



Koala numbers increase

While koala populations are under threat in the coastal parts of Tweed Shire, numbers appear to be increasing in the forests around Uki district as evidenced by a koala sighting at Uki Public School last month.

Steve Phillips, a koala ecologist living in the Uki area, said there are small koala populations living on Mt Nullum and the eastern flanks of Mt Warning, and as these populations continue to grow, koala sightings in the village are likely to become more frequent. In the last eighteen months alone, Steve is aware of at least three sightings. Local resident Joy Amour, who is 94 years old and has lived in Uki all her life, can remember seeing only one koala in the village – and that was in the 1930s!

But with numbers on the rise, Steve wants to remind Uki residents of the dangers koalas face as they pass through urban environments. Dogs, cars and swimming pools don't exist in the koala's natural habitat, and local residents need to be ever vigilant because, according to the Australian Koala Foundation, 4,000 koalas are killed each year by dogs and cars alone.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 19th Dec 2015
from 5.30 pm

on the village green

'LIL Fi and the Joy Mob
Kids'

MC will be Lil Fi

Plus Jake and Sue mixing
it up on stage with The Uki
Crew

Santa will offer Xmas treats

A Nativity Scene will be set
up outside the Historical Society
building with Christmas Dress-
ups available for the children

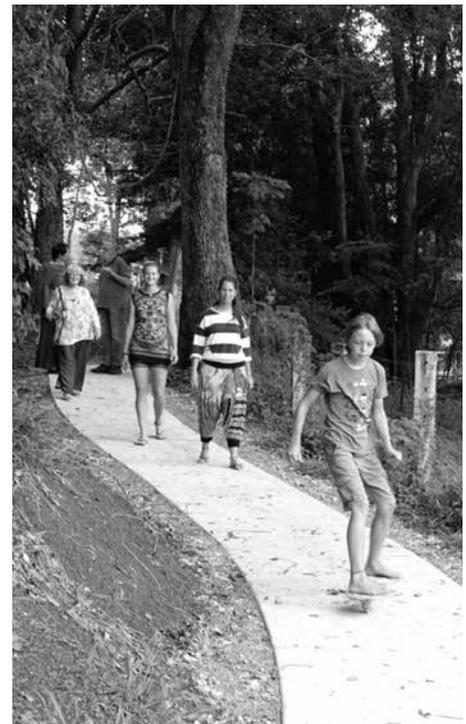
Refreshments will be available.
BYO picnic/blanket/chairs

(if it rains we will be in the Hall)

Hope To See you All There

The recent koala visiting the school was identified as a sub-adult female, probably 12 -18 months old, which Steve said is the typical age when young koalas leave their mother's home range to seek out new populations. Following distant calls that are often inaudible to humans, these young koalas will potentially cover many kilometres in a short space of time, on the move day and night.

This particular young lady koala enjoyed a secure stopover in the leafy school grounds, apparently unperturbed by the attentions of eager students. She was on her way the same day, with traffic being carefully monitored as she safely crossed Rowlands Creek Road and headed off on her journey.



How exciting can a concrete path be?

Well, when you have been waiting 15 years it is actually quite a thrill!

Especially as it could save lives...the new pathway to Sweetnam Park bypasses the narrow road cutting east of Uki village, which has long been hazardous for walkers and cyclists. Now, all pedestrians in the village, including those with disabilities or prams or other wheeled devices, have a wonderful safe access through the trees to Sweetnam Park.

The Uki Residents Association began lobbying for this path back in the year 2000, however lean Council budgets meant it could only be built in stages. Concreting of the pathway was finally done in November, thanks to Tweed Shire Council.

The pathway is part of a broader staged plan to improve pedestrian links throughout Uki for the amenity of its residents and visitors.

Phil Carr

A word from UKIRA

I am sure you will have all noticed our beautiful NEW concrete Pathway, which is the result our combined perseverance. "Perseverance Pays Dividends" How true that is.

Together with the Land Care Grant UKIRA applied for and the support of the Tweed Shire Council, the final planting of the trees in Platypus Park has now been completed.

In due course, the soft mulched pathways will be more permanent along with the natural growth of the local indigenous shrubs and trees. Our plan is to encourage families to enjoy the shaded areas for picnics and gatherings. Access down to the river edge is now very much easier for a cool summer dip.

Discussions are being held with Council's Public Art Reference Group about a new design for the 'Rainbow Bridge' memorial painting incorporating a profile of Mt. Warning. If the application is approved by Council the artwork will be adopted as a public artwork.

