Lismore and struggled with unaffordable rent in Byron. With the help of a volunteer Auslan interpreter, we connected him to a specialist homelessness service, completed his intake and secured immediate temporary accommodation. He is now safely housed in supported accommodation, deeply grateful for the collaborative effort that made it possible.



Services Usage



Thank You to Our Supporters

We sincerely thank our many wonderful donors, sponsors and partners for their kind support, which keeps Fletcher Street Cottage thriving. Your generosity keeps our doors open, providing a safe haven and essential services like counselling, emergency relief and housing referrals to those facing disadvantage in our community.

Your belief in our mission fosters hope and transformation, helping individuals and families rebuild their lives with dignity. Fletcher Street Cottage is a testament to the power of compassion and community, and we are deeply grateful for your continued partnership in making this positive change possible.





18,631

Ticket Sales

185

Theatre Events

28

Sold Out Shows

5

Sponsored
community events
& fundraisers worth

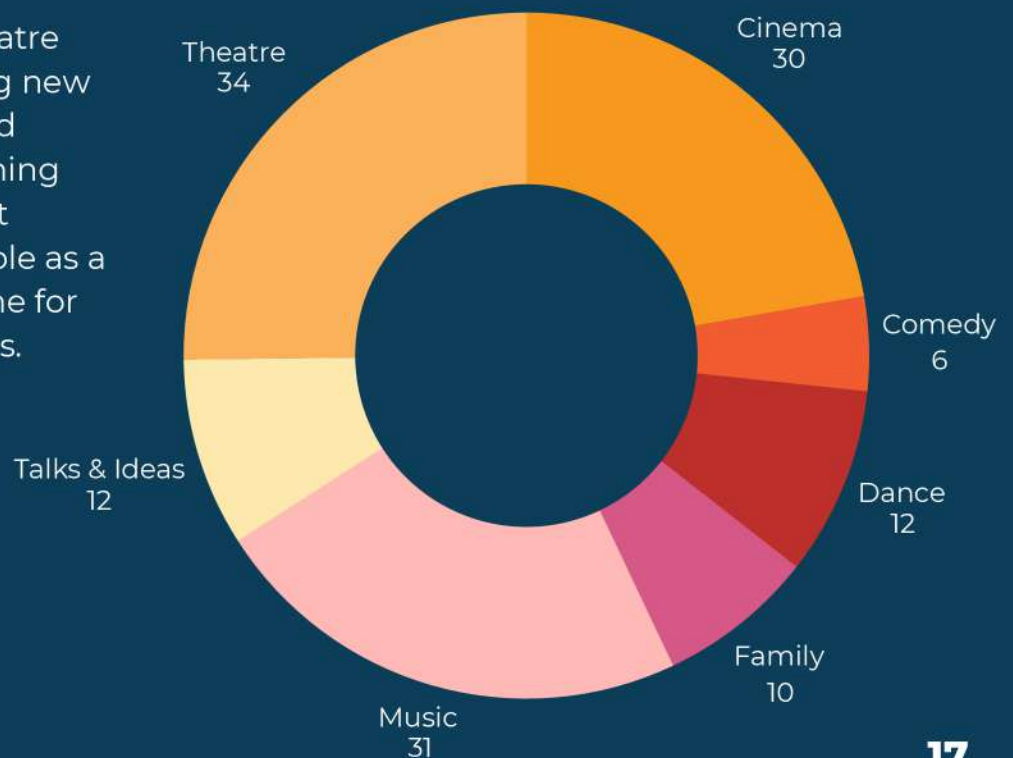
\$11,000

76

Weekly
community
sessions worth

\$16,720

In FY25, Byron Theatre entered an exciting new era of creativity and connection, launching bold initiatives that strengthened its role as a cultural cornerstone for the Northern Rivers.



Byron Theatre Company

2025 marked an important new chapter for Byron Theatre, with the launch of our own resident theatre company. This milestone represents our long-term vision to create original works that reflect the stories, voices and spirit of our community while attracting new audiences to the arts.

The company's premiere production, ***Displace I Call Home***, will debut in July 2025 as a powerful exploration of identity and belonging. It will bring together a talented ensemble of local and national professional artists, showcasing Byron Theatre as a hub for new Australian writing and performance. This sets the foundation for future works, positioning the Byron Theatre Company as a vital part of the region's creative landscape.

Displace I Call Home attracted substantial grant funding from both the federal and state government, opening up new funding opportunities for the organisation.



A Creative Meeting Place

Beyond our in-house productions, Byron Theatre continued to present a diverse program of film, live performance, touring music and community events. Partnerships with local organisations, visiting artists and cultural festivals strengthened our reputation as a creative meeting place that fosters collaboration and inclusion.



The Byron Speakeasy

We expanded our live music and cabaret programming with the introduction of *The Byron Speakeasy* in **January 2025**. These cabaret concerts will become a highlight of our annual calendar, blending music, theatre and atmosphere to create unforgettable nights that resonate with both locals and visitors.

Event Highlights

Byron Theatre provides a platform for artists, festivals, performers, theatre companies, music ensembles and arts organisations.



- **Comedy:** Arj Barker, Dave O'Neil, Jimeoin, Akmal
- **Kids & Family Shows:** Shorty Brown's Kids Disco, Bright Lights, The Point, The Librarian
- **Talks & Ideas:** Lee Harris, David Whyte - "Gather With Us", Byron Writers Festival
- **Festivals:** Byron Latin Fiesta, Byron Tango Festival, We Dance Festival
- **Concerts:** Karise Eden, Nathan Cavaleri, Tex Perkins, Vince Jones, The Necks, Joseph Tawadros, The Honey Sliders, Ganavya, Meg Washington, Yirmal
- **Theatre:** Into The Woods, Magic of The Mundane, The Sunshine Club, My Cousin Frank, New Blood

"This year has been one of creativity, connection and growth for the Byron Theatre. From the launch of our new theatre company to the energy of our cabaret concert series The Byron Speakeasy, we've seen audiences embrace fresh ideas while continuing to support our diverse program of film, music and community events. What makes Byron Theatre special is not just what happens on stage, but the way it brings people together - artists, audiences and our community alike. As we look to the year ahead, I'm proud of what we've achieved and excited for the role the theatre continues to play as a cultural hub for the Northern Rivers."

— Jon Howell, Theatre Manager



Community Sponsorship

In FY25, Byron Theatre proudly sponsored **5** community, charity and fundraising events, contributing a value of **\$11,000**.

- **Meet the Candidates** - The Echo & BayFM
- **Byron Seniors Club** Drumming, Dance, Storytelling & NT Live Special Events
- **Liberation Larder** Christmas Party & Film Fundraiser
- **NAIDOC Film Screening** - Flickerfest & Arakwal Corp



Theatre Volunteers

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated volunteers who provided invaluable support throughout the year, contributing to the success of our office, backstage and front of house operations.

“I love the intimate feel of a small theatre where you see and feel your community at work.”

— Portia Tresselt,
Audience Member

“The whole process of delivering the show was wonderful. The team at Byron Theatre was very supportive and professional. It was such a great experience.”

— Alison Buckley, Julian Belbachir Sonic
Caravan Tour

Byron Theatre was the winner of **After Dark: Outstanding Evening Economy Experience** at the 2024 Uniquely Byron Business Awards

Sponsors & Partners

We acknowledge and appreciate the support of our sponsors and partners who play a vital role in the theatre's continued success.

Partners

- Eye Notice You
- NORPA
- Rhythm Section
- SAE Creative Media Institute
- Stone & Wood
- TAFE NSW

Grants

- Create NSW
- Regional Arts Fund



1,000+
Space Hires

It was another dynamic year for Byron Spaces, with a diverse range of events, workshops and sponsored community groups making full use of our venues.

"It's a pleasure coordinating Byron Spaces and to be able to offer professional meeting spaces in the heart of Byron. Knowing that all proceeds support our community programs and services is a plus."

— Carl Taylor, Byron Spaces Coordinator



Supporting Our Community

- 12-Step Programs for Drug & Alcohol Addiction
- Byron Youth Theatre
- Byron Seniors
- Destination Byron
- Liberation Larder
- Tea & Play - Byron Volunteers
- Women's Empowerment Ceremony
- Mad Hatter's Tea Party Fundraiser

3,398

Sponsored hours of
community space worth

\$102,530

Event Highlights



- **Federal Election Pre-Polling** (*May 2025*) Record voter turnout with queues extending beyond the building.
- **Love Works Training** (*September 2024*) A four-day teacher training in contemporary skills of tantra.
- **Specialist Workshops** Hosted programs with Marcus Pearce, Psychedelic Institute Australia and Fibrinolysis Down Under, among others.
- **International Clients** Continued long-term partnerships with Long Island University and SIT Study Abroad, both returning for regular bookings.

The **Byron Community Cabin** was in high demand this year, with strong repeat bookings and a homeschool program now running three days a week.



Destination Byron

The Communications team initiated a new partnership with Destination Byron, a peak tourism body supporting sustainable visitor experiences in the Byron Shire. Byron Spaces proudly sponsored space for their regular meetings and workshops to support collaboration and local tourism initiatives.

