

RUKI Preparation, Response & Recovery

Brendan Esposito, RUKI Vice President

With the help of a dedicated community, Resilient Uki (RUKI) has been busy since its inception 2.5 years ago. Extensive work has been done on mapping Uki and surrounds, identifying neighbourhoods that typically become isolated during flooding. As a result of the Neighbourhoods Project, each of these neighbourhoods or pods has a coordinator/leader.

The new RUKI website has lots of information about disaster preparedness, neighbourhood mapping and a list of coordinators, plus valuable information for new residents (find the 'New Residents Kit' under 'Your Neighbourhood' at resilientuki.org).

RUKI has acquired a trailer, which we have kitted out for neighbourhood community gatherings of up to 40 people with chairs, marquees, tables, drink coolers and provisions for boiling water and more. In a disaster, this trailer can serve as a base station for UHF radio communications and as a field kitchen/first aid station.

The Smiths Creek Road Neighbourhood recently borrowed the trailer for a gathering that the RFS went to. We also brought it to a community dinner in the hall, where more than 30 neighbourhood and pod leaders, and other interested community members gathered to talk about how we can better support each other.

RUKI has located two containers close to Uki that are being stocked with a cache of useful equipment and supplies needed in emergency events.

We also maintain a large diesel-powered, trailered generator that Tweed Shire Council kindly donated that can supply power to the Uki School of Arts (Uki Hall). With support from the hall committee, RUKI has installed Starlink satellite internet at the hall, which can be activated in emergencies. Complementing this, the Community Technology Centre (CTC) now also has Skymesh satellite internet.

Additionally, the neighbourhood-wide UHF radio communications network setup is progressing. Some neighbourhoods are engaging in regular practice radio check-ins. Watch this space.

RUKI is also participating in several funded projects, including collaborating with similar organisations at The Channon, Main Arm and

Australian National University researchers to develop a flood intelligence network, using citizen science approaches. This involves installing stream monitoring stations and rain gauges in upper catchment areas to show real-time data publicly online. Even better, the SES will use this data to issue more localised flood warnings.

The single biggest preparation, response and recovery measure you can undertake is to get to know your neighbours. Stay safe, prepare, and look after each other. If you would like to get involved, contact your neighbourhood leader or email us at secretary@resilientuki.org.



L-R:Melanie Bloor, Brendan Esposito, Carmen Myler & Luke Naismith with the RUKI Gathering Trailer



From the Editors

Welcome to Issue 138

With 2024 drawing to a close and 2025 on the horizon, it's the perfect time to reflect on the year that was and the year we are wishing to welcome in.

As we look towards the new year and hopefully sunnier summer months ahead, the unintended theme for this issue is WATER.

Our cover story updates us on the wonderful work that Resilient Uki (RUKI) has achieved in

partnership with the local community to help us prepare, respond and recover from future floods and natural disasters.

We learn about the new Uki RiverCare group that has sprung up and is looking for volunteers.

Little Gallery's summer group show – Water is Life – is an ode to the element of water and runs from December to the end of January.

We catch up with the volunteers at Tweed Water Alliance and learn about their efforts to protect

the groundwater and end water extraction in the region. The Uki News will invite the two local companies involved to respond in the next issue.

We also share a good news story about Tweed's tap water, which has been independently tested and declared "safe to drink, meeting requirements of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines".

Get yourself a cool glass of water and drink in this issue.

Andia

ADVERTISING

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

Contact Uki News: theukinews@hotmail.com

UBBM Suitcase Rummage

Have you got a suitcase full of things you would like to move on ?

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market suitcase rummage –
Sunday, December 15th and January 19th,
8am-2pm

Remember to book your suitcase rummage space on
0487 329 150, flat rate \$15 per person.



CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

Friday 17 January, 2025	Feb/March
Friday 14 March, 2025	April/May
Friday 16 May, 2025	May/June
Friday 18 July, 2025	Aug/Sept

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LARRIKIN COOKIN'

Christmas time is here by golly:

Disapproval would be folly

I was kid in the '60s; the elderly self-appointed family matriarch would insist on an enormous roast at 1pm on December 25th.