Many thanks go to Keli, who for many months has been our intrepid & marvellous manager of our monthly Buttery Bazaar Market and welcome to Lisa, our new Market Manager. I am sure you will all recognize her, as she is a long standing member of our community. She had her premier performance last month in November, and kept everyone happy with her delightful personality and charm.

We will be celebrating our Christmas Party in the Village Green Saturday 19th December @ 5:30 with Carols and Santa. Another great community gathering.....so please come along. Hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year..... from all of us at UKIRA.

Lorraine Lintern, Secretary

I have a number of artistic and family commitments for 2016 that will make it difficult for me to continue as editor. I am sorry to leave after such a short stint, but would warmly encourage anyone in the community who enjoys writing and connecting with the wonderful residents of Uki to apply for the job. (details page 5)

Susan Kinneally

Contact Uki Village News

theukinews@hotmail.com

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All advertisers will receive an invoice.

Advertising revenue helps fund the Uki Village News.

Disclaimer: The opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Uki Village News nor of UKIRA.

UKIRA meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the meeting/supper room at the Hall. Next meeting is on February 2nd 2016. Contact us by email at ukiresidentsassociation@gmail.com or write to PO Box 3141 Uki.

Deadline for next Issue: Tuesday January 19th 2016

News from UKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As the Valley enters the fire season, our thoughts run to fires that have occurred over past years and the numerous bush fires and individual house fires that have affected this community. Uki had its "main street" fire on Sunday the

29th August 1914 at 3am and this was reported far and wide by the newspapers of the day. The following article appeared in The Farmer and Settler (Sydney, NSW) on Tuesday, the 1st September.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT UKI

A disastrous fire occurred at Uki, on the Tweed (NSW), on Sunday morning last, resulting in the destruction of the E.S & A bank premises, J.F.Ryder's auction mart, post office, A.S.Loder's private residence, and also his store. The adjoining premises were only saved by the desperate efforts of the bucket brigade. The fire was first discovered in the post office. The new school of arts narrowly escaped destruction. Water was poured from the roof and through the ventilators, and resulted in the saving of one building. The fire burned for two hours, and the damage is roughly estimated at £5000, most of which is covered by insurance.



As the year comes to a close we would like to wish a happy and safe celebration season to all and say goodbye to life member Mary Lee Connery. Our thanks and best wishes for your retirement.

Please note that for December and January our office will be open Wednesday and Thursday 10am- 3pm. (Closed 21st Dec- 12th Jan).

Jayne Parrott

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

It goes without saying that there are many places in Australia and indeed around the world, with unusual and hard to pronounce names – places like Ozenkadnook in Victoria, Ehrenbreitstein in SA, Xantippe in WA and Wonglepong in Queensland. So it's not surprising that Uki finds itself on that special list. It also finds itself on another list – the list of places starting with U, which includes lots of "Upper" this and "Upper" that, and a few odd locations with peculiar names like Ubirr, Ubobo, Uselessloop and Upotipotpon.

But what is of great interest though to me as a resident of the village and a volunteer at our local Visitors Centre, is how this short town name 'Uki' is pronounced or more often mispronounced by those who see a mere three letters and have a stab at how it should be uttered. Over time I've discovered how many ways a name with just three letters can be pronounced.

As locals we all seem to agree that it is pronounced "yook-eye" but for some folks there seems that there is a wide variety of interpretations which include Ooo- kee, Ooo-keye and my

favourite Uck-eee or occasionally even Uck-eye!

Perhaps you've heard yet another version, if so it would be great to hear what it is.

Another matter of interest and some mystery is the meaning of Uki. The listing in Wikipedia gives several stories, one perhaps merely legend, associated with the origins of the name. The legend is that timber cutters, who were the first non-Aboriginal settlers in the area, marked the finest cedar for export to the United Kingdom with "UK1", this eventually becoming UKI, or Uki .

However, more realistically it seems that the word is derived from the aboriginal name for a water fern with edible roots. Or thirdly, the theory now endorsed by the local Indigenous elder Ian Fox, is that it is a name for the local bandicoot*.

All the possible meanings for the name are fine with me, and I for one don't mind correcting the pronunciation of visitors because I'm grateful not to be a resident of

Yorkeys Knob, Poowong, Jimcumbilly or Nowhere Else.

Luckily for all who reside in Yook-eye, it's like the rose and still smells as sweet.

**Small water plant (like a fern) with a yellow flower and edible root. Also: from 'yaguy' meaning small lagoon or bandicoot. (Richmond Tweed Regional Library. 1984). Also: the root of the swamp fern. Or small lagoon. (Oceania.Vol.XXXIV.No.1.p.42.Sept.1963).*

Aboriginal. Also: said to be derived from Bundjalung 'yaguy' meaning 'a small water plant with an edible root', 'small lagoon' or 'bandicoot', but there is no linguistic evidence to support these. (Appleton; 1992).