“We regularly book events for training and meetings. We rate Spaces at the Byron Community Centre highly, the service provided is exceptional.”

— First National Real Estate



Byron Seniors

- **Chair Yoga**
- **Elder Beats Drumming** - Byron Seniors Club
- **Hula Dance** - Byron Seniors Club
- **Storytelling** - Byron Seniors Club
- **Studio 55 Drama**

“The Byron Community Centre spaces are fantastic for our business. The rooms are clean, practical and have everything we need to run our team sessions. Plus the proceeds are put to good use locally in Byron.”

— Byron Spaces Client





4

Seasonal
Exhibitions

100%

Free Art Gallery

Byron Spaces Gallery

Launched in June 2025 as part of the *130 Years of Community Spirit* celebrations, Byron Spaces Gallery provides a free, accessible exhibition space for local artists. The debut exhibition, *Magic Birds of Australia* by Byron Markets stallholder **Valentina Di Blase** (*ValeVale Art*), was a captivating celebration of native birdlife with hidden glow-in-the-dark messages. The gallery strengthens our role as a cultural hub by supporting emerging and established artists, adding fresh energy to our spaces and showcasing Byron's creative talent.

Community Murals

The program extends to public art, featuring a beautiful new mural by Valentina on the back of the Byron Community Centre. Celebrating local identity, it depicts iconic landmarks such as the Byron lighthouse and "Cheer Up, Slow Down, Chill Out" sign, alongside a surfer, humpback whale and kombi van. Valentina also created a second sponsored mural at **Bayleaf Café**, marking *130 Years of Community Spirit* with colour and creativity.



"The Byron Spaces Gallery is a vibrant new platform where local artists and community come together through creativity. It's been incredible to see how each exhibition transforms the atmosphere of our spaces, sparking connection and conversation. From Valentina's glowing *Magic Birds of Australia* to our new public murals, the program is helping us celebrate the diversity, beauty and spirit of Byron's creative community."

— Kate Love, Communications Manager
& Program Coordinator

Byron Markets



500+

Local
Businesses

46

Markets

\$30k+

Paid to Musicians

The Byron Markets are a vibrant showcase of the region's creativity and community spirit, bringing together locals, visitors, musicians and makers since 1987. Across the Community, Twilight and Beachside Markets, we delivered **46 markets** in FY25, supporting over **500 local businesses** and paying more than \$30,000 to musicians.

Despite challenges with weather, only three markets were cancelled, and each event remained a place for connection, discovery and celebration. From lively Saturday nights under the stars at the Twilight Market, to bustling town centre Community Markets and the coastal energy of the Beachside Market, Byron Markets remain an authentic reflection of Byron's heart and soul.

Graham Double stepped down as Markets Manager in October 2024, and **Carl Taylor** served as Acting Markets Manager before formally taking on the role in March 2025. Looking ahead, the Community Market will move back to its former beachfront location in July 2025 due to Byron Shire Council's drainage works in the town centre.



**Due to severe weather, 3 markets were cancelled.*

Byron Community Market

1st Sunday of the Month (3rd in Dec & Jan)

8am - 3pm (Summer) **8am - 2pm** (Winter)

Town Centre

- No cancellations since April 2024, averaging **260 stallholders** each month.
- **Vibrant entertainment** including Versace Boys, Batala Drummers and Gabriel Otu.
- **Broader reach** through social media and promotions at the Ballina Byron Airport and local accommodation.

With over 500 local makers, artists and performers supported each year, the Byron Community Market continues to showcase the creativity of Byron Shire.

“The Byron Community Market holds the community spirit this area is so famous for, with a wide range of stallholders showcasing original, handmade, designed or procured products and wares, giving the market a truly unique vibe.”

— Natwah Petruszka,
Community Market Coordinator



Byron Beachside Market

Quarterly in December, Easter, July & September
8am - 3pm
Main Beach

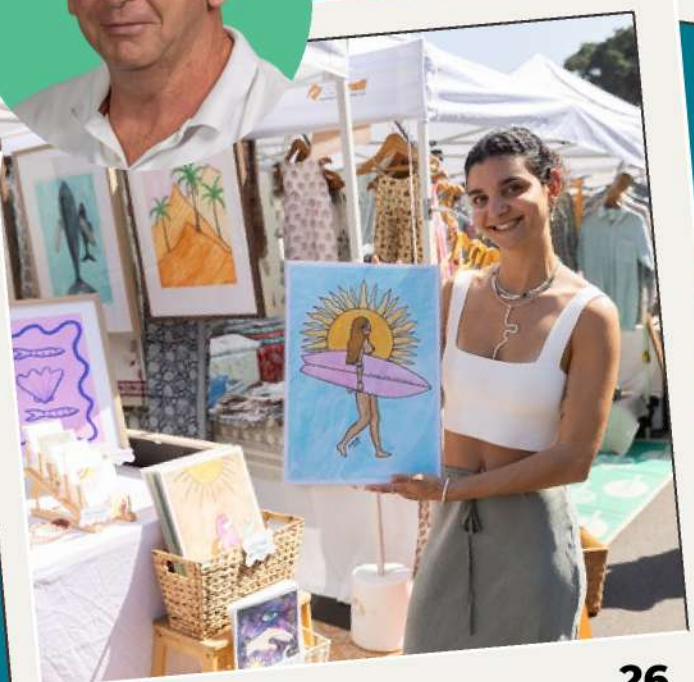


- **Strongest stallholder attendance** since COVID, reaching peak levels and record takings.
- Broader acceptance criteria improved **numbers and diversity**, with positive feedback from stallholders and customers.
- **Special events:** December market and Easter Sunday market were both major successes.

The Beachside Market remains a vibrant showcase of artisan makers and creators, offering a unique coastal experience and a true taste of Byron's creative spirit.

"It's fantastic to see the Beachside Market returning to pre-COVID numbers. Our Easter and Christmas events were especially strong, with many stallholders reporting record takings and a real sense that the market was back to its best."

— Greg Curry, Beachside Market Coordinator



Byron Twilight Market

Every Saturday, October 2024 to April 2025

4pm - 9pm

Railway Park



- **Strongest season** in years with record applications and stall variety.
- **Weather challenges** led to several cancellations and cautious stallholder commitment.
- **Special events:** New Year's Eve market and Harmony Parade partnership in March 2025.
- First trial of a **wash station** for reusable crockery at season's end.

As Byron's artisan night market, the Twilight Market celebrates creativity and connection with diverse stalls, local makers and live music under the stars.

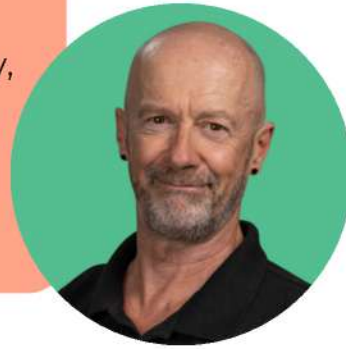
"The Twilight Market has truly established itself as the go-to destination for food, entertainment and connection on a Saturday night. Our extra New Year's Eve market was a standout success, perfectly complementing Soul Street celebrations."

— Greg Curry, Twilight Market Coordinator



"Since 1987, the Byron Markets have captured the true essence of Byron Bay, offering both locals and visitors an authentic experience."