Bloated and hot, we hated it, keen to play, keen to surf but not allowed because the food would somehow drown us.

The men only talked to each other. The women cooked and did the dishes. The kids got nicely plastered on the liqueur dregs.

It was a culture clash, even then I think everyone knew instinctively it was a bit wrong.

Excessive consumption of everything, adults consuming riotous amounts of alcohol, teetotal aunties 'only' having liqueur very frequently then retiring smashed.

The blokes burped their way through the afternoon awash with XXXX in clouds of Champion Ruby.

There were tears over the turkey, turf wars, tepid beer and terrible festive "champagne". Bon-bons, paper hats, bad dad jokes. In the quest to do so much to make everyone festive, everything was traditionally done quite badly.

I really hope we've changed. Gluttony is easy; belonging requires a little more work. Generosity isn't necessarily about 'things'.

Here's an easy recipe for Christmas Day; you can cater for lots or few with no waste.

Ingredients:

- Whatever they are, please make them simple and good. Not necessarily expensive.
- Make sure the people you love know you are thinking about them.
- If you can't be together Christmas day, make an alternative time to see them and stick to it.
- Look around your local community, try to ensure



Some Christmas dinners were never meant to be

Pat Miller



everyone is catered for. Even the difficult grouch three doors up? 'Happy Christmas' and a cuppa. Go on, do it, you never know.

Lunch

- Very cold, real champagne.
- Prawn, ruby grapefruit, rocket, shaved Parmesan salad.
- Fruit (mango!) with a bit of the Parmesan or other hard cheese.

Late-ish afternoon

- Home made hummus and crackers washed down with a really good beer.

Dinner

- Seared chicken breast strips marinated in lime and garlic with simple salad.
- Olives in good olive oil and flat bread.
- Whatever you like as long as it's cool.

Happy Christmas,

Pat Miller





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LITERATURE

Launching Poetry Collection: My Animal Life

Elspeth Findlay

The Uki News invited published, local author Elspeth Findlay to "come out from the hills" and describe the joys of getting her book published.

On Oct 27th this old farm girl stood behind a mike and spoke her poetic heart out to a gathering of 50 or so souls. It was terrifying, it was exhilarating. Or perhaps I should say ex-hill-erating. I live under the thrall of Wollumbin at Byrrill Creek, not far south of Uki.

The country is extraordinary, rich with wildlife living among small mountains clothed in verdure – its easy to get lost in the mazes of small streams that rage when it rains and winding roadways that criss-cross where they can. It's no surprise that so many of us here are moved to sculpt or paint or photograph or write, and don't start me on the musicians!

For me, who could perhaps be said to have been 'hiding in the hills', it was a revelation as I watched local people listening intently, as I saw other poet readers put flare and passion into my words. And the music from Kym Stanhope's flute and Helen Bubb Connor's piano – a stream that flowed around the poetry and made the whole performance sing. Christine Robinson's fabulous paintings of birds and animals and trees on the walls of Johnny Francos – overwhelming.

It was the lovely sense of community that made it wonderful. The coming together of the artists and the people who came to enjoy. Giving and gratitude are the keys.

I have to say to anyone who has a gift to give, try to put your doubts and fears (especially of rejection) aside. Many of the famous and accomplished are afraid – Margaret Atwood threw up behind the stage for 10 years before she could easily speak in public.

I think the key is to focus on the work rather than the self. Recognise your gift, give it due attention and unrelenting effort and often, the work will develop its own mojo. Seek out fellow artists, try to share

practice with them, let it find its way into the ambit of others who can suggest ideas, or know other people who can help. Don't give up!

I am grateful to live and write in one of nature's most numinous workshop galleries – the Northern Rivers. Thank you to everyone who joined me, who

gave me encouragement and advice (or a shove) who played and painted and listened. And thank you to Dangerously Poetic Press for recognising my work and making 'My Animal Life' manifest.

