

Pre-tember: time to prepare, plan and maintain

Resilient Uki

Whenever we have a change of season, it's a great prompt to do some maintenance and check up on your power backups and water supply systems around home.

'Prep-tember' is about making sure you're prepared for the unexpected – disasters, power outages, water supply disruptions, or your road/driveway access being cut off.

Unfortunately, these things are becoming less unexpected – as we write, we've had two power outages in a week from high winds (and one from a paraglider, which was unexpected!).

Ex-Cyclone Alfred in March showed us it's no longer enough to prepare for two or three days without power and water as we're often advised by authorities – many had no power for over a week! Even prepared households felt the pinch with fuel supplies running low to keep generators going.

Prep-tember is ideal for investing in extra Jerry cans for fuel. Fill them, store safely away from the house, and rotate fuel through your car every few weeks to prevent staleness.

If you do have a generator and/or power bank or battery supply, it's good to set up a maintenance schedule and add it to your calendar so you're not caught out fixing things during a disaster.

With power banks, make sure you keep them charged regularly (check the instructions and mark your calendar.



Generator maintenance is a big part of Pre-tember preparedness.

Some will say to keep them charged to a particular percentage and to run them down every few months).

With generators:

Monthly: Run your generator for 10-15 minutes (some recommend 30 mins). Check oil levels. Look for oil leaks, wear, and rodent damage. Clean dirt and debris. Inspect fuel tank for leaks or corrosion and secure connections.

Seasonally: Thoroughly inspect generator body for damage, dents, cracks, or rust. Check fuel tank attachment. Replace air filters, spark plugs, and oil every six months or 100 hours of use.

Annually: Schedule professional service for full system diagnostics. Technicians detect hidden issues, adjust valves, and update firmware.

Local mower/garden equipment stores tend to do servicing. Stand by, too, for news on a RUKI workshop on generator maintenance we hope to bring you soon!



Keeping the water flowing

During Alfred, water became an issue for some relying on tanks with pumps. Have a backup system for pumps. Collect containers to fill when bad weather approaches, and invest in water filtration – especially on tank water as the tap is usually located near the bottom of the tank, which means water with sludge flows out.

Finally, if you have a **chainsaw**, Prep-tember is a great time to take it in for a service if you can't do it yourself. Sharpen the chain, make sure it starts and make sure you are stocked up on fuel (unless your chainsaw is electric) and bar oil.

As spring is about to be sprung, so too is fire season, so it's time to make your fire plan if you haven't already.

It's also a good time to review and fine tune your plans and resources generally. The RUKI website has some step-by-step 'get ready' resources from multiple agencies. Visit: www.resilientuki.org/emergency-resources/preparing-your-household/

From the Editor

Welcome to Issue 142

As we look ahead to spring's arrival in September.

Spring is a time of renewal, and across our community, fresh energy is flowing into everything from infrastructure to the arts.

We're taking stock of our resilience planning with RUKI, strengthening systems, updating strategies, and preparing for whatever lies ahead.

Uki Primary School is opening their basketball

courts to the wider community, creating space for connection through sport. Meanwhile, our parks and sports grounds are being revitalised with upgrades. Join the regular planting days that restore Platypus Park so the community can better enjoy the space.

Travelling on public transport is becoming easier with the introduction of real-time travel technology, making community transport more reliable and accessible.

Creativity is flourishing at Little Gallery with upcoming exhibitions exploring the mediums

of wood, clay and steel, along with a layered reflection on nature, told through print, collage, and reclaimed materials.

Learn more about plans for a shared artistic workshop space at the Buttery.

You are invited to attend the upcoming new friendship weekend, offering shared meals, outdoor adventures, and a sense of belonging to refugees.

Spring invites us all to grow, together, resilient and renewed.

Andia

ADVERTISING

Business card size	\$30	Half page	\$100	All Advertisers will receive an invoice Advertising revenue helps fund the Uki News
Quarter page	\$60	Full page	\$200	

The Uki News is a bimonthly, free publication by the Uki Village and Districts Residents Association (UKIRA).