Diane Michael



Uki Red Cross Christmas Appeal 2015

Uki Hall Friday 4th December 2015.

Goods on sale from 9.00am, lunch is served from 12.00pm – 1.30pm. Donations of cash, cooking, produce, jams, and any saleable goods will be gratefully accepted. They may be left with Joy Armour, Pauline Carroll, or at the Uki Hall on the day.

For further information, please phone Joy 66795297 or Pauline 66795176



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Uki Community Gardens Update

Uki Community Gardens initiative has been busy promoting all things sustainable and edible! Uki-topia was a great opportunity to promote the value of growing your own vegetables especially to the young ones with an Enchanted Seed Circle workshop run by Keeta Young which over 30 children attended. Also during the festival Eddie Roberts conducted a 1 hour riverside walk for a dozen people talking about the Uki Community Gardens and the rehabilitation of the riverside area around the Uki Village.

The winners of the Uki Community Gardens T-shirt Design was also decided at Uki-topia. There were 30 high quality entries submitted and displayed on the Village Green fence with an enormous response from the village for the "people's choice" award. The results were as follows:

Children up to 12 years category: Jimmi Wilson

Teens 12 to 16 years: Taylah Bor

Open: Gerold Meyer



Peoples Choice: Taylah Bor

Many thanks to Uki Fair Trade and Keeta Young for donating award for this competition. Uki's master T-Shirt maker Tony Grumley is kindly contributing his love and expertise to create the T - Shirts which will be available for purchase before Christmas.



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Due to popular demand we are going to do a two month trial of opening earlier in the morning from 1st December. We will be serving bacon and egg rolls, bacon and egg muffins and our brekky wraps as well as home cooked quiches and our normal menu - yes that does mean you can now have one of our awesome Works Burgers for breakfast!

The earlier opening time will also create an opportunity for those people on their way to work to grab one of our home cooked meals for an easy lunch.

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Relax

Most people agree that managing stress is one of great challenges of the 21st century. When we experience significant and sustained stress, there can be profound consequences physically, mentally and emotionally. Our immune systems are more vulnerable, our thinking is impaired and reactive, our endocrine system becomes disordered, putting at risk hormone regulation, metabolic stability, reproductive health and our appetite and response to food can become unpredictable and unhealthy.

How can we improve our capacity to cope with the demands of life – limit the impact of stress, improving our physical, mental and emotional equilibrium and resilience?

A variety of different relaxation techniques can help bring back balance, leaving the body and mind relaxed, calm, and focused. There is no single relaxation technique that is best for everyone - the right relaxation technique is the one that resonates with you. Examples include:

- **Breathing meditation:** With its focus on full, cleansing breaths, deep breathing is a simple, yet powerful, relaxation technique. It's easy to learn, can be practiced almost anywhere, and provides a quick way to get your stress levels in check.
- **Progressive muscle relaxation:** Progressive muscle relaxation involves a two-step process in which you systematically tense and relax different muscle groups in the body. As your body relaxes, so will your mind. You can combine deep breathing with progressive muscle relaxation for an additional level of stress relief.

- **Meditation:** The benefits of meditation come from regular use. If you are under stress, you may find that meditating twice daily will be effective in restoring composure. Make a time and space you can call your own, and use breathing and relaxation exercises to ease yourself into the meditative state.

- **Visualization meditation:** Visualization, or guided imagery, is a variation on traditional meditation that requires you to employ not only your visual sense, but also your sense of taste, touch, smell, and sound. There are many free online audio recordings and apps available, so try a few different styles to find what works for you

- **Physical centred relaxation** – e.g. Tai Chi and Yoga. As well as reducing anxiety and stress, these can also improve flexibility, strength, balance, and stamina. Practiced regularly, they can also strengthen the relaxation response in your daily life.

It is worth noting that when a stressed person tries a relaxation technique, they will commonly struggle – struggle to 'relax', sit still, stop fidgeting, stop their brain racing, etc. This is NOT evidence that they don't need it, or it doesn't suit them – in fact the opposite. It takes time and practice and will always, ultimately work – you can RELAX – you just need the space to remember how.

Judith Magee

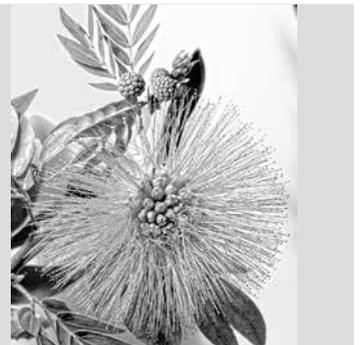
Merry Christmas Everyone

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The Astrology of Michelle Payne, a modern day Amazon

The day of a Venus-Mars' conjunction in Libra saw the first female Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, elected in Australia, on August 21, 2010.

