



All you need is love

Ilona Harker

All you need is love with a little help from your friends. This is how The Uki Atelier became a welcome part of our community after only a few months. Just look for the neon pink sign in the front window that shines bright and welcomes all into this little creative hub.

The last few months have been a flurry of activity at Uki Atelier, with a new community workshop space opening last month.

Githabul custodian, Jarmbi Miles, welcomed in the good vibes for all future creative endeavours helping our goals of inclusivity, kindness, nurture and community support.



Ilona after the opening.

Upon entering you will see racks of vintage goodies, curious collectables, rare retros, costume jewellery, art prints and a lot of my prized collected costumes from my bygone days as a musician and cabaret artist.

At the end of the shop, you'll spy my creative studio in the corner, suitcases piled high with trims, beads and curios.

As you walk back, you'll see a cheeky set of stairs leading to the new workshop space.

This space is enveloped with red velvet curtains from Brisbane's Princess Theatre adorning the walls, giving old-world opulence inviting one and all to join in community events, including sewing nights "stitch and bitch" and life drawing, both starting late August.

The old concrete floors have been painted charcoal with plants, gold chandeliers and old bird cages hanging from the rafters, making the space feel more charming and inspiring.

The workshop space will be available to hire during business hours for suitable events, with a special rate of \$20 for locals.

In the corner of the workshop a very hefty 100-year-old book press, an overlocker and two sewing machines will also be available for use by the community for a small fee, to cover maintenance.

There's also a spinning wheel for wool for knitters or crocheters. Future workshops will include, gardening in the imaginal garden and a death café.



The front counter and creations.

For those who might not have met me yet, you might have seen some of my designs in the SAVE WALLUM block prints I created for the campaign.

Before moving to Uki early last year, The Atelier was in Stokes Siding at the old pottery building, where my block printing workshops started.

I have been working with artists with disabilities for four years, putting on exhibitions for artists with visible and invisible disabilities. I am passionate about social inclusion and engagement for artists with disabilities, as someone with endometriosis.

I want to put my energy into supporting others with their creative confidence and goals, with The Uki Atelier evolving as the community becomes involved to nurture a safe, fun, creative artistic hotspot for all.



From the Editor

Welcome to Issue 148.

Spring has arrived, bringing with it fresh ideas, creativity and opportunities to connect across our community.

Our cover story introduces the inspiring Ilona Harker, the creative force behind The Uki Atelier, whose vision is transforming the space into a thriving creative hub.

With a newly fitted workshop now available for hire, it's set to become a place where makers, artists and the community can come together to learn, create and collaborate.

The spirit of creativity continues throughout the Buttery, where Riverside Reloved unveils a new program of art and tai chi classes, while Little Gallery celebrates the natural world through spring exhibitions exploring rocks, and new species of flora and fauna in the Tweed.

This edition also highlights practical ways to strengthen our community. Janelle Saffin outlines household savings available through the Winns Budget, including interest-free loans for homeowners and landlords, while announcing landmark funding to expand support for women and children experiencing family and domestic violence.

Karl Baumgartner shares what inspired him to join the Ukira Committee, Louise Bally explains how QR codes can help local businesses reach more customer.

RUKI offers timely advice on growing our own food and supporting one another in an increasingly uncertain world and Paola highlights a rare planetary pattern driving sweeping personal and global change.

Happy reading from the red centre.

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

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 2026 public meetings: 6 October, 1 December.

Letters To The Editor



A big thank you to all that have helped preserve the Uki Mountain Bike Park from the damage of throttled bicycles.

Thanks to those with throttled bikes who were using the park and now ride elsewhere. I hope you have found a fun place to ride.

Thanks to the volunteer trail crew members who have been repairing the damage and keeping our trails in good condition.

Thanks to the community members who have been protecting the trails from inappropriate riders by asking them to leave or notifying council.

Thanks to the Tweed Shire Council for the random inspection of the facility by council rangers.