Disclaimer: the opinions and views expressed in this newsletter may not reflect those of the Uki News or of UKIRA.

Uki News is printed by Uki Community Technology Centre (aka CTC) at the Buttery building. It is delivered to most households on the South Arm of the Tweed River. Copies are also available at various local outlets, including the Uki Supermarket.

Current and past issues are available at Uki Village website – www.ukivillage.com.au/uki-news

Letters To The Editor

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

We'd love to hear from you.

Share your ideas, events, hopes and inspirations for all things Uki with us.

UKIRA MEETINGS

UKIRA hosts community meetings on the first Tuesday of every second month in the Meeting Room of the Uki Hall (access from the rear). Meetings start at 7 pm. All residents of Uki and surrounding districts are invited to attend. Dates for the remainder of 2025: 5 August, 7 October, 2 December.

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

Friday 19 Sep, 2025	Oct/Nov
Friday 14 Nov, 2025	Dec/Jan

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**Brendon Veares
Matt Clark**
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RELATIONSHIP HEALTH

Many people believe that a sense of self is fixed or that our identity is found in our genes or our bloodlines. Everything depends on antecedents who mirror our looks or provide certain characteristics.

Another view is that we learn who we are and how to relate to others at the feet of those who bring us up, including the wider society that cushions or influences the family.

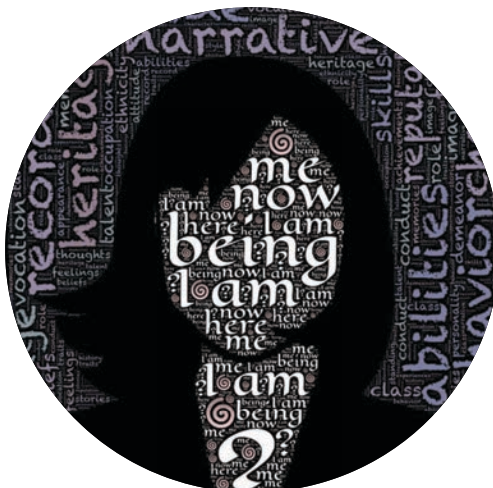
Like the fish in the sea our earliest environment is what we experience as normal. It is all that we know, and its unconscious impacts are ubiquitous.

Further to this, it's deemed that in adolescence or early adulthood we individuate from our parents: responding, reacting or rebelling. Perhaps in the era of social media influencers, anxiety is emerging because this growth in self-awareness is happening much too soon.

Stories of other lives are useful.

My book club is reading 'Invented Lives' by Australian author Andrea Goldsmith. It's about a young woman who migrates from Russia to Australia on her own at the age of 24 years.

Migration challenges every aspect of Galina's sense of self.



Her counterpart, Aussie man Andrew, is struggling with his own inadequacies, wishing desperately to be different.

As this relationship develops the reader learns about Galina's family history with deprivation, betrayal and destruction.

On the Australian side, Andrew's father juggles a happy heterosexual marriage with his homosexual desire. His wife cosseted in the homemaker role, is waking up to a sense that life has passed her by.

At whatever stage of our lives, we can perhaps identify with a sense of needing to re-invent ourselves. It has been said that we are ‘making ourselves up’ as we go through life. Our sense of self changes with time and we, like Galina and Andrew also have a hand in helping ‘the other’ to develop. In this book relationships become individually and relationally life-affirming.

Despite certain givens we do have freedom to choose who we want to be and our personal growth in identity can continue throughout the whole of our lives. 11



go to www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Janelle Saffin MP

MEMBER FOR LISMORE

Lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

ph: 02 6621 3624



Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

Court for hire at UPS

Rachel Watkins, Principal Uki Public School

Uki Public School has recently opened up their basketball court for people to use free of charge after school, at weekends and during the holidays.

"The idea came from the school's Student Leadership Team a couple of years ago," says Principal Rachel Watkins. "We're really pleased to get the project up and running."