— Carl Taylor, Byron Markets Manager

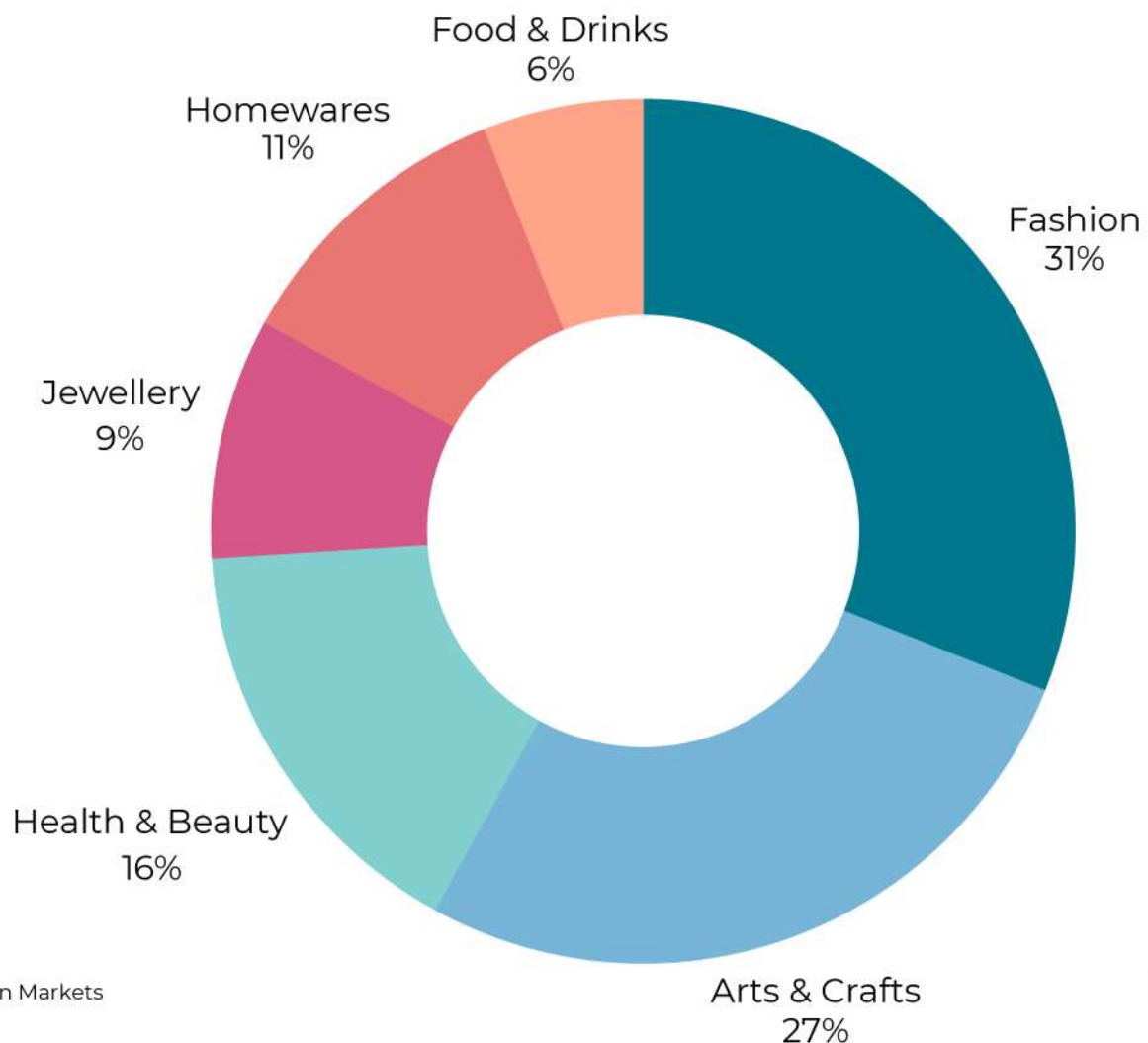


"The vibe is something special. You still get a taste of the old Byron, the hippy energy, the characters from the hills, the incredible food - it's a melting pot of makers and artists. I love it."

— Stallholder
Brent Wayling, Salty's Short Supply

"The sense of community here is warm, supportive and creative. The market isn't just about selling. It's about sharing stories, being part of a collective and feeling connected to the people around you."

— Stallholder
Laila Trees, Laila Trees Art



Stallholder Advisory Group



The Stallholder Advisory Group (SAG) provides a vital platform for open communication between market organisers and stallholders. Meeting monthly throughout the year, SAG offers valuable feedback, shares ideas and helps guide improvements, ensuring Byron Markets remain vibrant, inclusive and reflective of our community's creative spirit.

- **Ananda McOscar** - Black Crest Coffee
- **Mignon Frances** - MinMin Designs
- **Matt Brown** - OMG Doughnuts
- **Geoff Haycraft** - Shanti Shanti Trading
- **Cherie Harden** - Cherie Harden Art
- **Meli Smith** - Petal & Wood



Market Stage

\$30,000

Paid to Musicians



Performers

- Adrian Heath
- Batala Drummers
- Broadfoot
- Cheynne Murphy Duo
- Cinnamon Sun
- Cos Micos
- Croaker & The Honeybee
- Dr Baz & the Good Medicine
- Gabriel Otu
- Ginger Lane
- Hannah Pearl
- Hayley Grace
- Henry West
- Jesse Morris
- Laverde Duo
- Luke Vasella
- Mapstone
- Mark Chapman Band
- Martin Lartigau
- Mel Scarlett
- Resonant Hand
- Russ Jalakai
- Skyeater
- The Cool Breeze
- The Guy Kachel Band
- The Minky's
- Zac Crackalaka



"Playing at the Byron Markets is my favourite gig. The ambience, the food and the Byron Markets team are a joy to engage with. The stalls are epic, and I enjoy being around other artists. Having an opportunity to make a living doing what I love is a bonus."

— Hannah Pearl, Musician



**396**

Club Members

54Events &
Activities**1,355**

Attendances

5

Core Activities

Byron Seniors Launched in 2025

Launched in January 2025, the **Byron Seniors Club** has quickly grown into a vibrant and highly successful program. In just six months it has created a welcoming and inclusive community with **396 members** where seniors connect, move, engage, create and celebrate together.

Membership is free, ensuring accessibility for all. The program is designed to reduce social isolation, foster belonging and support wellbeing. From **Elder Beats Drumming** and **Hula Dance** to **Storytelling**, theatre, information nights and social gatherings, the club has delivered a diverse program that reflects the creativity and spirit of Byron Shire's elders, always with a focus on fun, connection and wellbeing.

The response has been extraordinary. Many sessions quickly reached capacity with waitlists forming - a clear sign of the strong demand and value of this program in the community.



An evaluation survey of **60 participants** revealed outstanding outcomes:

- **100%** felt welcomed and included
- **94%** felt more socially connected
- **92%** experienced a stronger sense of belonging
- **92%** reported improved mood and outlook
- **90%** felt higher energy levels
- **84%** noticed improvements in physical health or mobility

Participants consistently described the Byron Seniors Club as **joyful, inclusive and uplifting**. For many, it has become a highlight of their week and an anchor of connection.

The Byron Seniors Club is not only enriching individual lives but strengthening the social fabric of our community. It is building relationships, reducing isolation and creating spaces where seniors feel valued, celebrated and connected.



"It's the energy, the welcoming feeling of belonging, of being accepted just as I am. It makes me feel visible as an older person, and that is really special."

— Club Member

Special Events



Time to Shine: Byron Seniors Showcase

Byron Seniors Festival 2025

March 2025

A joyful celebration of creativity and community, the Byron Seniors Showcase brought together club participants and local performers for an evening of performance, laughter and fun.



Let's Talk Dementia

April 2025

A partnership with Sabine Muschter & Byron Shire Respite Services

Let's Talk Dementia featured expert speakers, attracted an **audience of 120** and sparked important conversations about ageing and dementia in our community.

Weekly Activities



In 2025, Byron Seniors Club delivered a vibrant weekly program of activities and events designed to keep older residents active, engaged and connected.



Elder Beats Drumming

Gareth Jones

An uplifting group drumming program that boosts energy, reduces stress and fosters connection. Each session is followed by a catered social tea for seniors to relax, chat and form lasting friendships.

Storytelling

Talia Levy

Creative workshops that reveal a world of imagination, expression and shared memory. These sessions offer inspiration and connection, while seniors explore stories together.



Hula Dance

Lilith Rocha & Byron Bay Hula

Gentle movement, joyful self-expression and the heartwarming traditions of Hawaiian culture. Participants describe the classes as fun and deeply beneficial for mind and body.

African Dance

Angela McWhinney

African Dance brings rhythm, movement and joy to seniors, who enjoy fitness and fun in an inclusive environment. The rhythm and energy inspire seniors to move in new ways.



"I didn't know anyone here. Coming to Elder Beats Drumming, I immediately felt welcomed. Now I have a group of friends I see regularly, and it's made all the difference to my happiness."

— Drumming Participant



National Theatre Live - Byron Theatre

Byron Seniors Club members enjoyed subsidised \$5 access to world-class stage productions broadcast at Byron Theatre, including *Prima Facie*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Dr Strangelove*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Taming of the Shrew*. Across these screenings, seniors booked **207 Seniors Club tickets**.

"It's wonderful to have shows like this on at 1pm, perfect for seniors. We're so fortunate to have a theatre like this in Byron, giving us access to world-class productions locally. It means so much." — NT Live Audience Member

Supported By

- Australia Post
- Australian Chinese Charity Foundation
- Byron Bay Services Club (*NSW ClubGrants*)
- Byron Shire Council
- Northern Rivers Community Foundation

Beyond the Club

In addition to Byron Seniors Club, the Byron Community Centre and Byron Spaces sponsors weekly activities for seniors, providing space for **Studio 55 Drama** and **Chair Yoga** at the Byron Community Cabin.



"It has been an honour to launch the Byron Seniors Club, a program that supports and celebrates our seniors community. By fostering creativity, wellness and connection, the club reflects our deep commitment to caring for and valuing the elders of our community."

— Shanti Des Fours, Byron Seniors Club Coordinator

Byron Volunteers



260

Volunteers

7,610

Volunteer Hours valued at
\$228,300

**Based on an average rate of \$30/hour*

75%

Female

25%

Male

The Heart of the Byron Community Centre

Volunteers are the beating heart of the Byron Community Centre, giving their time, skills and care to support our programs and services. In FY25, **260 volunteers** contributed over **7,610 hours** across Fletcher Street Cottage, Byron Theatre, Byron Markets, Byron Seniors Club, and more.

From serving breakfasts and ushering theatre shows to supporting seniors activities and community events, these volunteer efforts created meaningful outcomes every day.