Eddie Roberts
Tweed Valley Mountain Bike Riders

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES 2026

ISSUE 149 (Oct-Nov)

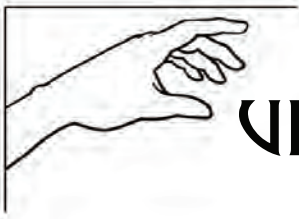
Friday 18 September

ISSUE 150 (Dec-Jan 27)

Friday 13 November

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

Contact Uki News:
theukinews@hotmail.com



**THE
UKI ATELIER**

VINTAGE
COLLECTIBLES
BLOCK PRINT CLASSES
WORKSHOP SPACE FOR HIRE

ART COUTURE EFFRONTERY

OPEN THURS · SUN 10 · 4 THE UKI BUTTERFACTORY

Art, tai chi and chai

Nick Hanlon

Riverside Reloved is a magical treasure trove of fashion - vintage and natural fibres, antiques, art, world artefacts, handmade jewellery, oddities and curiosities, priced to suit all budgets. The shop overlooks the green space behind the Buttery. Part of the mission statement to produce a range of events in this space.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for the following classes beginning in spring: Tai Chi & Chai: Thursdays 10am -11am \$15 a lesson, suitable for beginners, enjoy an hour of tai chi and relax afterwards with an expertly brewed chai.

En Plein Air Art Classes: Fridays 10am -1pm \$20. Led by a different local artist each week.

If you think these classes are something you would enjoy send a message to the Facebook page Riverside Reloved at the Uki Butter Factory or drop into the shop.

Riverside Reloved is located at the back of the Uki Buttery, entry via the famous Uki Pies. Open 10am-4pm Thursday-Sunday. Cash only.



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News from the Member for Lismore

Janelle Saffin MP

Budget brings savings, safety and support for local communities

In the Minns Labor Government's fourth budget, the Treasurer has brought down the inherited debt and deficit, saving \$400 million annually in interest, while continuing our program of higher wages for teachers, nurses, paramedics and police to attract and keep more frontline workers.

Items already announced, include the \$7 million for the cattle tick program, \$5 million for local river health projects and major road repair and infrastructure funding.

I would like to highlight a couple of new items of particular interest to locals.

Household savings

I know many people are considering battery storage for solar power but are put off by the upfront cost. The Home Energy Saver program could be an option.

Under the scheme, eligible homeowners or landlords can apply for interest-free loans of up to \$15,000 to be used for:

- rooftop solar PV systems and battery storage
- heat pump water heaters and solar water heaters
- reverse-cycle air conditioners
- ceiling insulation, draught-proofing and double-glazed windows
- induction cooktops replacing gas appliances
- EV Level 2 chargers
- ceiling fans and switchboard upgrades.

There is also a program for homeowners and renters with an income under \$80,000 or pension card, offering discounts of \$4,000 on energy-saving items. For details on eligibility and how to apply:

energy.nsw.gov.au/households/rebates-grants-and-schemes/home-energy-saver-program

Landmark funding for domestic and family violence services

I have a long and close association with refuges, domestic and family violence services. This sector has historically been underfunded, resulting in many vulnerable women and children being turned away from the support they need to be safe.

The budget includes a landmark \$184.1 million investment in frontline domestic and family violence services.

This major funding boost across six key domestic and family violence programs means thousands more women and children escaping violence will be able to access specialist support when they need it most.

These frontline programs include Safer Pathways, Staying Home Leaving Violence, and after-hours crisis support to help keep women and children safe. The increased funding also covers specialist support for children and young people, alongside investment in the Men's Behaviour Change program to help break the cycle of violence.

This funding increase is part of the Minns Government's broader work to strengthen domestic and family violence laws, including:

- making it harder for domestic violence perpetrators to get bail
- introducing electronic monitoring and tracking of serious domestic violence perpetrators on bail
- targeting perpetrators who use coercive control
- strengthening stalking laws to target people using tracking devices or surveillance.

Roads Minister visit

At the end of June, I accompanied Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison to assess the rebuilding of the Blacks Drain crossing on Tweed Valley Way to make it stronger and more resilient.



Minister for Recovery Janelle Saffin with Roads Minister Jenny Aitchison at the Blacks Drain crossing site on Tweed Valley Way.