If you'd like to use the court, you'll need to leave a fully refundable deposit of \$20 at the Uki Supermarket, and sign for the padlock key that will provide access to the court for 2 hours. When you return the key, you get your deposit back.

"We're very grateful to Dave and the team at the Uki Supermarket," says Rachel. "Without their help and support, we couldn't have made this work. It feels like a great community initiative that will benefit the community."

As the idea is student-led, we hope renters will do the right thing and treat the court with respect. "The kids are really excited to see their idea become a reality. This is a good example of authentic 'student voice', so we hope everyone will support them. We want people to enjoy using the court and for the project to be a success. Everyone has a part to play in this great initiative."



resilientuki.org

Community for Community

September is 'Preptember'. Are you and your home prepared for anything?



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Purple pest alert in Uki

Rous County Council

Over the next year, Biosecurity Officers from Rous County Council (Rous) will be managing infestations of Chinese violet (*Asystasia gangetica*) in Uki.

Funded through the NSW State Government's "Good Neighbours Program," Rous aims to control infestations of Chinese violet in Uki, preventing its spread into nearby national parks.

Chinese violet is a fast-growing vine listed as a 'national environmental alert' weed. It forms dense mats of foliage blocking sunlight, making it difficult for our native plants to grow.

Chinese violet can be identified by:

- Flowers: small, white, bell-shaped flowers, approximately 20-25mm in length, with distinctive purple blotches inside.
- Leaves: ranging from 2.5cm to 16.5cm long, bright green with a paler underside, oval or triangular and covered in scattered hairs.

Our officers are committed to providing guidance and assistance to local landholders in managing and eliminating this weed from the Uki region.

If you think you've spotted Chinese violet, please call Rous at 6623-3800. Together, we can help protect the unique environment of our beautiful community.



Identify Chinese violets through their white bell-shaped flowers with purple blotches.

News from the Member for Lismore

Janelle Saffin MP

Good news for local bus passengers, all bus services, including school buses, now have real-time travel technology.

For the first time, bus passengers across regional NSW can access real-time travel information from their smart devices, giving us the same technology Sydney commuters have enjoyed for years.

All contracted buses are now fitted with GPS and automatic passenger counting technology. This means passengers can track their bus using travel apps, including Google Maps, Opal Travel or via the Transport for NSW Trip Planner website, get route information and digital timetables.

Smart technology lets you know exactly where your bus is and when it will arrive. This is a great tool for parents waiting for school buses to arrive.

The NSW Minister for Roads and Regional Transport, Jenny Aitchison represents a regional community said she understood the frustration of regional commuters who felt left behind when accessing real-time data.

This data helps NSW Transport and bus operators improve operations management, keeping services on time. Local bus operators used this technology to cancel trips efficiently and consistently during ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred.



Above: Janelle Saffin with Tweed Valley Woodcraft President Jim Lyttle at the recent life membership presentation to Douglas Robinson, Barry Lack, George Cranny, Terry Fahy, David Wicks and Ron Hawkey.

Million dollar plus sports upgrade

On 29 July I will be in Uki to celebrate the opening of the refurbished facilities at the Vic Bianchetti Sports Ground that was devastated by the 2022 floods.

I'm looking forward to seeing the upgraded club facilities. NSW Government's Office of Sport funded the \$1.2 million restoration and flood resilience project under the Priority Needs and Essential Community Sport Assets programs. This is a significant investment in the future of the Uki community.

In a great combined effort, Tweed Shire Council managed the project, employing Desire Contractors Pty Ltd to do the works and the Uki Sports and Recreation Club added final touches.

Since the flood, I have stressed the importance of 'building back better' and the clubhouse is a great example of that, being restored improved with flood resilient features.

Women in Local Government Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Minister's Awards for Women in Local Government, celebrating outstanding female staff and elected representatives. Nominate someone today at www.olg.nsw.gov.au – entries close August 19.





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Restoring Platypus Park

Matthew Bloor
.....

