

## In brief ...

### Talking about the Mt Nardi fires

Local residents affected by the 2020 Mt Nardi fires are invited to join in community conversation focusing on recovery at the Uki Public Hall on Thursday 22 April 2021 from 7.15–8.45pm.

Facilitated by Tweed Byron Disaster Resilience Officer Troy Nicholls, the purpose of this event is to create an opportunity to discuss community experiences and improve disaster recovery.

This is a chance to chat with local services such as NSW Rural Fire Service, Red Cross, Department of Communities and Tweed Shire Council.

Please RSVP [tnicholls@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tnicholls@byron.nsw.gov.au) or call 0448 224 002.

### Chill out and be creative with Youth Week events

Staying relaxed and focused while allowing your creativity to roam will be the purpose of a free activity at headspace in Tweed Heads on Monday 19 April 2021.

As part of Youth Week 2021 on the Tweed, 'Creating Comfort', from 4pm to 5.30pm, is a free hands-on masterclass for young people 12–18 years only to create their own sensory toolkit to help stay calm and focused when you've got a lot going on.

Learn how to make fidget toys and other sensory objects for mindfulness. Attendees get to take home their own sensory box made with the guidance of our facilitators Leisa and Claudia from headspace. All materials are free and no previous skill or experience is required.

headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12–25 year olds and can help young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health) alcohol and other drug services, and work and study support.

Places are limited and for more information, contact headspace in Wharf Street Tweed Heads on 07 5589 8700.

Meanwhile, promising young poets and musicians will make themselves heard at a Tweed Youth Week 2021 event at the Citadel in Murwillumbah on Friday 23 April.

Featuring Poets Out Loud youth performers, the event *Youth Voices Together: A showcase of Youth Music and Slam Poetry* will be a celebration of young talent from the Tweed, with performances from the winners of the 2020 Youth Poetry Slam and aspiring young muso Christopher Biskup.

Doors open at 5pm and performances will be from 6pm to 8pm. Food, pizzas and non-alcoholic drinks available to purchase.

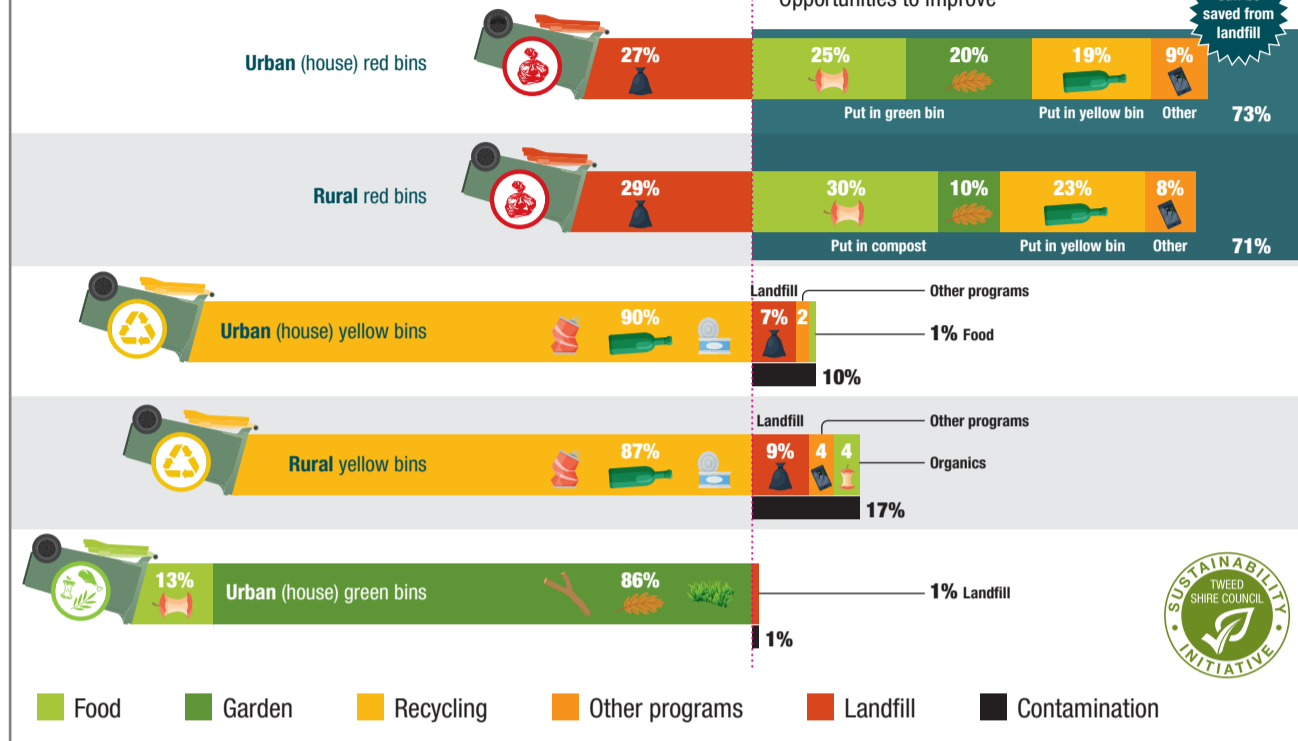
Bookings are essential at [tweedyoungvoices.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.tweedyoungvoices.com.au)

All Youth Week events are alcohol free and are supported by NSW Youth Week, Tweed Shire Council, headspace Tweed Heads, Poets Out Loud and The Citadel Murwillumbah.