Order your copy of My Animal Life by visiting <https://dangerouslypoetic.com/publications>.




Author Elspeth Findlay recently launched My Animal Life

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Janelle Saffin MP

MEMBER FOR LISMORE

Lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

Rental Reforms and Welcoming Essential Workers

Janelle Saffin MP , Member for Lismore

I'm writing this from Parliament in November and it's that time of year when the momentum seems to speed up towards the end of the year. I take this opportunity to send my very best wishes to the Year 12 school leavers and to wish Uki News readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Rental reforms

The Minns Labor Government has just passed the most significant rental reforms in over a decade.

This historic legislative package follows our election commitment to improve rental laws, and it strikes the right balance between the interests of owners and renters.

More than 2.2 million renters across the state will soon enjoy these benefits:

- No grounds evictions will be banned
- Rent increases will be limited to one per year
- It will be easier to have pets in rentals
- Fee-free ways to pay rent
- A ban on paying for background checks when applying for a property

Housing is the biggest cost people have and we know how hard it can be for young people and families, for pensioners and people on low incomes facing consecutive rent hikes and unfair evictions.

These reforms make the system fairer and more compassionate.

Welcoming essential workers to our region

It is about to get easier for local organisations to attract essential workers, with the introduction of the Welcome Experience to our region.

The Welcome Experience is a program that was successfully piloted last year in a handful of regional towns – to help essential workers and their families move to regional NSW. The program helped hundreds of essential workers make the move to the regions, including 346 health workers 110 educators and 42 police staff.

The program has now been extended to Tweed, Lismore, Ballina, Byron and Richmond Valley, with Regional Development Australia (RDA) Northern Rivers as the host agency.

Host agencies ease the way for essential workers to settle into their new community by helping them with housing and information about local schools and amenities, joining sporting clubs and building social connections and friendships.

This is about helping our region attract and keep the workers who are essential to the services we need.

RELATIONSHIP HEALTH

Eldership Pride: locals share the pleasures of aging

Heather McClelland

"In retirement you can take the time to question the identity you had during the tightly scheduled years of obligation and routine. If it no longer fits, find out what does."

"As we age the weight of trivial concerns lifts, revealing the courage to embrace our true selves and allowing wisdom to guide us toward a life rich with purpose and authentic connection. I have had the courage to explore and fully embrace my neuro divergent identity".

"It's the perspective that's so valuable - after so many years' experience I know what really matters, what not to take for granted and I know more about how to honour and celebrate that."

"It is pleasurable as you get older to choose to be generative and supportive of the planet and ongoing generations rather than allowing yourself to stagnate".

"At the age of 76 I'm having the most passionate and profound love affair of my life".

"It's wonderful to be at no-one's beck and call and to be able to enjoy making leisurely love in the morning after a good night's sleep!

"As a night owl I now enjoy being able to follow my own body clock, rather than my employer's and have more time to enjoy the beach, walks with my dog and exploration of new places."

"There are so many joys when I stay connected with a sense of community through groups and wider social events. Activities across the generations help me stay active and totally engaged in life".

"I find happiness in my friendships and family and deep joy in having the freedom to choose and pursue interests old and new as diverse as travel, art, paddle-boarding, writing- no longer being held back by duty".

"I like having more time to read and discuss books. It keeps my horizons wider than those hemmed in by my own little problems and struggles".

"I Have complete freedom. I can sleep in as long as I like, work as hard as I like and rest without feeling guilty. I don't have to answer to anyone".

"The reality of multiple enriching connections is spiritually life-giving . Getting older may not be for the faint-hearted but there is real pleasure in continuing to meet life head-on".



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Rivercare Group Recruiting Volunteers

Matt Bloor

The Uki community is starting an exciting project—a Rivercare group and restore the riparian vegetation at Platypus Park on the Tweed River.