UKI
RIVER
CARE

Uki RiverCare is a group of volunteers working together to restore native habitat along the Tweed River, at Uki.

We are looking for more volunteers to join our monthly working bees at Platypus Park. If you want to get involved, read on.

Platypus Park was planted by the local community on National Tree Day in 2015. Previously, it was a largely cleared paddock with a few large camphor laurel trees hugging the bank. The camphor trees were removed and more than 2,000 native trees and shrubs were planted to restore the original vegetation along the river.

Most of the planted trees have survived and withstood major floods, helping slow the flow of water and catching debris and silt leading to improved river health.

Platypus Park is council owned community land, located between Smiths Creek bridge and Sweetnam Park on Kyogle Road (opposite Meadow Place).

In a short time we have planted more than 1,000 native trees, shrubs and ground covers, as well as managing weeds and vines to foster natural regeneration and to open walking trails so the community can enjoy the park and river.

Joining Uki RiverCare is a great way to learn more about local riparian species, while enjoying each other's company in nature.

Working bees are held on the 4th Sunday of each month – the next is 24 August. Meet at the car park opposite Meadow Place at 8.30am. Enjoy a cuppa and some morning tea before wrapping up by 10.30am.

Uki RiverCare is part of the Nature Care Program – a collaborative effort between Tweed Shire Council and Tweed Landcare. There are established groups across most towns and villages in the valley and along the coast.

For more information, contact Matt Bloor mbloor@tweed.nsw.gov.au or call (02)6670 2400.



PLATYPUS PARK PLANTING

CTC@Uki

The Uki CTC is currently
seeking

Volunteers

with various admin skills

Centrelink Approved
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CTC@Uki

Community Technology Centre

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P.O. Box 3404 Uki NSW 2484	@ Internet, Adobe Suite
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Andia Cally

Transforming the imagined

Mark Treacy was captivated with clay 38 years ago when he started teaching art at high school. As a trained Industrial Arts teacher it was a dramatic shift from traditional woodwork and metalwork. He



was drawn to the freedom that a raw lump of clay provides.

Over the decades he has honed his skills with clay, steel and wood and is now ready to exhibit.

Mark is the newest artist to

join Little Gallery's fold. "Being accepted into the Uki Little gallery as one of the artists has been a major turning point in my artistic journey," he shares. "The other artists are a huge inspiration, supporting me and encouraging my expression to match their diverse talents."

For his first solo exhibition "Transforming the imagined" he will feature various pieces that showcase his "diverse imaginings in a physical form". The pieces will contrast the rawness of wood and its natural grain, with the shine and rusting decay of steel and clay in its infinite forms, colours and textures.

Join Mark at Little Gallery for opening night on Friday 8 August from 6pm where you can enjoy a drink and light refreshments. The exhibition will continue until the 31st of August.

Memories of the land

Judy Collins-Haynes' exhibition titled "Memories of the land" is a quiet contemplation of the land where she lives.

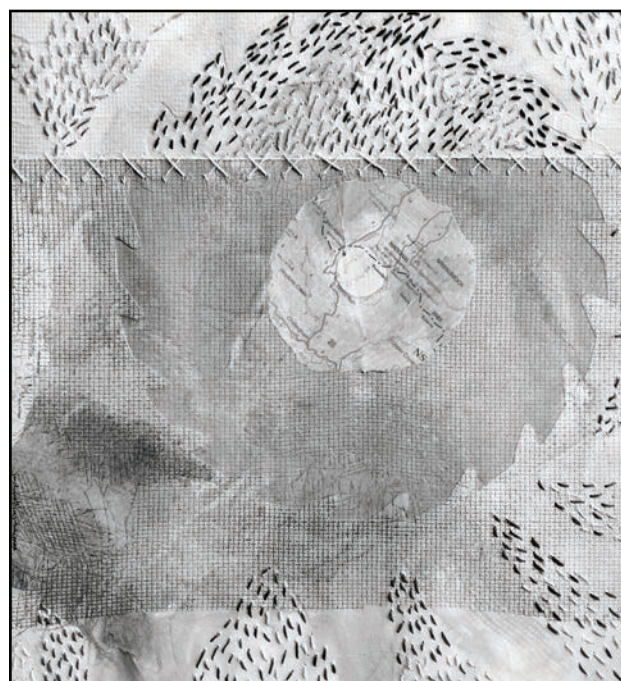
Through her use of various printmaking techniques and collage, her work tells a story of past and present land use.