The Minns and Albanese Governments are investing \$22 million to upgrade 35 causeways and culverts across the Tweed.



Veterans on the verandah

Narelle Blessington

Murwillumbah RSL sub-Branch is holding its inaugural "Veterans on the Verandah" in the outside undercover area at Mount Warning Hotel, Uki on Saturday 8 August 2026 at 11.30am.

An informal, fun way for younger Uki veterans to meet and learn about our advocacy and welfare services, and our new sport and recreation program.

It's about mate helping mate, through the dark times and the light, whilst creating a sense of connectedness and belonging.

This event is for veterans, partners and their families. We want to hear from you, what you feel would be beneficial for younger Uki veterans, what challenges you face in daily life, or any feedback about DVA.

Welfare/Advocacy Officer, Derek Sims will facilitate. He is a Life Member of Murwillumbah RSL sub-Branch with a wealth of knowledge and compassion.

Light snacks and a complimentary drink provided.



Why I joined UKIRA

Karl Baumgartner

I first arrived in the Tweed Valley in 1997 and fell instantly in love with this place.

Ten years later, life took me to Europe, and I spent 17 years away before finding my way back.

For the past four years, I've been home again and recently joined the Ukira Committee.

What draws me here is hard to put into words. There's a power to this landscape, with Mount Wollumbin standing at its heart and the small valleys folding out around it, something in it feels like dreaming made visible.

It's not just the land. It's the people this place has drawn together, a community as diverse and layered as the country around it.

I joined the committee to support Uki community become more harmonious, integrated place, ready to meet the challenges of a changing world. I believe it's up to us, the community, to shape that future, not something handed to us by government.

I'd love to hear how others imagine Uki could evolve in 10 years. If you feel moved to, get involved so we can create our future together.



The Minns Government's Home Energy Saver program



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Janelle Saffin MP

MEMBER FOR LISMORE

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Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

Cross cultural meeting

Bryan McClelland



URP continues its exciting contribution to a world facing turmoil. This article highlights two exciting upcoming opportunities.

Tatami

This movie follows Leila, an Iranian judo champion who faces a life-or-death decision when preparing to participate in the world championship after getting an ultimatum from her government.

The film will be screened at The Citadel in Murwillumbah, 6.00pm, Sunday 9th August, dinner and drinks available. Don't delay, previous events have sold out.

Get tickets here <http://events.humanitix.com/tatami-film-for-uki-refugee-project>



A bitter fight on and off the mat in *Tatami*, on Sunday 9 August at the Cittadel.

Friendship visit 2026

As well as hosting events, URP also provides the opportunity to meet with people escaping trauma from a number of difficult circumstances overseas.

Planning is underway for this year's Friendship Visit, anticipated for the weekend of October 24th & 25th.

As previously reported, there is always much delight when visitors are welcomed and included. A reciprocal experience that also stimulates the local hosting community.

• How to get involved

- Be part of the co-ordinating group (plan activities, contact helpers).
- Host one person or a family in your home.
- Help with transport.
- Attend events .

Get involved: contact Bryan 0428 166 783 or info@ukirefugeeproject.org.



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Rock solid - Heather McClelland

As a child Heather learned a song about building her life on values that were rocklike.

This small exhibition of oils and watercolours, relies on her love of rocks and friends' reference photos.

"Who hasn't found treasure in a beach rock pool or marvelled at rocks in rainforests or river", she asks.

"The solidity of rocks can be a danger to shipping but equally vital as foundation for a lighthouse. The centrepiece of my exhibition is called Hilary feels small.

Paul, Hilary's partner is a lover of geology who says that the granite at Girraween (north west of Uki) one of the earth's strongest rock types, was thrust up from the earth's centre roughly 250,000 years ago!

On the scale of things our worries shrink. We can revel in living out best lives in the midst of nature's balm".

Opening Friday 7th August at 6pm.



August feature artist Heather McClelland's piece Hilary feels small on show as part of Rock Solid at Little Gallery for the month of August.

Serendipity- Christine Mellor

Serendipity is an exhibition revealing for a selection of flora and fauna recently discovered and officially listed as new species, within the Tweed Valley and surrounds.