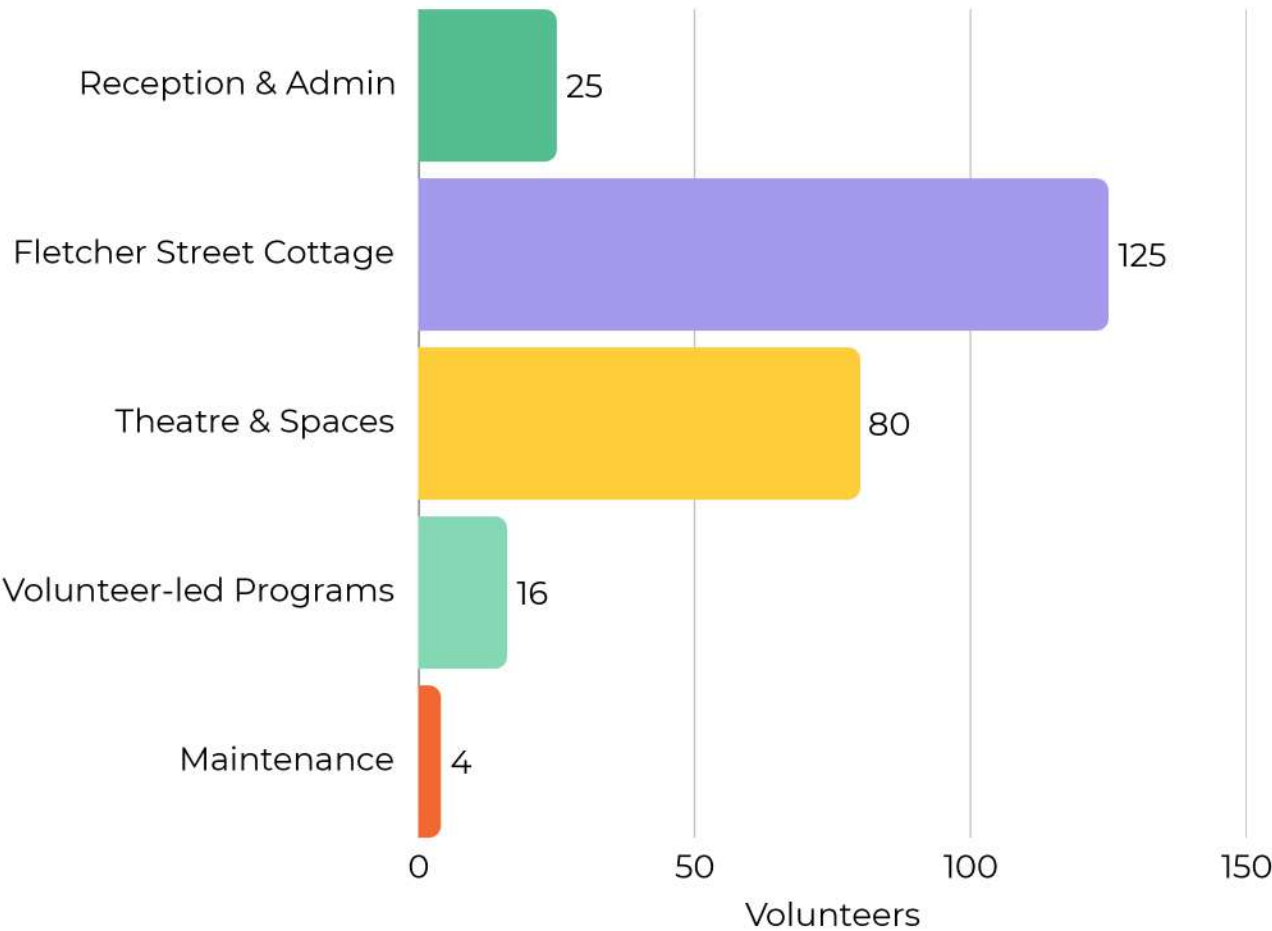
145 Volunteer Inductions

As the Byron Community Centre evolves to meet the changing needs of the community, so too do our volunteer roles. We strive to match each volunteer with opportunities they enjoy, and many contribute across multiple roles that suit their **interests, skills and availability**. This flexibility ensures a rewarding experience for volunteers while strengthening the impact of our programs.



250 Active Volunteers

As of June 2025



903

Hours of volunteer contribution across maintenance, ambassadors, volunteer-led events, valued at

\$27,090

986

Hours of volunteer contribution at **Byron Spaces** and **Byron Theatre** valued at

\$29,580

2,456

Hours of volunteer contribution at **Byron Community Centre** reception, WDO and admin tasks, valued at

\$73,680

3,265

Hours of volunteer contribution at **Fletcher Street Cottage** valued at

\$97,950

Volunteer Opportunities



Byron Community Centre

Administration

Ambassador - Byron Farmers Market

Facilities & Maintenance

Reception

Byron Theatre

Theatre Usher

Snack Stand Seller

Raffle Seller

Communications

Copywriting

Graphic Design

Photography & Videography

Byron Spaces

Spaces Volunteer

Byron Volunteers

Volunteer Induction

Volunteer Onboarding

Byron Markets

Site Crew

Raffle Seller

Fletcher Street Cottage

Art Space Volunteer

Breakfast Volunteer

Cottage Keeper

Dog Volunteer

Showers & Laundry Volunteer

Women's Space Volunteer

Student Placements

"Volunteering is more rewarding than I ever imagined. It gave me purpose at a time that I really needed it. In giving back to my community, I have gained an abundance of opportunities and experiences. The dedication of Byron Community Centre and Fletcher Street Cottage towards supporting the community makes me proud to be a volunteer."

— Kerrie, Laundry, Showers and Breakfast Volunteer & Reception Volunteer

"Volunteering has helped me get back my sense of purpose and connection to people that I was so missing after retirement. The staff and other volunteers are so friendly, welcoming and appreciative."

— Michelle, Reception & Administration Volunteer

Events, Workshops & Activities



July 2024 - October 2024	Tax Help	Two ATO-accredited Tax Help volunteers assisted 19 members of the community to submit their tax return.
August 2024	Winter Tea & Play - Byron Community Cabin	A relaxed afternoon for volunteers to connect with other staff and volunteers across programs.
October 2024	Introduction to Hypnotherapy Workshop + Private Appointments	Free workshop facilitated by volunteer Natascha Krauss, an experienced Hypnotherapist.
October 2024	Spring Tea & Play - Byron Community Cabin	A relaxed afternoon for volunteers to connect with other staff and volunteers across programs.
November 2024	Essential Tools for Stress and Trauma Workshop + Private Appointments	Free workshop facilitated by volunteer Jana Holland, an experienced Somatic Trauma Therapist.
November 2024	Women's Empowerment Ceremony - Byron Community Cabin	A Women's Empowerment Ceremony, facilitated by volunteer Pippy Wardell.
December 2024	Fringe Festival Christmas Party - Byron Theatre	A night of laughter, entertainment and festive cheer, provided by staff and volunteers.
March 2025	Tax Help Volunteer Recruitment Workshop	A workshop to unpack the ATO 2025 Tax Help program for interested volunteers.
March 2025	Mad Hatter's Tea Party - Byron Community Cabin	Facilitated by volunteer Pippy Wardell, raising funds for the Women's Space.
March 2025	First Aid CPR Training	Supported by Byron Community College – free training for 40 volunteers and staff.
April 2025	Mental Health First Aid Training	Supported by Byron Community College – free training for 15 volunteers and staff.
May 2025	Mental Health First Aid Training	Supported by Byron Community College – free training for 15 volunteers and staff.
May 25	Flower Power Volunteer Week 2025 - Byron Theatre	A free celebration of our volunteers, with live 60s music, fancy dress, dancing and catering.
June 2025 - October 2025	Tax Help	Three ATO-accredited Tax Help volunteers assist members of the community to submit their tax return.

Byron Community College

In FY25, we launched a new partnership with Byron Community College, bringing practical training opportunities to strengthen the skills and confidence of our staff and volunteers, especially those working on the frontline.



"Our partnership with the Byron Community College has been a game-changer, offering bite-sized, relevant adult education, such as free **First Aid** and **Mental Health First Aid** training to our frontline staff and volunteers. The impact is profound - not just in what we deliver, but in how we grow together. It's a privilege to witness."