Leaf stains, cultivated over weeks, are layered with prints made from rusty items and detritus. Prints made directly from saw blades are collaged with maps to tell a bigger story of the relationship between humans and the natural environment.

Some timbers in old growth forests are now but a memory, as referenced in the red cedar frames, made from retrieved timber, by her partner Steve Collins-Haynes.

This exhibition encourages the viewer to take time to pause and contemplate their relationship to the natural world.

You are invited to Judy's opening on Friday 5th of September at 6pm. Memories of the land will continue until Sunday the 28th of September.



Top left a sample from Mark's August exhibition, Transforming the imagined. Above some of Judy's work from Memories of the land opens in September.



little gallery

Wed-Fri, 10-3PM

Sat-Sun, 9-2pm

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where little things make big things happen

Workshop space coming soon

Ilona Harker

The Antique and Artisan Atelier has been open three months and while there's still a bustle of shopping activity, it's also been slowly transforming into the little creative hub that was promised.

While the old charm of the winding antique shop is still there, it's been dusted down and is having a makeover, as we create a large workshop space on the lower level.

This space will be available for hire in the next few months, open to all suitable workshops at a discounted rate for locals.

The top levels have been pulled apart and put back together and now include a decadent dressing room that would make Moulin Rouge envious.

Lush red velvet curtains adorn the walls creating a lounging area reminiscent of Paris salons, where you can pose for a picture or just languidly lay back and



admire the dress-up montage coming from the heated dressing room.

It's truly a wonderful sight with vintage galore.

The resplendent dressing room

Having fun and enjoying the experience of the space in this beautiful old building is what makes us open the doors with big smiles every day we work.

Further out the back, I have set up my creative studio where budding artists and creatives come to sing, play music, write, screen plus lino print and create fabulous fashion out of upcycled materials.

We're excited to share new developments with the Uki community as The Antique and Artisan Atelier blossoms.



Friendship in action

Bryan McClelland



Since 2014, Uki Refugee Project (URP) has run at least 15 "friendship visits". This year's is set for 18-19 October. With warm spring weather perfect for swimming, and Playing Possum booked for another unforgettable bush dance, it promises to be a joyful weekend.

These visits are a powerful antidote to a world in turmoil, offering connection and care to those who need it most. Our partnership with the Romero Centre in Brisbane ensures we welcome people who will truly benefit.

Friendship visits are URP's living, breathing expression of solidarity with people forced to flee their homelands. Alongside advocacy, music fundraisers, film events, and partnerships with refugee support groups, they help build the Australia we want to see.

The impact is real and mutual. Cudgen lifesavers have been moved by demonstrations of family joy during the Kingscliff picnic. Hosts have formed lasting friendships. Even short car rides spark surprising connections.

One morning last year, a mother and daughter who had been confined to a Brisbane motel room wandered a garden in wide-eyed delight. Around a campfire, a woman shared, "This is so different... everyone treats us like real people."

Here are some of the ways you can be part of this year's friendship weekend:

- welcoming individuals or families overnight
- assisting with transport
- helping with the bush dance meal or Sunday picnic
- or lending a hand with planning and coordination.

Contact Bryan McClelland 0428 166 783 or email info@ukirefugeeproject.org if you're interested. New faces are always welcome.

In May, we welcomed a former refugee, now an



Australian citizen, cycling 4000 km from Brisbane to Adelaide to raise funds for refugee children stranded in Indonesia.

Welcome to the cycling team, pictured with Mayor Chris Cherry.