Christine, an artist and avid citizen scientist, encourages us to slow down and observe our surroundings.

"The origins of scientific discovery have always been deeply connected to the curiosity and observation of ordinary people - note the Cabinet of Curiosities," she says.

New phone apps make it much easier to record observations contributing data for scientific research. Plants and animals are constantly evolving and adapting to changes within their environment.

These new species reveal how these adaptations are presenting themselves, some even incorporating new advanced technologies within the changes.

Serendipity is on from 2-27 September, opening Friday 4 September with drinks and nibbles, from 6pm.



A preview of Serendipity creatures.

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Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

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

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AUGUST Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 16 AUGUST

Trombone Kellie Gang



TROMBONE KELLIE GANG HEADLINE

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.

SEPTEMBER Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 20 SEPTEMBER

Blakboi



BLAKBOI HEADLINES IN SEPTEMBER

Award winning Kamilaroi/Maori singer songwriter & multi-instrumentalist.

Expect loops, beats, bass, guitars, voice and didgeridoo. Playing a groovy mix of covers, originals and improvised pieces.

Southern Ocean - Heaven - 5 More Minutes Please.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2G9ha2t0fA>



Anne-Maree Summerfield

Influences range from early American folk blues and jazz artists as well as Australian songwriting storytellers. Couple that with a voice that is soulful, strong and true, she sings songs of her own and songs that she makes her own.

Scrubby Pete plays white-hot guitar and sings. He has played many festivals, and shows, such as East Coast Blues at Byron, Tanawah Blues Festival, Maleny-Woodford Folk Festival and more. He has played from Sydney to Cape York and across Australia, and most recently the southern states of the USA. He loves authentic roots styles of music and the chance to play to live audiences.



ANNE-MAREE
SUMMERFIELD



SCRUBBY PETE

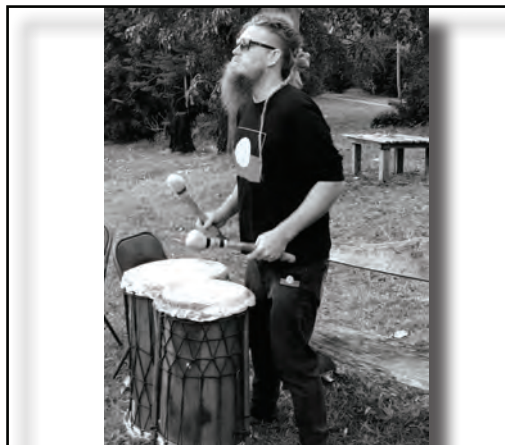


Russ Jalakai

Russ Jalakai - Lead singer of reggae collective "Lionheart Rebellion" brings reggae and dub vibes to uplift the soul and nurture the roots.

Accompanied by Local Legend Dave Innes on the bass and other special guests.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCC4BZtyVsg>



RUSS JALAKAI SUPPORTS

QR codes: perfect for community ads

Louise Bally
.....

Making print advertising work better

Community newspapers are a wonderful way to share local news, explore topics of interest, advertise events, and sell items within the neighbourhood.

There is one drawback with printed advertising namely the use of website links or hyperlinks. Web addresses appearing in printed articles or advertisements need to be carefully and accurately typed into a computer or phone browser, a task too often overlooked due to inconvenience. QR codes are a solution to this issue.

A QR code is a small square barcode that can be scanned using a smartphone camera. When scanned, it instantly opens a webpage, video, contact page, or online listing, taking the enquirer straight to the required destination. Printed QR codes make it easy for readers to move from the printed page directly to online information, booking forms, photo galleries or contact pages. They can help to preserve the continuity of media in print.

How QR codes can help the community

QR codes are especially useful for people in the local community to promote ideas, handcrafts, workshops, events and products for sale in a local small newspaper advertisements or featured articles. A QR code is easily created and conveniently placed

in print. For example, selling second-hand items. Someone selling furniture, tools, or household items could place a QR code in their ad that links to a page with photos, prices, and contact details.

Workshops and classes

Dance teachers, yoga instructors, music tutors or craft groups can link their QR code to a booking page, timetable, or event registration form.