More than 100 people gathered in 2015 to plant 2,000 trees, shrubs and ground cover plants on Council-owned land - known locally as Platypus Park - next to Sweetnam Park.

Flooding in 2017 and 2022 has changed the nature of the site, with erosion and weed infestations restricting community access – until now.

Tweed Landcare received funding through NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Developments' Habitat Action Grant Program to do bush regeneration and clear giant devils fig, castor oil and other weeds, and open up overgrown tracks through the site.

Uki Rivercare is a community driven group that will hold regular events promoting river health, environmental restoration and stewardship and

nature connection. Planting events and working bees will be ongoing.

Join us in making a difference for the Tweed River and our community! Contact Amalia Pahlow at amalia.pahlow@tweedlandcare.org.au or Matt Bloor mbloor@tweed.nsw.gov.au phone (02) 6670 2400 to get involved.



National Tree Planting Day 2015





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Water is Life

Andia Cally

"Water is life's matter and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water."

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

Little Gallery's group summer show – Water is Life dives deep into the element of water.

From womb to tomb, water is our lifeblood. This life-giving liquid accounts for 60% of our body composition and covers 70% of our blue planet.

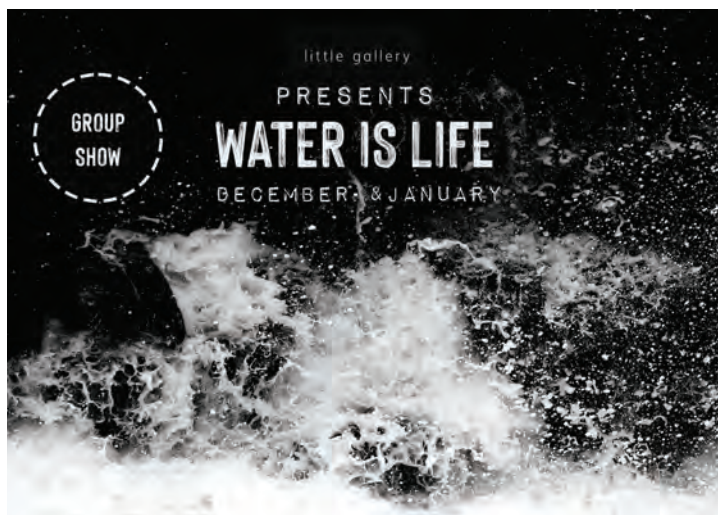
We use it to cleanse, to regulate our temperature, to perform sacred rituals and rites. We cannot survive more than a few days without it.

Water reflects the duality of the planet we inhabit and our many moods, calm, stagnant and turbulent.

It has much to teach us as the great Chinese Philosopher Lao Tzu observed *"Water is fluid, soft, and yielding. But water will wear away rock, which is rigid and cannot yield. As a rule, whatever is fluid, soft, and yielding will overcome whatever is rigid and hard. This is another paradox: what is soft is strong."*

With two historic floods in five years many of us have experienced first hand how water can overcome and indeed overwhelm what is rigid and hard.

Water reminds us that we are not separate from the earth. When we pollute her sacred bodies with plastics, chemicals and runoff she will erupt as our own bodies do when they encounter an unwelcome invader.



The work of researchers like Masaru Emoto and Veda Austin remind us that water is a sacred source, not just a resource to be exploited and polluted. Their individual experiments show that water responds to words, thoughts, music and energies, suggesting that water is conscious and trying to communicate with us.

Water is Life runs from 1 December until the end of January. The gallery is open Wednesday to Friday from 10am–3pm and Saturday and Sunday 9am to 2pm.




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Tweed Water Alliance - still protecting our groundwater

Pat Miller
.....

Tweed Water Alliance Inc is still fighting to protect our shire’s groundwater.

The four approved operations in our shire, at Kunghur, Urliup, Nobby’s Creek and Kynnumboon are extracting groundwater for profit. There’s one approved in Uki but hasn’t started. We have a few problems with this:

- There’s no evidence for its sustainability whatsoever.
- Groundwater is common property and doesn’t respect property boundaries.
- It’s extracted and trucked away for bottling, or in one case some is bottled onsite.
- It provides no social, environmental or economic benefit to Tweed Shire.

