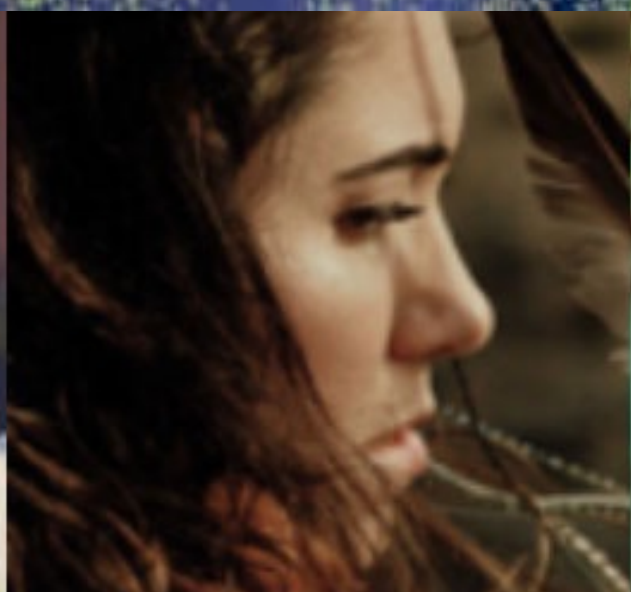
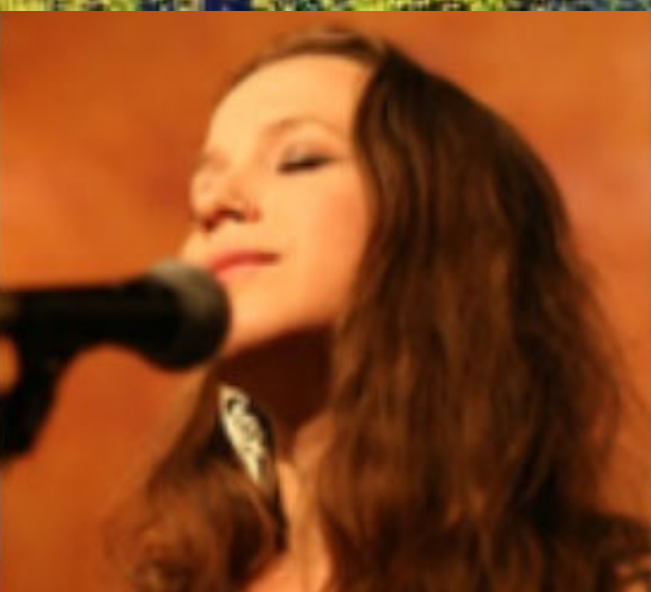




# Fields of Healing

NOVEMBER 24 - 25, 2018 NORTH BYRON PARKLANDS









The Byron Shire Echo  
Volume 33 #24  
Wednesday, November 21, 2018  
[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)



# A time for elders



# Healing fields offer ancient wisdom



UNCLE Maggie's vision to create a modern cultural gathering place in Byron Bay came true.

The Wirungga site (commonly known as North Byron Parklands) is a sacred site for his people and one now designed to host annual festivals like Spindrift in the Cross and Falls Festival in Bundjalung Country in north-east NSW.

Now for the first time, a new event called Fields Of Healing will come to the site on November 24 and 25.

At the event, 14 Indigenous Elders, speakers and musicians from across the world will gather.

Fields Of Healing was initiated by the Australian based Unity Earth.

Unity Earth executive director Ben Bowler is the son of Jim Bowler, the archaeologist who discovered the oldest human remains of an Indigenous Australian, Mungo Man. When asked about his motivation for convening this inaugural gathering, Ben said that it was like a mystical calling.

"We fell down to the Byron Bay area, we just felt like something had to happen there. So we made the trip up and met with several local Elders on country, including Uncle Maggie.



Wirungga Yungbah King man Uncle Maggie

"As our conversations progressed we learnt that Uncle Maggie had a vision, which he documented five years earlier, to create a cultural gathering on the Wirungga site.

"He had envisioned drawing Indigenous Elders from across the world to create a cultural celebration of ancient wisdom that featured a host of guest speakers, traditional arts,

secret rituals, music, dance and healing spaces."

The event has been described as many things: a cultural gathering, a movement, a convergence, but ultimately -

it's a coming together of humanity aimed at dissolving the barriers of race and religion - a peaceful uprising of unity. Tickets are available at [fieldsofhealing.com.au](http://fieldsofhealing.com.au)

## Local News

# A weekend of knowledge and respect

A co-organiser of Byron's inaugural Fields of Healing indigenous festival says it was a huge success that has inspired others to set up similar events around the world.

Around 1,000 people took part in the event at North Byron Parklands on Saturday and Sunday.

Co-organiser Adam Collett described the welcome and elders' panel on Saturday as 'extraordinary'.

It was attended by tribal elders from around the globe, including hereditary Dakota chief, Phil Lane.

"To have the ancient story of this country shared with the ancient stories from lands all over the world brought a deep sense of honour and respect," Adam said.



Rahani Okoth with her uncle Wirungga Dunggijirr at Saturday's opening of the Fields Of Healing festival at North Byron Parklands in Yelgun. Photo Jeff Dawson