Jasmine Logan will be one of the performers at the *Youth Voices Together: A showcase of Youth Music and Slam Poetry* on Friday 23 April.

### What's in the bins?



What are residents in the Tweed putting in their bin?

## More than half of red bin waste could be recycled

Placing recycling, organics and landfill items in the right bin matters more than you may think. It makes a big impact to the amount of waste that the Tweed sends to landfill.

Council's Resource Recovery Unit has published its annual report on the contents of the Tweed's bins, following a round of bin audits which took place in November last year.

The audits take a deeper look into what the community is throwing 'away' and how much is going to landfill.

Since the introduction of the three bin system in 2017, we have been able to save 20 per cent more from going to landfill.

Despite urban households having both a recycling bin (yellow) and an organics bin (green) for food and garden items, and rural residents having a greater ability to compost their food and garden waste, the audit shows that residents are still throwing away large amounts of items into their red bin, and ultimately into landfill.

The audit showed that on average urban residential landfill bins (red) contained 19 per cent of items which could have been recycled, and a massive 45 per cent of food and garden items which could have been placed in their weekly green bin collection.

For rural residents' red bins the results were similar, with 23 per cent of items being recyclable and 40 per cent being food and garden items.

Contrary to what people may think, items like food waste going into landfill do not just safely break down back into the earth.

Instead, when organic waste is placed in landfill it breaks down anaerobically (without oxygen) producing methane, which is 21 times worse than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas emission.

The audit also revealed contamination in urban recycling bins (10 per cent) caused by items being placed in the wrong bin, with the figure higher in rural areas (17 per cent).

High levels of contamination increases the cost to process waste,



Contamination sticker attached to a recycling bin (with bagged waste inside) and not collected.

increases greenhouse gas emissions and has a negative impact on the Tweed's internationally significant environment.

The next focus for Council's Resource Recovery Unit will be to help reduce contamination levels in recycling and organics bins.

After bins are inspected, households will receive specific feedback to assist with tips and other options. However, if there are large amounts of contamination found, the bin will be tagged and not collected until it is corrected by the resident.

The audit findings coincide with Council's aspirational goal to reach zero waste from Council operations by 2040.

Council's draft *Towards Zero Waste Strategy* is on public exhibition and feedback is welcomed, visit [www.yoursaytweed.com.au/zerowaste](https://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/zerowaste)

For more information on what goes in each bin, visit [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/wasterecycling](https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/wasterecycling), email [waste@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:waste@tweed.nsw.gov.au) or call 02 6670 2400.



In 2017 ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie brought widespread flooding to the Tweed. A flood level marker is pictured at Murwillumbah.

## Share your flood experiences to help future planning

The Tweed Valley Flood Study is being expanded and updated to help prepare for and manage future flooding.

The study will help define flooding behaviour under current and future climate conditions and become the basis of flood planning in the Tweed.

As part of the study, residents are being asked to share their personal experiences and knowledge to help better understand past flood events.

In 2009, there was a flood study of the Tweed River and its major tributaries, from Byangum upstream of Murwillumbah to the river mouth at Tweed Heads. The study area included Murwillumbah, Condong, Tumbulgum, Chinderah, Kingscliff, Fingal Head, Banora Point and Tweed Heads.

Manager Roads and Stormwater Danny Rose said flooding was not confined to one part of the Tweed and Council wanted to better understand flooding in the upper parts of the valley, including the villages of Tyalgum, Chillingham, Uki and the surrounding rural areas.

"A flood study is essentially a technical investigation of the flood behaviour for a region. It includes computer models to simulate

historical events, which help to predict future flooding," Mr Rose said.

"It's crucial that we hear from as many residents as possible. Provide as much information as you can and include any photos or videos to help us understand your experiences better.

"Recent advances in the hydrology field and new flood records from March 2017 provide a good opportunity to improve our knowledge of flood behaviour in the valley," he said.

The Tweed Valley Flood Study survey is now open and current and past residents of the Tweed are encouraged to take part by Sunday 16 May 2021.

Visit [www.yoursaytweed.com.au/flood-study](https://www.yoursaytweed.com.au/flood-study) to complete the survey and for more information about the project.

Residents can also collect a paper version of the survey at Council's customer service counters at the Murwillumbah or Tweed Heads Administration Offices.

Funded under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, which is supported by the NSW and Commonwealth governments, Council has engaged flood specialists WMAwater to update and expand the Tweed Valley Flood Study.