Despite the convoluted botanical linen-clad marketing, it’s bore water.

Use this QR code to find out the various extraction limits.

Tweed Water Alliance Inc, run by a core committee with 41 financial members and an emailing list of better than 950 keeps the campaign against this wasteful industry going.

Since 2017 we’ve had some significant wins, the first was being instrumental in getting ground-water extraction for bottling - we call it ‘water mining’ - taken off Tweed Shire Council’s Local Environment Plan. This means there will be no new approvals for water mining. However the four continue to operate and are able to apply to expand.

We think the one in Uki is defunct but we aren’t sure what’s happening.



Left and right :
Water mining trucks
operating in the area

Rowlands Creek Road is unsuitable for water tankers.



We lobby to ensure Tweed Shire Council, as one of the key approving and enforcement authorities, follows through compliance with the terms of the water miners’ development applications and Land and Environment Court rulings.

In a country with the best potable tap water in the world, why drink bottled water?

TWA’s financial membership gives you the inside running on what’s happening. Email info@tweedwateralliance.org for details.

You can use this QR code to get on our newsletter emailing list. Every few weeks, keep up with how it’s going.



We thank you all for your ongoing support.

Selling our groundwater for private profit is not an honourable act.

Tweed Water Alliance Inc.



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

DECEMBER Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 15 DECEMBER

Felicity Lawless and Paul A. George

Two of the Gold Coasts iconic artists - guitarists, singer-songwriters, troubadours - join forces over their love of gypsy and flamenco rhythm. They explore the sum of their parts: their inspirations, their travels and stories, through virtuosic guitar work and song.

Presenting the front man of Tijuana Cartel, Paul A George, united with the bohemian folky beauty ~ Felicity Flawless. Both will do solo sets and then sets together.



FELICITY LAWLESS & PAUL A. GEORGE

JANUARY Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 19 JANUARY

Happy Africa and special guest performers

Gabriel Otu is a West African percussionist, singer, professional dancer and teacher. His band Happy Africa offers a groovy mix of Afro-beats into Afro-flow, an array of percussion on the balafone, djembe, down down, down bass, shakers, bells, kpanlogo drum, singing traditional West African songs with a spectacular African/ contemporary dance performance. Gabriel's charismatic charm interacts with the crowd by composing designated dance moves. Having the whole crowd engaged and bouncing.

Currently based in the greens of the Byron shire Gabriel offers a range of workshops, classes and performances at festivals, events, parties and weekly tutorials.



GABRIEL OTU

Afro-movement is a grounding therapeutic dance of expression, revoking the ancient wisdoms of African culture. This dance class is accompanied with live drumming, for a real African.

Gabriel has been performing in Ghana since just 13 years of age, and teaching for over 20 years. Arriving on Australian soil eight years ago, to spread the wisdom of his culture through music and dance, he has performed and taught at music and art festivals, such as Splendour in the Grass and Woodfolk Folk Festival, offering a diverse range of materials.

This is gonna be a fun, groove-filled day!

PIONEERS of the Tweed:

Pauline Radel Cont'd from Issue 136

Esma Thompson



A new school was erected at Uki in 1901. Johann and Pauline enrolled four of their children, Alfred, Benno, Emma, and William. These children walked many miles along a treacherous bush track to attend. Johann and Pauline's children were students until they turned 14, when they were expected to go out and earn a living.

A Postal Receiving Office was established at D. C. Marshall's farm at Rowlands Creek in September 1901. The mail was delivered biweekly by horseback, enabling the Radels' to correspond with the relatives and friends.

Maria Rosina Urban died on her son's property at Chowan Creek on 11 February 1904, aged 88 and a half. Maria was buried in a grave close to the creek bank where she spent many hours washing clothes and bathing her grandchildren. Johann and his family placed a wooden fence around her grave.