November 3, 2015, the same conjunction, this time in Virgo, has seen the victory of the first female jockey, Michelle Payne, in the Melbourne Cup.

If this wasn't intriguing enough this modern day Amazon was born on September 29 1985, when the same conjunction of Venus and Mars occurred, also in Virgo. Now, that's some 'coincidence'!

The accent on humble Virgo stresses the underdog status of this woman jockey, not only because of her gender, but because the horse itself was listed at 100:1!

Michelle was born in the Sign of Libra, a few hours before the Aries Full Moon. This brings to mind another Australian

heroine, also born with Moon in fiery Aries, Jessica Watson, the youngest female sailor to circumnavigate the globe solo.

The combination of Libra Sun and Aries Moon shows that gaining equality in a male dominated field will be a priority for Michelle, Libra being the Sign of justice and equality, while Aries adds courage and a combative and feisty spirit. See the courageous speech she gave after her victory, stressing the chauvinistic climate of the horse racing industry and challenging the prevailing stigma about people with special needs like her brother Steven.

A Full Moon birth is indication of a 'full on', eventful life. Certainly this has been the case with Michelle, losing her mother when she was just six months old and a sister who died in 2007. Michelle was involved in numerous accidents while horse riding, one in 2004 that nearly cost her life. Aries is associated with dangerous sports and is

often found in the Charts of athletes and dare devils! Mars, in a configuration with Uranus-Chiron, is another telling indication that accidents are likely. Saturn in Sagittarius, horses and horsemanship's Sign, are in a difficult relationship to Mercury, planet of mobility. This points to periods of restricted mobility too.

Jupiter in Aquarius increases self confidence and optimism, bringing her popularity, attracting mentors in high places, as well as money and business opportunities. Michelle could contribute greatly to the making of a better world, Aquarius being the Sign of reformers, trailblazing ideas and anticipating social trends.

The conjunction Venus-Mars in Virgo, an earthy practical Sign, shows that she is a hard working, methodical person, who would take routine and duties very seriously. Virgo is also associated with the love for animals.

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HighTide comes in for earthquake Grandma



Biku said that through generous donations over the years his grandmother's house now had a slab, a roof, exterior walls and ceilings plus some screens. But Merle, who now cannot walk without a walking frame, is still not in her own house.

"We went to return last year, and she said not to come as she still did not have a house for us to stay in," Biku explained.

"My Mum, Natascha Wernick then began a fundraising campaign to get her in a house by Christmas 2014".

Christmas came and went and Merle was still not in her house. Over \$15,000 has been raised for the project through the generous donations of people who have met Merle and have connections with the Solomons. This has resulted in the house being partially completed but more funds are needed to finish the build.

"A few weeks ago we were able to buy a bed frame for her. Now we can purchase the mattress!"

When Uki musician Biku Wernick-Aqorau's grandmother Merle Aqorau lost her house in the Solomon Islands after the 2007 earthquake and tsunami disaster, the story of her loss made front page news in local media here.

Now, eight years on, Biku (17) is hoping to bring the focus back to her plight as his grandmother is still homeless after funds raised to rebuild her house have been exhausted.

Biku called on his bandmates in reggae alt rock band HighTide and other musos to lead a fundraising evening of music, food, dancing and fun on Saturday, 14th November at the Uki Hall.

Merle (76) lost her home in the remote village of Munda, New Georgia, after a 7.5 earthquake struck the Solomon Islands in the Pacific, leading to a devastating tsunami and earthquake, and a 50cm rise in sea levels.

The evening was a tremendous success. 120 people came to support Merle, braving a huge storm, dining on delicious food and enjoying the amazing hula hoop skill of Asta and the tunes of Gym (Ella and Kate), Jerome Williams, Timber Bones- (a touring 6 piece dance band) and, of course, HighTide. All of the shops in Uki donated prizes for the raffle as well as many others. Over \$2,500 was raised for Merle.

Natascha exclaimed, "I was totally blown away by the turn out. About half the guests were Biku's peers. It was great to see so many young people dancing together with us on the dance floor to such brilliant music. I feel honoured and privileged to part of such a generous, loving and kind community."

For more information or donations contact Natascha 0412 980 063 or Biku 0401 044 439.



Ella and Kate's lovely singing, while Biku wow' the crowd (above)

Generous donations from Uki help to restore the house of Biku's grandmother.

