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Local News



Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. – Franklin D Roosevelt



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Wednesday 7.30am 31st August at Succulent Café 3/8 Byron Street, Byron Bay

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Chinese, Australian youth clean up beach

Students from Mullumbimby Shearwater Steiner School and visiting Chinese students joined forces last Wednesday to clean up Main Beach in Byron Bay. The group removed more than ten full bags of rubbish, including plastic bottles, soft drink cans, and small plastic fragments.

The beach cleanup was being held as part of a weeklong study tour focused on environmental sustainability. Twenty-two students and educators have travelled from Ealing International College and attached school to Dalian Maritime University in Dalian, China, to participate in the study tour coordinated by local social enterprise Mandarin Pathways and travel company Aoliday.

'The fact that this Chinese youth study tour is primarily focused on environmental sustainability makes it a first of its kind in NSW, and possibly



in Australia, said Katie Grubb, founder and managing director of Mandarin Pathways. 'Chinese youth don't get to experience nature like our local youth do, so it's a chance for them to reconnect and learn sustainability skills to take back home with them.' Local non-profits, Clean Coast Collective and Wild Search, helped coordinate the beach cleanup. The students took the bags of rubbish back to the Shearwater Steiner School so they could count and record it for the Australian Marine Debris

Initiative, a national database of marine debris coordinated by Tangaroa Blue. This data will help shape national discussion and policy development on waste management and coastal pollution.

See more at www. mandarinpathways.org.

Medical centre, units and cafe proposed for Ewingsdale

Move over, Ewingsdale Seniors – a new proposal is on its way next door. The corner parcel of land that sits on McGettigans Lane and Ewingsdale Road has been put forward as a proposed medical centre with a day theatre, accommodation (12 units), cafe and around 62 car spaces.

The proposal for the 5,497m² block has been submitted by Brunsmed Pty Ltd. A company search shows the shareholders as Gary, John and Joel Wertheimer, all of whom live around Melbourne.

And as public comment

closed July 27, *The Echo* asked staff if public exhibition could be extended for another two weeks. *The Echo* is yet to receive a reply.

Council staff raised concerns over the lack of a traffic mitigation traffic study and its bulk, scale and height; however, a development application lodged this month claims to have addressed concerns. Within the the detailed and well presented 328-page plan, the latest DA concludes that as the application is 'generally compliant with Council's controls' consent should be granted.

Traffic impacts may be

a significant constraining factor for development on McGettigans Lane', Council's manager of development assessment and compliance, Wayne Bertram, wrote in response to a meeting held between staff and the developer's representatives in March.

Dip site

Additionally he said Council's Geographic Information Systems identifies that the prime agricultural land 'is affected by a cattledip site buffer.'

The cafe proposal is also inconsistent with the current land use, said Mr Bertram.

The cafe would need to demonstrate that its primary focus is to serve patrons and staff of the hospital as opposed to the retail sale of meals and beverages to the general public, passing traffic and the development of a general dining venue.

In relation to traffic impact near the site Mr Bertram also said, 'Recent traffic studies undertaken for other developments at the western end of Ewingsdale Road have shown that the roundabout at McGettigans Lane will be required prior to any further significant development occurring.



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