Uki Buttery Bazaar Entertainment

Sanne Grace Kenna

8am - 2pm



Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

To book a stall at the monthly Uki Buttery Bazaar please contact the Market Coordinator on 0487 329 150

PLENTY OF PARKING AT RAINBOW BRIDGE AND SWEETNAM PARK

AUGUST Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 17 AUGUST



Russ Jalakai and LionHeart Rebellion. Get ready Uki for a full-blown roots explosion of bass bouncing, roots rocking, one love, one Sunday only in an epic reggae jam.

Featuring a line up of so many lead singers it sounds like a festival, including Russ Jalakai, Josie Doolan, Imandan, Jesse Willaton, Ben Rubly, Dave Innes, Ladi Abundance, Matrix Motion on his birthday, and a whole range of other special guests.

Get into the groove with a Sunday morning roots reggae jam and delight in a smorgasbord of special guests.



RUSS JALAKAI AND LIONHEART REBELLION

SEPTEMBER Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 21 SEPTEMBER

Trombone Kellie Gang entertain with authentic street blues, jazz swing, gospel, soul and rock n' roll.

One of the hardest working bands in the Northern Rivers, from the Sunshine Coast to the Byron Hinterlands, they always entertain, serving the perfect recipe of diverse roots music.

Kellie's powerful vocal delivery is perfectly accompanied by blues and jazz trombone styles and Scrubby Pete's superlative slide guitar. With an impressive history in Sydney, Nick Churkin delights on drums, along with the always-in-demand Justin Pfeiffer on double bass.

Enjoy the element of surprise and expect an afternoon of fun.



HEADLINERS TROMBONE KELLIE GANG

Anne-Maree Summerfield grew up in a musical family, finding the blues in her 20s, playing guitar with Chicago-style band Rockinits before joining acts like Lil Fi.

She's played festivals from Bluesfest to Broadbeach, drawing on early American folk, blues, jazz, and Australian songwriting.

With a soulful, powerful voice, she sings her own songs, and makes others her own, because the blues is in her, and it has to come out.



HENRY WILKINSON & KUWANI LI

The Henry Wilkinson & Kuwani Li Duo hail from Brisbane. They play a range of styles, including jazz, folk and popular music. Be enchanted by their vocal harmonies and intricate fingerstyle guitar.



ANNE-MAREE SUMMERFIELD 9

TECHNOLOGY

Learning languages with AI

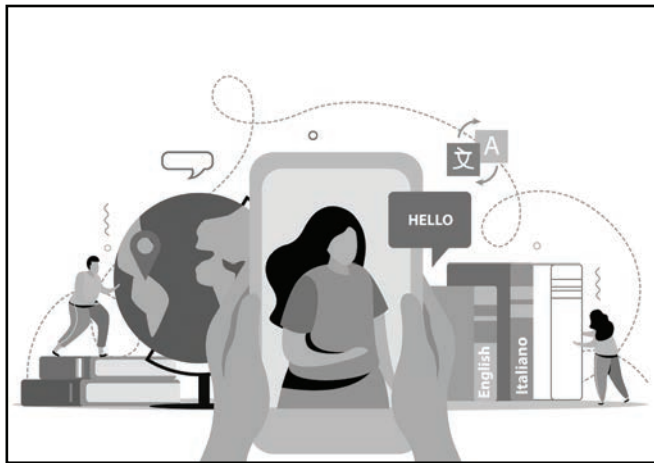
Louise Bally

Learning a new language is quite a challenge, but it is certainly within the reach of everyone now that AI apps exist to help you learn.

Evidence shows that the fastest way to learn a new language is through active conversation and regular practice.

The older more traditional way to learn languages usually encouraged memorisation of vocabulary lists, coupled with grammar lessons. Vocabulary can be difficult to memorise, especially out of context.

The dawn of AI introduces a much better way to learn, primarily using conversation to memorise new vocabulary, placed within common grammatical patterns.



This way the memory retention is far greater than traditional learning approaches. The brain just remembers new words and sentences used in conversations.