— Cathy Levins-Byres, Volunteer Coordinator

Community Programs

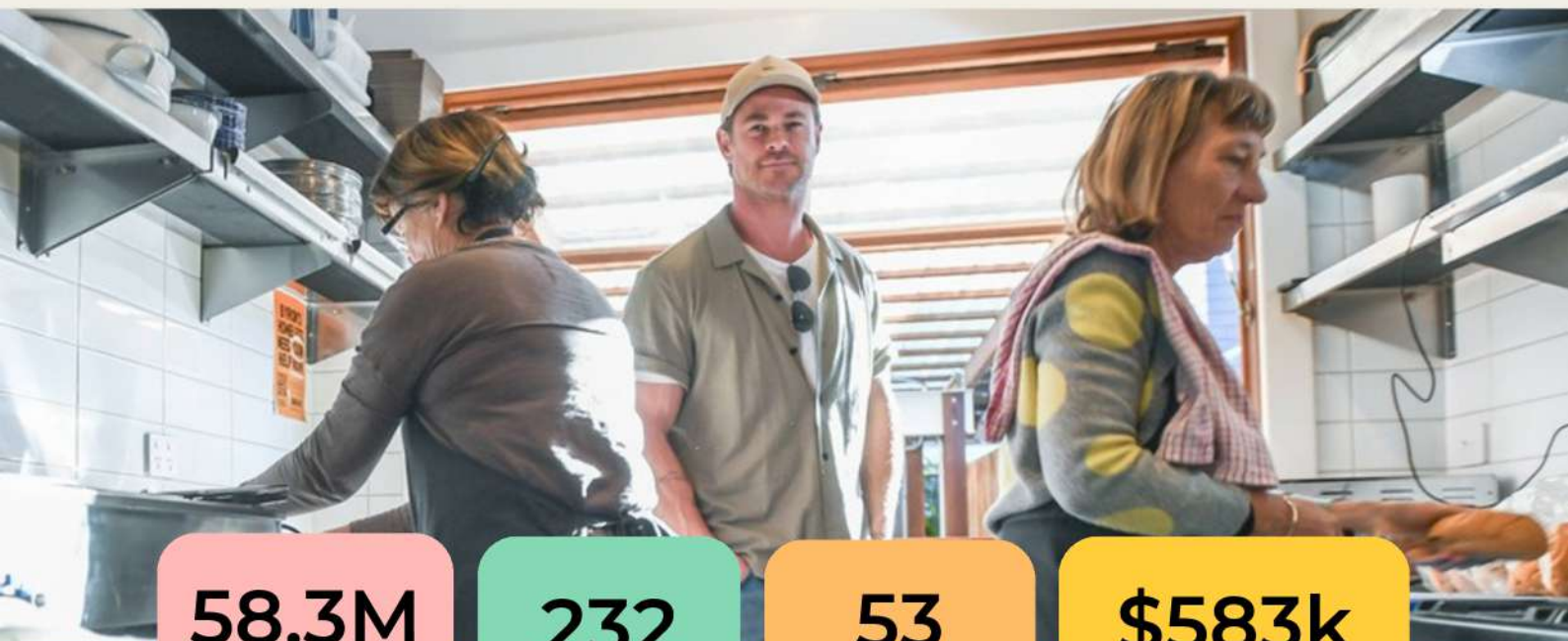
We actively supported volunteer-led events by providing accessible space, admin assistance and marketing support. We ensured each initiative was resourced with the tools to make it a success.

This collaborative approach empowers our volunteers to lead with confidence, strengthens community engagement and fosters a culture of shared ownership and meaningful impact.

Byron Volunteers



Communications



58.3M

Media
Reach

232

Media
Coverage

53

Media
Publications

\$583k

Saved
Advertising Value

Media, Marketing & PR

The Communications team, **Kate Love** and **Amanda Kuhn**, played a vital role in FY25, delivering impactful campaigns, consistent messaging and creative content across all services, events and programs delivered by the Byron Community Centre.

From community events and public awareness campaigns to donor appeals and media relations, Communications supported each program in strengthening its profile, engaging the public and amplifying our core values of **compassion, connection and community spirit**.

This year's focus was on increasing visibility, enhancing storytelling and improving local and visitor engagement for all programs, all while celebrating **130 Years of Community Spirit**.

Communications

820k

Social Media
Reach

22.5k

Newsletter
Subscribers



Highlights

Media

- Chris Hemsworth x Homelessness Week (2024)
- Byron Community Market Relocation (2025)
- Byron Theatre's 21st Anniversary (2024)
- Byron Spaces Gallery Launch (June 2025)
- Volunteer Week (19 - 25 May 2025) x Byron Volunteers

Promotions

- Byron Volunteers Raffle (Seasonal)
- Byron Markets Instagram Competition (Monthly)
- "Byron Listens" - BayFM Show (Monthly)
- Byron Markets Stallholder Feature x Byron Coast Times (Monthly)
- Ballina Byron Airport Ads - Theatre, Markets & Spaces

Digital

- "Be Local" Annual Campaign x 130 Years of Community Spirit
- "Give Her Space" x Women's Space EOFY Appeal (June 2025)
- Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred Disaster Communications & Response (February 2025)
- "Adopt a Family" Christmas Hamper + "Be Kind" Christmas Appeal + Kindness Tree (2024)
- Byron Summer of Markets (2024-25)



"In FY25, our focus was on creating visibility, amplifying voices and connecting people to the heart of the Byron Community Centre. From murals and media campaigns to fundraisers and digital storytelling, we've worked to celebrate 130 Years of *Community Spirit* while strengthening the presence of every program. It's an honour to share these stories and to help our community feel informed, inspired and proud of what we achieve together."

— Kate Love, Communications Manager



Byron Markets

- Supported the successful **relocation of Byron Community Market** to Main Beach through a Council-funded media, digital and signage campaign.
- A refreshed Byron Markets **brochure** was created for distribution at the Byron Visitors Centre and Ballina Byron Airport.
- **Byron Summer of Markets** campaign increased attendance at our three markets, highlighting a special Christmas Market and New Year's Eve Twilight Market.



Byron Theatre

- Press campaign for **21st Anniversary**, including a photoshoot with the theatre team, featured on the front cover of 1st edition of Byron Coast Times.
- Theatre events promoted through social media, press and What's On, with the standout highlight being **The Byron Speakeasy** in January 2025.
- A major campaign for the debut production of Byron Theatre Company's **Displace I Call Home** resulted in strong media coverage.

Byron Seniors Club

- Designed and delivered collateral for the Byron Seniors Club **launch** including a new logo, dedicated webpage, posters and flyers.
- New activities such as **Drumming, Hula Dance and Storytelling** promoted through media releases, monthly newsletters and social media.
- Supported the **2025 Byron Seniors Showcase** to celebrate older residents and promote the club, which now has **396 members**.





Byron Spaces

- Showcased Byron Spaces through a dynamic **campaign and video**, successfully positioning it for workshops, meetings and conferences.
- Developed and coordinated the new **Byron Spaces Gallery** to feature local artists in a free community gallery with seasonal exhibitions.
- The first exhibition, ***Magical Birds of Australia*** by Byron Markets stallholder Valentina Di Blase, was supported with opening event promotion and artist storytelling.

Fletcher Street Cottage

- Highlighted the ongoing **impact of services** and programs through media, digital storytelling and donor engagement.
- Promoted the **Women's Space** launch on International Women's Day (8 March 2025) and new campaign, *Give Her Space*, for EOFY appeal.
- Press campaign with donor **Chris Hemsworth** resulted in extensive national media coverage and awareness for Homelessness Week 2024.



Byron Volunteers

- Managed a quarterly **seasonal raffle** with prizes generously donated by local Byron businesses to raise funds for the volunteer program.
- Volunteer contributions were celebrated and recognised through the promotion of **Volunteer Week** and our Flower Power event.
- Volunteer callouts and storytelling drove strong engagement, resulting in high volunteer interest and **260 active volunteers**.

Media Coverage



Local & Regional Radio

- 2NCR Radio Lismore
- ABC North Coast Radio
- BayFM
- Local Sounds Northern Rivers
- National Radio News - Community Radio
- ZZZ FM - Super Radio Network

National Media

- ABC News
- News.com.au
- Realestate.com.au
- The Advocate
- The Canberra Times
- The Daily Telegraph
- The North West Star

Local & Regional Print & News

- Ballina Times
- Bangalow Herald
- Byron Coast Times
- Lismore Times
- Northern Rivers Times
- Surf Coast Times
- The Byron Wave
- The Echo
- Tweed Coast Times