You may never know what results come of your action, But if you do nothing there will be no result. —Mahatma Gandhi

Great Apps for Musicians

There are thousands if not hundreds of thousands of apps out there for both android and for iPhone and iPad for musicians. Let's have a look at few of the more popular ones. Firstly there is forScore a \$9.99 sheet music app for any instrument including guitar. You can import DPF files from the Internet into this app. Tempo at \$2.99 is an accurate metronome that has 35 different time signatures, 6 different rhythm patterns as well as 3 compound meters. Designed to enhance the understanding of music is Tenuto at \$3.99, which helps you learn to recognise chords by ear on any instrument and is excellent as an introduc-

tion to music theory. Songwriter's Pad at \$9.99 offers a word and phrase generator, audio recorder and chords can be added as you work. Songster Tabs & Chords is free with a subscription service available and gives you access to 500,000 high quality guitar, bass, and drum tabs and chords to all the popular tunes. It can be set at half speed for learning providing thousands of hours of fun and learning.

For android there is Lyrically which offers access to lyrics for more than a million songs, great for buskers or for jam sessions when you need to find lyrics quickly. Pro Metronome is a great accurate metronome for android and

can be set at whatever pace suits your needs. RecForge Pro is a serious audio recorder that can record in mp3, ogg or wav format. It also converts audio files between those formats and has support for uploading to the cloud. Walk Band is a great creative music-making app, with multi-track recording and a series of digital instruments you can play around with. Perfect for when you are out and suddenly get a spark of inspiration you want to jot down. There are also instrument tuners for most instruments, for both iPhone and android. To check out these and more, for iPhone go to the Apple app store and for android go to Google Market Place. HAVE FUN with MUSIC!

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How to get there

It's really, really cold in Canberra. Really cold. So it makes sense for a musician with an aversion to being really, really cold to get the hell out of there and travel north for winter, busking and the occasional gig along the way. During one of these annual trips to warmer climes, I came across the village of Uki.

The carpark of the Buttery seemed like a nice quiet spot to park my van and spend the night after a busking day in Nimbin. I didn't explore the town, go to the pub, or even speak to anyone. I just cooked my dinner in the Bunker (now the Squaretunda), played my guitar into the evening and retired to the back of my van to sleep.

I can't really explain why, but there was something about that beautiful, peaceful evening that affected me deeply... so deeply that I drove back to Canberra, put my house on the market and four months later shifted my whole life to Uki.

Do I regret my impulsive decision? Nope.... not one little bit. I love it here, the friendly people, the wonderful artistic community and the beautiful, majestic mountain that watches over

it all. But it's bloody hard to make a living. The place is lousy with the most fantastic musicians, all looking to perform and share their art while living in this beautiful part of the world.

After surviving successfully in Canberra and the NSW south coast for many years, how to do it here? I haven't got a clue. I have no business plan, marketing strategy or mission statement. What I do have is an unlimited enthusiasm for making music. I play banjo, guitar and drums with various bands here. I have achieved a long-held ambition of building and setting up a small recording studio, both for my own projects and also to assist others realise their musical ideas.

So, here I am. If you need a moderately talented guitarist, banjoist or drummer; if you've got some songs you've always wanted to record; if you are a fabulously wealthy patron of the arts.... let's get together! Please "like"/contact me at <https://www.facebook.com/FatMagpieRecords>

Michael Brainboy

Entertainment at the Uki Buttery Bazaar



Dec 20th

Yeshe

Hailed by the Sydney Morning Herald as a “groundbreaking roots musician” and “sublime..” by the Montreal Metro, German born ‘genre bender’ Yeshe is a true global musical gypsy, heavily inspired by his many years spent in Africa. His uplifting and mesmerizing songs, transcending all labels and boundaries, have earned him growing respect and the love of a global audience.

A world traveller since his teens, Yeshe became especially interested in traditional African melodic instruments, in particular the ‘Mbira’ of the Shona people of Zimbabwe and the ‘Kamele Ngoni’ of the Bambara people of Burkina Faso, each time going straight to the source to immerse himself in the culture. Later both instruments became the centerpiece of his music.

Since releasing two multi-award winning albums (including a BILLBOARD # 1) Yeshe has been in high demand

on the international circuit, collaborating with Canadian Blues legend Harry Manx and most recently with Australian Roots icon Xavier Rudd amongst others.

Yeshe will be joined by 5-string violin virtuoso Cye Wood. He is also inviting young performers and special guests to play some songs on the day!
yeshe.com.au

Jan 17th 2016

The Kellie Gang.