Local classified services

Tradespeople, gardeners, cleaners, and other local businesses can use a QR code that opens their website, portfolio, or contact form. Posters or brochures, handouts can be printed and placed on community noticeboards. Community club organisers can create links to important event details, volunteer signups or social media pages.

Easy to create

Creating a QR code is simple and free. Many websites allow you to generate one in seconds. You simply paste in the web address you want people to visit, and the site creates a QR code image that can be printed in your advertisement. The example below was made at <https://app.qr-code-generator.com/>. Scan the QR below to get started, sign up and create your own account. Follow the instructions and download the QR image.



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Where does your food come from?

Resilient Uki



Something is shifting in our soils. A quiet uprising is taking root – right in our backyards.

Seed suppliers Eden Seeds recently told customers that demand is unprecedented. People are thinking about where their food comes from. People are slowly reclaiming their gardens, balconies and verandas – and growing their own food.

Many of us are throwing a few extra pantry supplies in the trolley when we can afford it. We are realising that we live with a food system and supply chain that has failed us in disasters and global disruption, and will again.

We are so lucky to live somewhere where we can often buy direct from local growers at farmers' markets, Uki Supermarket, or at roadside stalls. These are valuable connections.

Growing food is one of the best ways to include fresh fruits and vegetables in your diet, and ensures you have a supply in times of uncertainty. If you don't have space, ask neighbours if they'd be keen to share a plot, organise a local produce swap, join a community garden, or start a rotating monthly working bee across a few households.



Many hands make light work when neighbours come together

Within the past year, one in three Australian households have experienced food insecurity. Fuel scarcity, price increases and the cost of living are adding to uncertainty.

Now is a great time to think about how you as a household and we as a community can be more self-reliant and prepared.



Start with the easiest option available to you:

- Plan your pantry – see 'food security' at resilientuki.org for tips and tools.
- Plan your food garden. Buy local seedlings or order seeds (Murwillumbah Library has free seeds). Try to store a year's supply of seeds.
- Learn to fish, forage and preserve food.
- Consider getting chickens.
- Share what you know – and what you have surplus of – with your neighbours.
- Don't forget water. Have a tank, a filter, or access to a clean water supply.

For more ideas, follow the Facebook pages for Uki Farmers Market, Uki Village Gardens, Bunya Bunya House - Uki Village (often sharing surplus produce or plants), Murwillumbah Community Gardens, Feeding Uki, and Tweed Valley Gardening Friends Forum. Also check out Plan C and Dr Jean Renouf's work for in-depth guidance.



ASTROLOGY

Stars signal change

Paola Emma



In early July, a long anticipated and unprecedented planetary configuration was triggered by a transit of Jupiter in Leo, quickening the pace of changes in the world, and in the personal lives of many individuals.

The configuration itself is not over though, even as Jupiter moves ahead of it. The other planets involved, namely Pluto, Neptune and Uranus, will remain connected for months and years to come.

Jupiter will transit Leo until July next year. Most astrologers consider that the future effect of this rare planetary pattern will be positive, but that the transition will not be smooth sailing.

One fact, often overlooked when discussing this promising configuration, is that the two slowest planets involved, Neptune and Pluto, have been at the relative same distance from each other (sixty degrees or two signs apart) for about a century.

Using just two keywords to describe this underlying frequency is that it has been working toward a profound transformation of humanity spiritual outlook.

This is slowly moving away from organised religions and doctrines to embrace a mystical humanitarian and ecological mindset, striving toward unity and equality among different creeds and people.

The revival of fundamentalism affecting all organised religions at present and the establishment of undemocratic governments in many key countries in the world are reactions to the coming change, a last defence against the ideas/ideals that will unavoidably shape the future of humanity throughout this century.

At the time of writing (July 20) we are also waiting for a further activation, because, at the Aquarius full Moon (July 30), the Moon will be conjunct Pluto and the Leo Sun Jupiter.

I am waiting for some major international news in the next couple of months, as the last eclipse season of 2026 will also intensify matters in August.

Let's be the change you wish to see in the world.



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