AI offers personalised, interactive, and efficient learning experiences, not usually found in the classroom environment.

AI chat bots like TalkPal or HelloChinese have a voice mode that presents you with non-intimidating

conversational practice, where you can choose the topics relevant to your interests.

These apps use advanced speech recognition technology that listens to your pronunciation, correcting you and giving you feedback on your strengths and weaknesses.

For people who like games there are AI-driven apps like Duolingo and Mondly that use language games to keep the learner motivated, adapting to your level and skill as you proceed in efficiency. Most apps are designed to install on your phone for easy access.

It's never too late to learn a new language. Active learning keeps the brain functional and has been shown to prevent age-related memory problems.

Uki Campdraft 2025

There's something special about the Uki Campdraft – the dust, the determination, the grit & spirit and that's exactly why Anne and John Besgrove are proud to be back as sponsors of this iconic local event.

As passionate advocates for the rural lifestyle and long-time locals themselves, Anne and John know how important it is to support the events that bring us together.

Whether its helping families find their dream lifestyle property or backing the events that bring people in and outside of the community together. Anne and John are always proud to support the region they call home.

Keep an eye out for Anne and John across the weekend – and if you're ever looking to buy or sell in the area, they're the team to talk to.

Anne Besgrove – 0402 608 503

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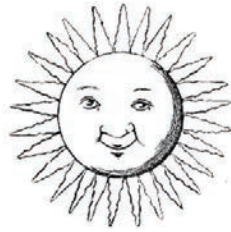
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ASTROLOGY

Welcoming Uranus

Paola Emma



The spotlight in August and September is on Uranus and the first degree of Airy Gemini, beginning to interact with Saturn and Neptune, now traveling close to each other in the first degrees of Aries.

The Saturn-Neptune's conjunction, apart from having an obvious unsettling effect on the world generally, is affecting people personally.

The degree of this effect will vary for different people, but it will create some uncertainty about life direction across the board and for some cause a confusion and lack of purpose.

This is why the stronger Uranus' energy, now building, could be beneficial. Uranus' function is to bring clarity and detachment, to cut through the red tape (Saturn) and the fog (Neptune), while stimulating a desire for change. Uranus could be the light brightening the hazy path ahead for us.

It begins with Saturn forming a positive aspect to Uranus on August 12. By then Uranus will be extremely close to form the same positive aspect to Neptune, exact on August 29.

Saturn's transit will be active until early 2026; and Uranus-Neptune, at least, until early 2027.

There's a possibility of more positive changes in our lives, not in a haphazard, unplanned way, but while taking care of the practical aspects involved, helping to create solid foundations to establish the new life we aspire to.

People who may currently feel confused about their direction, could find this Saturn-Uranus' alliance breaks through the uncertainty, finding new practical way (Saturn) to navigate this period of transition, when a deeper sense of unique individuality is struggling to be born (Uranus).

The present harmony between Uranus and Neptune could help many people and the world at large to merge the innovative lateral thinking of Uranus in Gemini with the militant, universal grassroots movements and groundbreaking ideals of Neptune in Aries.

For more astrological insight on the upcoming September Eclipses and other topics please visit my site <https://livingmoonastrology.wordpress.com>.





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Enjoy high ceilings, bamboo floors, soundproofing, and Wollumbin views plus a large deck and under-home storage. Flood-free, low-maintenance, and walkable to shops, school, and cafés this is smart buying in a sought-after village.



Green Acres Farm- 201 Smiths Creek Road SMITHS CREEK

100 acres with 2 creeks, paddocks, Mt Warning views & a charming renovated 105yo 3-bed cottage. Includes 13m x 13m American barn, stables, cattle yards, slab hut & shed. Zoned Rural Landscape – Hipcamp/eco-stay potential (STCA).

Just 3 mins to Uki, 45 mins to Byron, 1.5 hrs to Brisbane.



Team Besgrove

Proud Sponsors of the Uki Campdraft

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