The “Kellie Gang” is headed by Trombone Kellie who is an energetic and entertaining performer. Her inspirational vocals are both versatile and passionate, and her trombone playing is melodic, raunchy and smooth...

On guitar is Scrubby Pete whose old time blues feels are authentic to traditional roots of their kind. His many years of performance experience, both on guitar and vocals make for great listening and his comical mischievous flair is endearing...

On double Bass duties is Robert Renfrew whose relaxed, intuitive feels add their own unique flavour to the mix. This along with his vocal and keyboard talents showcases a panorama of sound that is wonderful and vast...



The combining of these three musically diverse, vibrant entertainers makes for a dynamic, spontaneous mixture of Rock, Soul, Blues, Gospel, Rockabilly, Country, Rock and Roll and what they call “Blazz Swing”- Blues and Jazz Swing...

The “Kellie Gang” is happy to play as a duo, trio or four piece (with added drums), sometimes changing the players to keep audiences on their toes,

literally. No matter the requirements, “Kellie Gang” plays fantastic music for any occasion, guaranteed to get the voice box and dance floor humming...

The youth performers are 3 very talented up & coming musicians from the area and the name of their trio is ‘DESHODA’ Aka Kuwani Li, Daisy Larkin and Audrey Spence...

See you there!

Sue McKenna



Larrikin Cookin'

Creative ways with a zucchini.....

After being away on the high seas for a fair bit of this year, it was a pleasure to come home to my community. The vegetables randomly planted in August had gone ballistic with the unseasonal rain. The garden was full of enormous zucchini. Terrific house sitting mates made a spicy tzatziki out of them, I gave several away and I am about to make endless ratatouille and freeze it (see way back in episode 62 or on my website for the recipe).

Good sized produce lends itself to getting stuffed - more about that later. Get your mind out of the sink. Here's a tricky dish to make you look like the deity of the dishes, a culinary caliph. Discovered by accident when mates dropped in for a lamb roast, it serves six. The idea is the important bit - adjust quantities as you see fit - it's savoury custard with a twist. You can bake it pretty much with anything else in the oven.

You need:

- A huge zucchini (pumpkin, marrow or squash works as well)

- 6 eggs
- 1/2 tablespoon of light soya sauce
- 50 - 100mls tea of mint, garlic and rosemary

Then:

- Make the tea - smash the mint, garlic and rosemary in a mortar and pestle - or just chop it up a bit if you haven't got one - just enough to bruise it to release the aromas. Pour boiling water to just cover it and leave to stand until cool.
- Hollow out the large vegetable ensuring you have a non-leaky container with a well-fitting lid for the raw custard. The skin is your friend here.
- Whisk the eggs, add the cold tea and soya sauce.
- Strain the custard into the hollowed out vegetable. Yep it's important. Put the lid on.
- Bake in a ceramic (if you can) baking dish in a moderate oven for 20 to 30 minutes.

To serve:

- Leave on the hot baking dish, cut into the vegetable, The custard remains quite runny then sets as soon as it hits the hot baking dish. It smells (and



tastes) amazing. Tricky but has the 'wow' factor.

If you have veggies this large, stuff them with cooked rice for padding and pretty much any savoury leftovers you might have. Omit the lid, bake with grated cheese on top and you'll have your veggie-phobics lining up for more.

Happy cooking and happy Christmas.

Pat Miller

<http://patmiller.net.au>



"...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope."

— Wendell Berry, The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays

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For non-emergencies and general information

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Murwillumbah Police

(02) 6672 9499

Tweed Police

(07) 5536 0999

Murwillumbah Hospital

(02) 6672 1822

The Tweed Hospital

(07) 5536 1133

State Emergency Service

132 500

Uki OOSH News

The Uki Out of School Hours (OOSH) committee would like to share the news that we were successful in obtaining a \$2000 grant for soft furnishings and storage which will contribute to the already great resource in our community. The children have chosen the type and colours for the soft furnishings and these will add to the large variety of indoor and outdoor activities available for the children to enjoy. The children's views and ideas on activities are highly regarded by the staff who are committed to creating a welcoming, friendly space for children to play. This community resource is open to all community children to use and is open from 2.50pm – 6pm Monday –Friday. For more information please contact Natascha Wernick on 6679 5024



The Mayor of Tweed Shire, Katy Milne, presents a cheque to Tweed Community Groups on behalf of Council.



Uki Tennis Club News

Tennis Lessons in 2016

Are you interested in tennis lessons at our local courts? We have been talking to coach about the possibility of starting tennis lessons at Uki courts one afternoon per week. We would need at least 6 children committed for a term, to make it viable. If enough kids are interested, we would run more than one level, for example beginner and intermediate. To register your interest please contact Club President, Kelly Skinner on 0408 035 909.