Online Outlets & Magazines

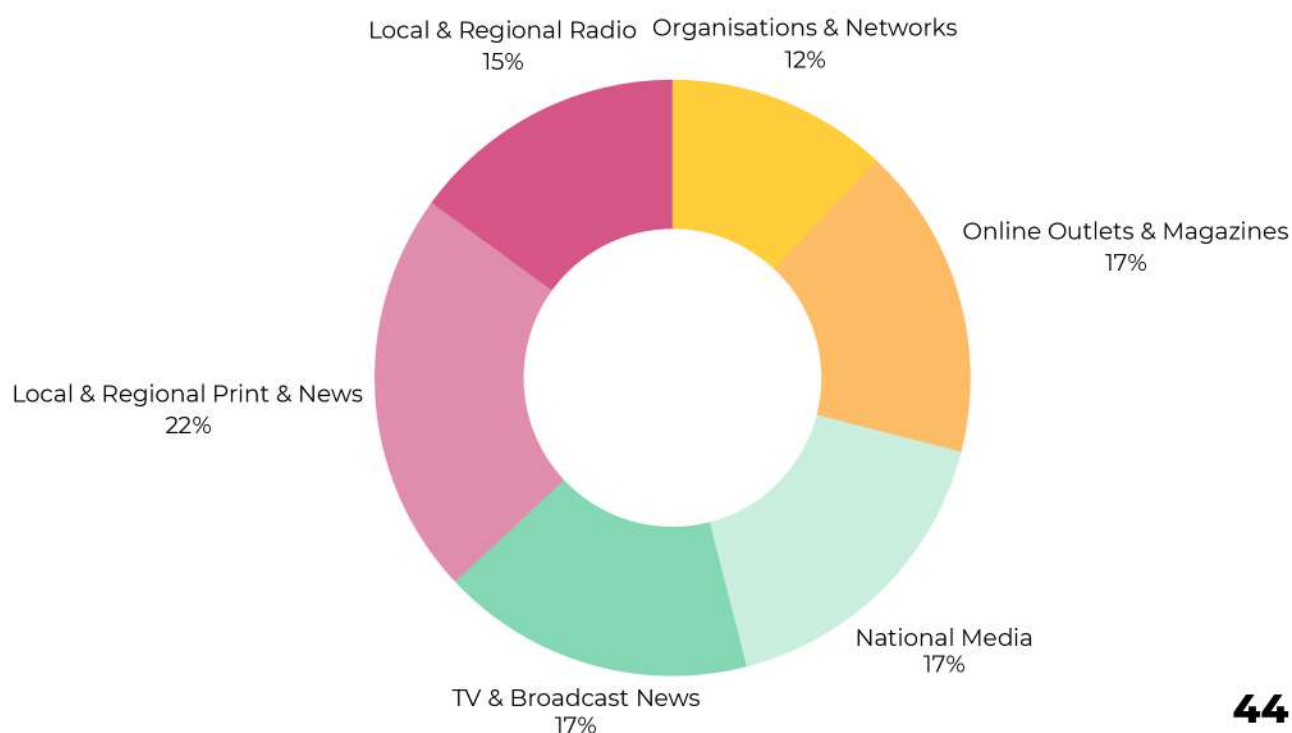
- Ballina Coast Hinterland Tourism News
- Byron Inside Out
- Byron Magazine
- ByronBay.com
- Inside Gold Coast
- The Best of Byron Bay
- Urban List

Organisations & Networks

- Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce
- Destination Byron
- Destination NSW
- Healthy North Coast
- Volunteering.com.au

TV & Broadcast News

- 7News Coast
- 7Prime News
- ABC News TV
- NBN News (*Coffs Harbour, Gold Coast, Lismore & Northern Rivers*)



Operations



Overview

As we celebrate *130 Years of Community Spirit*, the focus has been on understanding the daily operations of the Byron Community Centre, supporting teams through structural changes and refining systems to make them more effective and user-friendly. This approach has emphasised responsiveness, open communication and steady support to help staff and volunteers adjust smoothly to new ways of working.



“It is a privilege to support the Byron Community Centre now and into the future, with a focus on steady leadership, team wellbeing and community connection.”

— Michelle Heuer, Operations Manager

Sustainability Focus

We reviewed the Byron Community Centre's solar infrastructure, identifying vulnerabilities and exploring options to future-proof the system, including battery upgrades. It's a complex challenge but an essential step towards long-term sustainability while looking after the environment.



Process & Facilities

We rolled out process improvements across departments, co-designing safer, more efficient ways of working. On the facilities front, we collaborated with our team and tenants to implement a proactive maintenance program, addressing long-standing issues and strengthening relationships.

Team Support & Safety

A highlight this year was the development of a new risk protocol implemented across all Byron Community Centre facilities. This initiative has strengthened site safety and boosted team confidence, providing a consistent and proactive framework for managing operational risk.



Into the Future

With the upcoming departure of our long-serving General Manager **Louise O'Connell** in August 2025, Michelle Heuer will step into the role of Acting General Manager to ensure stability and continuity during this time of transition.

Donors & Supporters



Photo: Big Byron Sleepout © Jeff Dawson, The Echo

\$1,270,417

Donations

Heartfelt Thanks

A heartfelt thanks to all of our generous donors, sponsors and partners. Your support enables us to foster a **caring, supportive and vibrant** Byron community. With your help, our programs, services and events support and uplift our community. Together, we're making a difference in our community and helping those who need it most.



Donors

12 Foundations

We sincerely thank the foundations whose generous support sustains all aspects of the Byron Community Centre, from essential social services to cultural programs, helping us create lasting impact across the community.

- Eisen Family Private Fund
- Gary Lucas & Gabrielle McMahon Giving Fund
- Goninan Foundation
- Ingrained Foundation
- James Kirby Foundation
- Miracle Made Foundation
- Nogunosa Foundation
- Northern Rivers Community Foundation
- Seaton Foundation
- The Beam Foundation
- Ueutritz Foundation
- Wakefield Foundation



74 Businesses & Organisations

We thank the many local businesses and organisations who supported the Byron Community Centre in FY25 through generous financial and in-kind contributions that keep our community programs and services thriving.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aloha Media• Ally Group• Australia Post• Australia's Manuka• Bangalow Hotel• Bangalow Lions Club• Bare Body Beauty• Bay Grocer• Bayleaf Cafe• Bunnings Byron Bay• Byron Anglicans• Byron Bay Cookie Company• Byron Bay Police Station• Byron Bay Pretzels• Byron Bay Primary School• Byron Bay Triathlon• Byron Community College• Byron Farmers Market• Byron Run Club• Byron Shire Committee Against Domestic & Family Violence• Byron Surf Festival - Surf Festival Market• Byron Yoga Centre• Ceramics by Melissa Lellouche• Chandra Collections• CLD Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Country Women's Association (CWA) Bangalow• Country Women's Association (CWA) Brunswick• Darling Muffs Of May• Dharma Care• Elements I Love• Epic Assist• Far North Coast Law Society• First National Byron Bay• Future Good• Global Ripple• Grill'd• Imbibe• Katrina Beohm Real Estate• Lennox Head Lions Club• Let's Go Surfing• Liberation Larder• Lord Byron Distillery• Mennie Brand• Ninbella Art• North Byron Hotel• North Coast Community College• Northern Rivers Podiatry• NORPA• Order of Malta• Paramount Pictures | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul McNeil Art• Pegs• Pikt Flowers• Red Cross• Rhythm Section• Rightfoot Podiatry• SAE Creative Media Institute• SJG Business Solutions• Social Impact in the Regions• Social Remedy• Somara• Stone & Wood• Sunseeker• Taco Love Bros• TAFE NSW• Tegan Huntley Hairdressing• The Balcony• The Brooklet• The Echo• Underwear for Humanity• ValeVale Art• WIN Television• XTM Performance• Zonta Northern Rivers |
|---|--|--|

340 Individuals

5 Anonymous Donors
1 Bequest \$10,000

We are deeply grateful to our donors whose kindness and generosity help change lives every day, providing hope, dignity and vital support across our programs, from essential community services to cultural and creative initiatives.

