

04 NEWS

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### Crash led to 'serious ice problems'

A MODANVILLE man who pleaded guilty to supplying the drug "ice" on an ongoing basis will be sentenced later this month.

Brendan Peter Mason, 34, was supported by about 15 loved ones when he appeared in Lismore District Court on Friday.

Mason had pleaded guilty to two counts of ongoing supply of methamphetamine, supplying a prohibited drug and cultivating seven marijuana plants.

Mason wept in court as his father, Peter Mason, took to the stand and recalled their "close relationship", followed by his sons' distance in recent years.

Defence barrister Sophie Anderson called her client to the stand, and Mason recalled having first used drugs about 2003.

Mason said this became a serious problem after he was a passenger in a car crash in 2015, could no longer work and turned to illicit substances and gambling.

He said he began using ice - methamphetamine - on weekends. But this escalated to daily within a month.

Mason claimed to have only received half a gram of ice when he supplied co-offender Lucas John Lavelle.

The court heard a telephone intercept recording in which Mason told a heavily drug-affected Lavelle he could take him to a "chef".

When asked if he ever received money from the drug supply, Mason's answer varied. "I received drugs," he said.

"But yes, sometimes he put money in the bank."

Judge Julia Baly said she was finding his evidence "very difficult".

The court heard he's been found with prohibited drug buprenorphine recently while on remand at Grafton.

Ms Anderson conceded her client would spend time in prison and had good prospects of rehabilitation. The prosecution said he had poor rehabilitation prospects.

Judge Baly will hand down her sentence on December 14.

### Ownership change for Pighouse

PIGHOUSE Flicks, Byron Bay's only cinema, has changed management.

On social media, Blake and Niah Northfield announced they had taken over the cinema.

"We have very fond memories of this venue growing up here as children and it's surreal to now be at the helm of one of Byron Bay's most iconic venues," the post reads.

The couple also announced changes to ticket prices.

Byron Bay Shire residents:



REMINISCING: Mambo pioneers Jim Mitchell, David McKay, Dare Jennings, Paul McNeil, Robert Moore and Gerry Wedd.

Photo: Amber Gibson

# Mambo greets gather to share memories

## Artists from iconic surfwear brand show work at Byron gallery

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IT is 25 years since the artists of iconic Australian clothing brand Mambo have held an exhibition together.

Last Saturday, the Lone Goat Gallery hosted founder Dare Jennings and notorious artists Jim Mitchell, Paul McNeil, David McKay, Gerry Wedd and Robert Moore to chat about their exhibition, *The Destroy The World...We Have To Save the Legendary*. We Have To Save the Legendary and share memories about Mambo.

McNeil, who organised the show, said the event showcased work by long-term friends.

"We are all very proud of our work with Mambo and this exhibition shows the fresh new works of each individual artist," McNeil said.

Reminiscing during the talk shed light on the impact Mambo had on the original artists.

The brand evolved out of Dare Jennings' Phantom Screen Printing business in Sydney in the early 1980s, as a surfwear label that told Australian stories through satire, subversive vernacular

**“IT WAS ALWAYS THERE...YOU ARE FOREVER A MAMBO ARTIST”**

PAUL MCNEIL

and visual art.

"During this time, having an opinion and an attitude was important," Jennings said.

He recruited the now well-known bunch of local visual artists, some of who worked at the printing factory at that time, to create what became an

international brand and a movement, motivated by music, surf and politics.

"In the end the marketing of Mambo was based on polarisation. We actively annoyed people," Jennings said.

McNeil works with Jennings' new brand Deus Ex Machina, across clothing and hardware that celebrates his love of surfing and motorcycles.

"It dawned on me, that 20 years with Mambo was 10 years ago and it ain't going away," McNeil said.

"As much as I forged my own

career doing other things...it was always there. You are forever a Mambo artist."

The opening show last Friday drew a crowd of local die-hard fans to show a contemporary range of paintings, graphics, ceramics and sculpture.

Mambo is recognised for loud shirts, logos, text and iconic designs.

The exhibition includes all eight renowned Mambo artists, including Matthew Martin, Reg Mombassa and Jeff Raglus, and will run until February 19 at the Lone Goat Gallery.

# Taking care of workers is good for business

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A RECENT business meeting in Lismore revealed while manufacturing comprises fewer than 10 per cent of employees, they make up 29 per cent of the workers' compensation claims.

This means 56 manufacturing claims per 1000 employees, 65 per cent higher than the scheme's average.

On Wednesday, more than 70 business were represented

vid Huxley spoke on how to reduce injuries in the workplace.

Mr Huxley said reducing workplace injuries lead to reduced insurance premiums.

"The Northern Rivers is a high-profile for us ... there's a workforce of nearly 49,000," he said.

"With 855 workers' compensation claims ... in the past year, we want to help employers keep workers safe.

"Physiological injuries are one of the most challenging for employers, especially small

at the event to stay current with legislative changes.

Greg Clark Building Pty Ltd's payroll officer Amiee Clark said as her role encompassed human resources issues, she was keen to hear about the most recent changes to legislation.

"I'm on the administrative side and I'm interested to get more information on the iCare process and stay updated on new initiatives," she said.

The organisation insures more than 30,000 NSW busi-