By the time you read this, we will have had our inaugural vintage tennis day on Sunday 24th November, and I'm sure a good time was had by all who attended.

Remember that social tennis continues on the 4th Sunday of the month from 3pm. And every Monday night from 7pm. Courts and the club house are also available for hire through the general store.

See you on the court.
David Stratton



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our prospective OUTDOOR PING PONG TABLE, hopefully coming soon. The money boxes have been filling up around the village.

Kelly Skinner

Christmas Markets Reminder

The Farmers' Market will be open every Saturday, as usual, until the final week of the year. Our last market for 2015 will be on Saturday 19 December (the last weekend before Christmas). The following Saturday (26th) is Boxing Day and the market will be CLOSED while the stallholders take a well-earned break. We will be back, rested and refreshed (hopefully!), on the first Saturday in 2016, which falls on 2 January.

Don't forget the final Buttery Bazaar for the year, either! Your last chance to snap up a few gifts is on Sunday 20 December.

Anita Morton

UKI Public School News

This term at Uki Public School we have been doing lots of hard work with fun along the way. So far in Term 4 we have taken part in a number of enjoyable and educational activities. In sport we could choose to do a dance program with a professional teacher. Our school was also selected to create a Remembrance Day display at the Murwillumbah Services Club, currently on show. We had a disco to raise money and we managed to raise \$330 to help the Story Dogs Program. Following that our Year 1 and Year 2 students went to see the Big Friendly Giant theatre production at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre.

At Uki Public School we are known for our creative and performing arts and this term we had 21 choir students represent Uki PS and sing in the Festival of Choral Music at the Sydney Opera House along with 20 students from other small schools in the Tweed. That was a truly magical experience. We also had 7 students represent Uki Public School at a 3 day ArtSmart workshop and during that time the students created some beautiful artworks and represented our school with pride. Very recently, we put on show the creativity of all of our students from Kindergarten through to Year 6 in a display at the Murwillumbah Show which looked fantastic.

Last week, 54 Uki Public School students from Years 3 to 6, along with 5 staff members went on school camp for 3 days and 2 nights. The students visited the Queensland Museum and Sciencentre, The Port of Brisbane, the Brisbane Ferry, the Fredrick Marsden Recreational Centre, Australia Zoo, Underwater World and Dreamworld. Everyone had an amazing time! We finished the week with our P&C's biggest fundraiser, the Family Fun Fair, which had lots of fun activities, a jumping castle, water slide, prizes, food and great performances.

Coming up later this term we have our Year 6 students run-



Students and parents admired the artwork from Uki Primary School at "Images of Uki" Exhibition in September

ning a Mini Fete to raise money for the Year 6 Farewell in December. Our Year 5 and 6 students will be participating in a virtual excursion of Parliament House in Canberra. Our Concert Band and Bunyip Band will be holding a twilight performance to thank all of our parents and carers who are very supportive of our students learning instruments.

We are lucky enough to be sending our concert band students to Dreamworld to celebrate their hard work and achievements this year. We are also very lucky to be able to send our Year 6 students to Wet 'n' Wild for a full day to have some fun before they leave primary school. At the tail end of our term we have our Presentation Day where we give heaps of awards to our hard working students and high achievers. Then to finish everything up, we have an EKIDNA party to celebrate all the hard work from our students this year.

2015 has been a great year at Uki Public School!

Nyah and Hakea in Year 6



Connections between Uki and refugees reach new heights



The 4th Friendship Visit sponsored by the Uki Refugee Project (URP) on the weekend of October 17-18, has resulted in even greater connections forged between refugees and the local Uki community. While existing friendships were strengthened, it was exciting to see many people involved for the first time. Especially heartening was the way our visitors spoke of Uki's characteristic inclusiveness:- "Every time we meet more good people" "Everyone here is

so friendly!" On the way to our Sunday activity, one family wanted sugar cane, and a 'brief' stop at the Uki market was extended – they kept meeting people they knew, who wanted to say hello and give them a hug!

Key to the connection process was the Bush Dance Saturday night. Thanks to Jo Spiller and 'Playing Possum' for what has been described by many people as 'the best time they've had for ages'. Blessings on the people of Uki and the refugee families themselves for providing a superlative community meal. The dancing drew everyone in whether they were 6 months and strapped to mum's chest or 86 and familiar with the age old dance steps. Amazing to see almost all our visitors gave the dancing a go. We're particularly grateful to those who set up, welcomed people, did the dishes, collected money or helped clean up afterwards.