- Adelle Ferguson
- Alex Potter
- Alex Tkachenko
- Alexe Packshaw
- Alison Blatcher
- Alison Crook
- Alison Hood
- Alison Woods
- Amanda Peters
- Amelia McLaurin
- Amrita Dasvarma
- Anara Carroll
- Andrea Smyth
- Andrew Bates
- Andrew Beresford
- Andrew Rothery
- Angela Catterns
- Angela Ritchie
- Angela White
- Anna Rolfes
- Anne Mullins
- Annette McDonald
- Annie Chapelle
- Anthea Behn
- Anthony White
- Anthony Williams
- Antonella Biscaro
- Antony Catalano
- Ariane Minc
- Ashlea Nisbet
- Barry Davison
- Bec Buckwell
- Belinda Bainbridge
- Ben Wallace
- Ben Webber
- Benjamin Schiller
- Benjamine Duncan
- Bernadette Britt
- Bernadette Welch
- Bobilee Shahine
- Brandon Saul
- Brendan Bolton
- Brett Solomon
- Brian Paull
- Bridget Lawler
- Bronwyn Waddell
- Brooks Dianne
- Carla Pollola
- Carlie Eden
- Carly Bairstow
- Caroline Maggs
- Carolyn Bennett
- Carolyn Farrow
- Cate Bailey
- Cathryn Harrison
- Cathy Parks
- Catie McDonald
- Charisse Calderon
- Charles Allen
- Charlotte Vockler
- Chelsea Veitch
- Chris Hanley
- Chris Hemsworth & Elsa Pataky
- Chris Wilson
- Christiane Mccann
- Claire Hamilton
- Clare McGregor
- Clive Magowan
- Colin Ongley
- Colleen Arnott
- Collette Keehnen
- Craig McCluskey
- Craig Wachholz
- Dale Emerson
- Damian Farrell
- Damian Kassabgi
- Daniel Abeleven
- Daniella Popovic
- Danielle Sievert
- Darren Smith
- Darriea Turley
- David Cooke
- David Cope
- David McInnes
- David Riddel
- Dianne Conley
- Dominic Russell
- Domonique Turner
- Donna Jennings
- Eliza Jordan
- Elizabeth Gray
- Elizabeth Moore
- Ella Winkless
- Ellen Briggs
- Ellie Powditch
- Emily Langtry
- Emma Moses
- Erica Sophie Lukic
- Eva Thakkar
- Eve Doyle
- Eve Polycarpou
- Felicity Watsford
- Fin Murray
- Fiona Boyle
- Fiona Martin
- Fiona Maxwell
- Fleur Richardson
- Gabby Le Brun
- Gabrielle Kennard
- Gail Martin
- Georgia Wyatt
- Geraldine Moore
- Gerard Topp
- Gerritt Tandetzke
- Gill Lomath
- Giovanni Ruscio
- Giselle Elfman
- Harriet Clutterbuck
- Harvey O'Neill
- Heda Sherab
- Helen Safranek
- Helen Steel
- Holly Stiffe
- Inga Macleod
- Irem Sharkey
- Iris Detenhoff
- Isabel McLennan
- Jack Byrne
- Jacqui Stanton
- James Bennett-Levy
- James Gourley
- Jan Lanskill
- Jane Neale
- Janet Kneale
- Janice Price
- Jason Bronts
- Jay Hetzel
- Jeffrey Dolin
- Jen Boelen
- Jen Worthington
- Jennifer Coffey
- Jennifer Mcauley
- Jenny Andersson
- Jeremy Ferrier
- Jess Hartley
- Jessica Fielding
- Jillian Eddington
- Jim Ridge
- Jo O'Neill
- Joan McColl
- Jodie Vignes
- Joel & Danny Turner
- Joel Gregory
- John Allen
- John Bennett
- John Hertzberg
- John Middleton
- John & Lyn Parche
- John Rouse
- John Taberner
- John Williames
- Josie Wolanski
- Julian Holman
- Julie Kereszteny
- Julie Parsons
- Julie Sheer
- Julie-Anne Redwood
- Junghun Lee
- Justin Hemmes
- Karen Ellis
- Kate Love
- Kathleen Toovey
- Kelly Davenport
- Kelsey Canning
- Ken Sayers
- Kerrie McDermott
- Kirrily & David Downer
- Kris Brodie
- Kris Graham
- Kylie Flament
- Kyoko Yamada
- Laura Peck
- Laura Shore
- Libbie Nelson
- Lily Schmelzle
- Linda Grace
- Linden Tierney
- Lisa Hambling
- Lisa Morrison
- Lisbeth Carson
- Liz Friend
- Liz Mutkins
- Loretta Van Merwyk
- Louisa McKay
- Louise Grofski
- Louise Miller
- Luke Elwin
- Luke Kowald
- Maggie Camp
- Maggie Kelly
- Mandy Kemmett
- Marc Labonte
- Marg & Greg Mckay
- Margaret Perry
- Margaret Robertson
- Margreet Wiegiers
- Maria Dorfer
- Mariette Maclurcan
- Marita Kohl
- Maritza Cuffe
- Mark Howard
- Mark Streten
- Marsha Tauber
- Mary Campbell
- Mary McEvilly
- Matilda Donnellan
- Matt Maddocks
- Matthew Darcy
- Meera Liesle Bickley
- Meeuwis Boelen
- Mel Roome
- Melanie Richards
- Melinda Andreas
- Melinda Bowker
- Melissa Creighton
- Merrian Malouf
- Mia Munro

- Michael Doubinski
- Michael & Michele Fricker
- Michael Nguyen
- Michelle Johnstone
- Mike Cass
- Milton Cater
- Mitch Imeson
- Monique Mcelhiney
- Murray Hughes
- Nanette Lawson
- Nathan Evans
- Neil Sowerby
- Nell Schofield
- Ngairi Beamish
- Nic De Carlo
- Nick Towers
- Nicky Kruse
- Nicole Burke
- Nicolette Jackson
- Olivia Simcoe
- Paige De Losa
- Pam Lamaro
- Pamela Ditton
- Parissa Bouas
- Pat Giddy
- Patricia Brosnan
- Patrick Campbell
- Paul Sprokkreeff
- Paul Thomas
- Paula Brown
- Pauline Elliott
- Pauline Johns
- Peta McCallum
- Peter Weslmann
- Peter Willey
- Petrina Hutchinson
- Philip Salfield
- Philippa Abbott
- Phillip James
- Pirjo Elliott
- Rebecca Carven
- Rebecca Humberstone
- Renee Engl
- Richard Evans
- Richard Rogers
- Richard Stoliar
- Riikka Lampinen
- Rob Hodge
- Rob Tuckett
- Robert Adams
- Robin Crosby
- Robyn Berrington
- Ross Adams
- Roxanne Le Blanc
- Roy Craven
- Ruth Roby
- Ruth Winton-Brown
- Ryan Sharpley
- Sally Baranyay
- Sally Guth
- Sally Hall
- Sally Henderson
- Sam Curtis
- Sam Simpson
- Scott Jago
- Sergio Scudery
- Shelley Sellors
- Shirley Prescott
- Silver Groves
- Simone Mason
- Simone O'Brien
- Snejxb Djendj
- Stephanie Britton
- Stephanie Pauling
- Steve Wyatt
- Stuart Anderson
- Sue Javes
- Suzanne Clarkson
- Suzanne Craig
- Talia Levy
- Tammy Prior
- Tamsin Wolfe
- Tarnia Finch
- Tegan Huntley
- The Reyndeers
- Tiana Harris
- Tim Le Mesurier
- Tina Guerra
- Tirza Abb
- Tobi Bahat
- Tom Klepper
- Tony Burnside
- Torsten Kraus
- Tricia Magee
- Tricia Shantz
- Tristan Alexander
- Ty Van Emden
- Vanessa Hughes
- Vicki Brooke
- Vicki Henricks
- Wendy Edwards
- Wyllie Freeman
- Yvette Brierley
- Zoe Blake

18 Byron Volunteer Raffle Sponsors

The Byron Volunteer Raffle raised vital funds to support our volunteer program, helping sustain the **260 volunteers** who contributed their time, skills and heart, with special thanks to the generosity of our local raffle sponsors.

- Beach Byron Bay
- Blue Arrow Coffee
- Boho Hair
- Byron Corner Store
- Byron Theatre
- Byron Writers Festival
- Crystal Castle
- Crystalbrook Byron
- Dancing Pixie
- Festival of the Stone 2025
- Gaia Retreat & Spa
- Light Years
- Sunseeker
- The Byron Bathhouse
- Tim Roodenrys (Tibetan Rug)
- Treehouse Byron Bay
- ValeVale Art
- Wild Byron

22 Fundraising Events

Fletcher Street Cottage was supported by a series of **creative and community fundraising events** hosted by our partners, from art exhibitions and concerts to sporting events, school fundraisers and iconic Byron festivals.

- **Bangalow Hotel Social Club**
- **Bayleaf Cafe** – Mural by Paul McNeil + Raffle Event
- **Big Byron Sleepout** (*Mandy Nolan*) – Homelessness Week 2024
- **Byron Anglicans** - HOPE25 Concert
- **Byron Bay Long Lunch Club**
- **Byron Bay Pretzels** (*Torsten Krause*) - 10 Day Challenge
- **Byron Bay Primary School** - Pyjama Party School Day Fundraiser
- **Byron Bay Triathlon**
- **Byron Men's Luncheoneers**
- **Byron Run Club** - Big Byron Run
- **Byron Yoga Centre** - Yoga Community Day
- **Caper Festival 2024**
- **Dharma Care** - Winter Warmer 2025 "Songs for Shelter"
- **Dr David Cooke** (*Ambassador*) - Be Kind Book Launch
- **Grill'd** - Local Matters
- **Katrina Beohm Real Estate** - Byron Ladies Golf Day
- **Mad Hatter's Tea Party** – Women's Space Fundraiser
- **RJ Menzies Art Exhibition**
- **Social Remedy Ice Club**
- **Stone & Wood** - Festival of the Stone 2025
- **Sunseeker Kids Fundraiser**
- **The Balcony** - Oyster Festival 2024

Grants



\$285,903

Grant Funding

20

Individual
Grants

14

Government,
Foundation & Corporate

Overview

In FY25, Byron Community Centre received over **\$285,000 in grant funding** through 20 successful applications. This support came from **14 different funders** across government, foundation and corporate sectors. Increasingly, our grant funders are backing us year-on-year, consistently awarding grants to support both new and ongoing programs. This reflects not only their confidence in our capacity and impact, but also a shared purpose in driving community-led change.

Our grant funders are often the first to say yes, seeding new initiatives and laying the groundwork for others to follow. We're deeply grateful for the trust they place in us.



"Being Grants Manager at Byron Community Centre means working alongside an extraordinary team to imagine, design and deliver programs that matter. It's a privilege to carry these ideas to funders who share our values. Every grant tells a story of trust, collaboration and care, and I'm deeply thankful for the funders who continue to walk with us."

— Shanti Des Fours, Grants Manager

New Programs



This year, grant funding enabled us to launch four new, highly impactful programs.

Women's Emergency Relief Fund

Fletcher Street Cottage

\$10,000 Grant Funding

160 Women Supported

Thank you to the **Country Women's Association (CWA) Bangalow**, who provided the first seed grant for us to launch a dedicated Women's Emergency Relief Fund to run alongside our traditional ER program. This fund gave our frontline staff greater flexibility to respond immediately to women and children in extreme crises. It is now regularly supported by donors who understand just how critical and time-sensitive this assistance can be.