One new family from Iraq were disappointed to miss out on the visit because their house was broken into and trashed and their recently acquired car was stolen. At the bush dance

generous Uki dug deep into pockets on behalf of this family. Altogether \$790 was collected and the URP working group were able to make this up to a gift of \$1250. We received a grateful thankyou from that family.

URP is particularly grateful to Leesa and Andrew at the Mt Warning Forest Hideaway Motel for the way they host our refugees with lovingly prepared cabins for each family, at special rates.

Our visit to Currumbin on Sunday 17th was also a great success. Another family from Sri Lanka joined us there. Koalas and kangaroos were greatly appreciated as were the Wild bird show, indigenous dancers and the sheep shearing. Our newcomers were excited to experience the flora and fauna and we all enjoyed this further relaxed opportunity to get to know each other.

Planning meeting for 2016 will be held in Nov. Anyone interested in planning next year's activities please contact us on uki.refugee.project@gmail.com

Bryan McClelland

Inspired Parenting: Compassion

Children sometimes can get very clingy. She had so many times felt that kind of pull: they hang from her hands or climb onto her shoulders or pull down on her skirts, asking that she comes down to their level and connects. That request has often felt heavy to her. She guesses she felt that heaviness in her Mum when she asked her for connection as a little girl; and when Mum didn't give it to her, she ended up believing that there were other things more important than her, like getting things done or arriving to places on time. That belief has stayed with her, and now she sees herself repeating the pattern with her daughter. The girl wraps her hands around her mother's neck and hangs down with all her weight. Mum gets angsty, she needs to get on with jobs, it never seems to be the right time. She knows the message her daughter gets: 'Doing things is more important than loving you', and she certainly doesn't agree with that. Yet, she has never been able to shift that feeling of heaviness whenever it appeared. Until today.

Lately she has been working on compassion. Especially compassion towards herself, towards the parts of her that are not as patient, loving,

compassionate and sensitive as she would like them to be. Yes, she practices compassion towards the non-compassionate part of herself. It sounds like a mind trick, but it works! You see: when her daughter pulled her down yet again this evening, she let herself go into that heaviness. She knew the girl was feeling anxious and scared, but she felt like she didn't have anything to give, not even resistance. So she stopped resisting her pull. As she let go internally, she looked at the scared part in her that needs to be forever busy and held her lovingly in her heart. In her arms, she was holding her daughter. She poured compassion onto her scared busy woman (the non-compassionate part of her), and tender love on to her daughter. It

felt so easy and natural to do both at the same time. In a matter of seconds, her fear and anxiety had melted. The girl's too. And all there was left was connection.

For more articles, if you have questions or if you want ideas on how to inspire your parenting, go to https://www.facebook.com/inspiredforparenting?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Maira Jorba

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Tailored business systems saving you time & money

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Euros, Dollars, Pounds and Sense

Faced with such a line of refugees from Syria, anyone who was homeless could be forgiven for feeling less than welcoming, and anyone on a pension might ask if Centrelink could afford them. It makes sense to ask such questions ... common sense. However, to make good sense we must think again ... and “dig” a little.

We all know how the diet of our nation has been enriched by foods from other countries ... our music and art likewise. And anyone who has spent time in hospital knows how much we depend on doctors and nurses from other countries. However, the economic benefits of mass migration, though less obvious, are also significant.



The European Commission, for example, expects 110 million jobs to be created in Europe between 2013 and 2025; but its domestic labour force is likely to fall 7.5 million short of satisfying this requirement: only migrants can bridge this gap. There is also what the World Bank calls the “demographic dividend”. Low fertility rates in Europe (and Australia?) will saddle future generations of taxpayers with huge costs for age-related care unless the workforce expands. Germany needs 700,000 more migrants each year to maintain the size of its working population. Most refugees are young, well educated, and will work their butts off if given a chance.

Short-term costs may be high, for housing, education and health, but the long-term benefits are attractive, to say the least. The HSBC bank estimates that the current influx of migrants will add 0.2% to Europe’s growth potential, and make public debt burdens sustainable.

A report issued by the UN on September 4th notes that instead of being an economic burden, “in most countries migrants pay more in taxes and social contributions than they receive”. Research in the UK has established that migrants more than pay their way, were less likely than native Brits to be on state benefits, and no more likely to live in public housing. Between 2000 and 2011 they contributed five billion pounds

in taxes: and it was suggested that letting in another 260,000 immigrants each year would halve the UK’s public debt in 50 years!

So, whether you think in terms of cents or pence it makes sense to open both our hearts and our homeland to those seeking asylum ... at Christmas.

John Tyman, Holy Trinity Church

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At the Uki Hall with Paula Cave



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