Byron Seniors Club

396 Club Members

Thank you to the **Northern Rivers Community Foundation, Byron Shire Council, Australia Post, Australian Chinese Charity Foundation** and **Byron Bay Services Club**, who all contributed to the creation and delivery of the Byron Seniors Club in 2025. The club addresses social isolation and supports wellbeing through free and subsidised activities and events.

Byron Theatre Company

Byron Theatre

\$71,500 Grant Funding

Thank you to **Create NSW** and **Regional Arts NSW**. Grants from both funders enabled our Byron Theatre team to successfully launch the **Byron Theatre Company**, which will premiere its first original production, *Displace I Call Home*, in July 2025.

Women's Support Services

Fletcher Street Cottage

\$70,000 Grant Funding

(Launched March 2025)

Thank you to the **James Frizelle Foundation** and the **James N Kirby Foundation**, whose major grants allowed us to build on this momentum and launch the **Women's Space** in March 2025. This initiative responds to the growing number of women facing disadvantage in our community. It provides private, confidential access to services alongside visiting specialists in domestic and family violence, housing and healthcare.

Core Programs & Continuity

Grant funders played a vital role in sustaining our ongoing programs throughout FY25, stepping in to fill critical funding gaps and ensuring we could continue our meaningful work. As we do not receive ongoing operational government funding, these grants are essential to our ability to keep services running.

Fletcher Street Cottage



A major contribution from the **NSW Ministry of Health**, received in the final days of FY24, funded a number of key frontline Community Support Worker wages across FY25 and was critical to the continuity of services at Fletcher Street Cottage.

Heartfelt thanks to the **Seaton Foundation**, **Australian Ethical Foundation** and **StreetSmart**, whose targeted support also ensured that core Fletcher Street Cottage programs operated consistently throughout the year.

We're grateful to the **James Frizelle Foundation** and **NSW Environment Protection Authority** who also funded equipment and upgrades that improved the safety, efficiency and day-to-day delivery of our services.



Emergency Response & Preparedness

\$11,000 Grant Funding

When Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred hit in February 2025, the **Northern Rivers Community Foundation** and **Ingrained Foundation** responded quickly with rapid grants to support immediate needs for rough sleepers at Fletcher Street Cottage. NRCF also funded critical supplies for future emergencies, showing how strong, trust-based partnerships enable us to act fast in times of crisis.

Grants Awarded



	James Frizelle Foundation	July 2024	\$4,396	Fletcher Street Cottage	Kitchen Upgrades
	Seaton Foundation	July 2024	\$40,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Breakfast Space
	Street Smart	Aug 2024	\$5,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Emergency Relief
	Byron Bay Services Club	Aug 2024	\$10,000	Byron Seniors	Rhythm and Dance Program
	Country Women's Association Bangalow	Aug 2024	\$10,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Establishment of Women's ER Fund
	Australian Chinese Charity Foundation	Aug 2024	\$210	Fletcher Street Cottage	Emergency Relief - Direct Support
	Byron Shire Council	Aug 2024	\$5,000	Byron Seniors	Rhythm and Dance Program
	Australia Post	Sept 2024	\$2,000	Byron Seniors	Rhythm and Dance Program
	Australian Chinese Charity Foundation	Sept 2024	\$5,000	Byron Seniors	Rhythm and Dance Program
	Australian Ethical Foundation	Nov 2024	\$25,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Service Delivery
	Regional Arts NSW	Dec 2024	\$33,000	Byron Theatre	Byron Theatre Company: <i>Displace I Call Home</i>
	Northern Rivers Community Foundation	Dec 2024	\$15,000	Byron Seniors	Rhythm and Dance Program
	Environment Protection Authority	Feb 2025	\$1,797.40	Fletcher Street Cottage	Kitchen Equipment
	Northern Rivers Community Foundation	Mar 2025	\$1,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Post Ex-Tropical Cyclone Assistance
	James Frizelle Foundation	Apr 2025	\$20,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Launch of Women's Support Services
	Seaton Foundation	Apr 2025	\$10,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Service Delivery
	Create NSW	May 2025	\$38,500	Byron Theatre	Byron Theatre Company: <i>Displace I Call Home</i>
	James N Kirby Foundation	June 2025	\$50,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Launch of Women's Support Services
	Northern Rivers Community Foundation	June 2025	\$5,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Post Ex-Tropical Cyclone Assistance
	Ingrained Foundation	June 2025	\$5,000	Fletcher Street Cottage	Post Ex-Tropical Cyclone Assistance

Awards

The Communications team submitted multiple award applications, achieving two major wins for Fletcher Street Cottage and Byron Theatre, and securing significant recognition for Byron Community Centre.

These accolades highlighted the impact of our programs, strengthened our community profile and celebrated the dedication of our staff and volunteers.



2024 Byron Shire Community Awards

6 August — Byron Shire Council

Winner — Community Initiative of the Year

Fletcher Street Cottage Breakfast Space - Providing nourishing meals, connection and an entry to vital support services, our Breakfast Space has become an essential lifeline for Byron locals in need.



2024 Uniquely Byron Business Awards

28 November — Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce

Winner — After Dark: Outstanding Evening Economy Experience

Byron Theatre - Our iconic Byron Theatre brings vibrancy to Byron's evenings, creating a space where culture, creativity and community come together.



Finalists - 2024 Uniquely Byron Business Awards

Fletcher Street Cottage

*Peace, Love & Mungbeans:
Outstanding Community Organisation*

Byron Twilight Market

*After Dark: Outstanding Evening
Economy Experience*

Byron Spaces

*Service Stars: Excellence in Business
or Professional Services*

Byron Theatre

*Creative Champions: Excellence in
Arts & Creativity*

Current Staff



At 30 June 2025

The Byron Community Centre team are deeply committed to our community, driven by a passion for making a meaningful difference.

Byron Community Centre

- **Louise O'Connell:** General Manager
- **Michelle Heuer:** Operations Manager
- **Haki Song:** Finance Manager
- **Sorrell Millis:** Senior Administrator
- **Kate Love:** Communications Manager
- **Amanda Kuhn:** Communications Coordinator
- **Cathy Levins-Byres:** Volunteer Coordinator
- **Renuka Nicail:** Customer Experience Coordinator
- **Colman Conlan:** Facilities Coordinator
- **Carla Castro:** Bookkeeper
- **Shanti Des Fours:** Grants Manager & Seniors Coordinator
- **Jarrold Johnson-Clarke:** IT Services
- **Ky Haus:** Design & Website
- **Adam Thistlewaite:** Building Projects

Byron Markets

- **Carl Taylor:** Markets Manager
- **Natwah Petruszka:** Community Market Coordinator
- **Greg Curry:** Twilight & Beachside Markets Coordinator
- **Teya Steinberg:** Beachside Market Coordinator
- **Tahli O'Sullivan:** Markets Registration & Administration
- **Colman Conlan:** Community Market Team Leader
- **Georgi Miln:** Community Market Site Admin
- + 8 Market Site Crew Casuals

Byron Spaces

- **Carl Taylor:** Byron Spaces Coordinator

Fletcher Street Cottage

- **Damian Farrell:** Fletcher Street Cottage Manager
- **Maddi Powell:** Assistant Manager & Community Support Worker
- **Sue Davis:** Community Support Worker
- **Victor Salamanca:** Community Support Worker
- **Suzanne Flowerday:** Community Support Worker
- **Mim Burgess:** Community Support Worker
- **Jennifer Abed:** Community Support Worker & Art Space Facilitator
- **Sappho Salway-Rose:** Community Support Worker
- **Steve Strang:** Breakfast Coordinator
- **Will Conley:** Daily Coordinator, Assistant Breakfast Coordinator & Community Support Worker

Byron Theatre

- **Jon Howell:** Theatre Manager
- **Kristina Oddestad:** Event Coordinator
- **Hano Kotevski:** Theatre Technical Manager
- **Bianca Siranni:** Box Office Coordinator
- **Lena Cook:** F&B Operations Manager
- **Duty Officers:** Jeannie Merrit, Izzy Durbin, Lisa Trevallion, Peta O'Doherty
- **Technicians:** Hano Kotevski, Jamie Hunter, Dan Redgrave, Glenn Ward, Rhys Edwards + more
- **Front of House & Bar:** +14 Casuals



Board of Directors

At 30 June 2025

Our volunteer Board work tirelessly to govern the Byron Community Centre through their collective expertise and skills.



Bruce Clarke
Chair



Louisa McKay
Vice Chair



Peter Tanner
Secretary



Brandon Saul
Treasurer & Public Officer



Karen Hillen
Director



Benamine Duncan
Director



Kerry O'Brien
Director



John Hertzberg
Director

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to former FY25 Board Secretaries **Lindy Swain** and **David Sweet**.

Byron Community Centre acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Arakwal people, the Minjungbal people and the Widjabul people of the Bundjalung Nation, and pays our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Always was, always will be.

130 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT



**BYRON
COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

Byron Community Centre Ltd
ABN: 69 627 365 180

The Trustee for Byron Bay Community Benefit Fund
ABN: 98 427 003 802

www.byroncentre.com.au