After a great deal of hard work, the Chowan Creek property served the family well. The elder sons Charlie, Harry, Jack, Bill, and Alf put their names forward for separate blocks of land in the area, but only Jack secured one.

The family looked at other areas and in 1907 Johann secured six blocks of land at Coalstoun Lakes in the Central Burnett District of Qld, one block for himself and one each for his elder sons.

In 1917, Coalstoun Lakes was hit with deadly cases of influenza. Pauline rode her horse around the district helping flu patients. Eventually the illness caught up with her and she became very unwell. She lingered for a few days and died at the Gayndah Hospital 25 August 1917 aged 53. She was buried in the Coalstoun Lakes Cemetery. At the time of her death 5 sons and 4 daughters were married. Pauline had 24 grandchildren. Johann died 3 June 1927, aged 67, and is buried alongside Pauline.

A short history of the children of Pauline and Johann who stayed behind on the Tweed.

Josephine married a pioneer dairy farmer, Philip O'Neil, they had five children. One son Vincent Thomas Columbkille O'Neil was the first child to be baptised in the St Columba's Catholic Church Uki, 25th August 1912.

Pauline married Richard (Dick) Hall who selected land at Perch Creek/Kunghur in 1904. There was only a bush track cut through the scrub for pack horses, when Pauline travelled to Kunghur.

During WW1 Pauline suffered discrimination by some community members as she was from German descent. They had six children. One son Clarrie was elected to Tweed Shire Council in 1953, he became the Mayor

for 17 years and served 26 years on the Council until his death in 1979. He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in January 1976 and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977. The Clarrie Hall Dam officially opened Friday 19th August 1983 and was built on the South Arm of the Tweed River as a permanent memorial to him.

Jack Radel won a block of land by ballot at Kunghur, and before his brothers moved to Queensland, they helped him clear his land to create a dairy farm. Jack also purchased a wagon and did general carrying for neighbouring farmers. Jack was appointed as an original trustee to the Uki Hall 27th August 1904, and he remained a trustee until 17th April 1922.

Johann August (Jack) Radel married Lydia Ellen (Nellie) Murray as the only wedding to take place in the original Uki Hall 4th March 1910. They were married by the Reverend Laceby-Cecil who was sadly later murdered in Melbourne.

After marriage and much hard work, Jack and Nellie purchased two adjoining dairy farms at Kunghur. They leased these farms and moved to Murwillumbah where they purchased and operated a sugar cane farm.

Jack and Nellie had no children. In 1923 Nellie travelled to Mt Warning where the family of George and Emily Johnson lived, to help her best friend Emily after the birth of her last child Edward (Teddy). Teddy was born weighing only two and a half pounds and was not expected to live, as his mother was bedridden, she cuddled him to keep him alive.

Emily had suffered ill health for many years from constantly infected legs and one month later 14th November 1923 Emily passed away.

Before her death, Emily had asked her best friend Nellie to take Teddy and look after him if anything ever happened to her as there were other children in the family and it would be too much of a strain on the rest of the family to have to look after Teddy. Nellie nurtured Teddy, eventually adopting him. While the Johnson Family lived locally, every Sunday Jack and Nellie would bring Teddy to the Johnson household so he could get to know his brothers and sisters.

On the 20th of May 2006 Teddy branded the Radel Cattle Brand (reversed R with crescent and centre bar above) onto the Uki Branding Rail which is situated in the Uki Hall Park.

Front: Ivy, Les, Fred, Marcia.
Second row: Jahann, Bertha, Eddie, Reg, Dave, Vera, Pauline.
Back row: Emma, Charlie, Bill, Alf, Ben



CTC 2025 Calendar Showcases Uki's Creativity

Wendy Redpath

Uki Music and Arts Happening' is CTC's calendar theme for 2025, focusing on the social events that utilise our local talent in our Uki Village area.

This year's calendar theme is focused on the arts community and its activities. The creativity within this region is quite awesome when taken in its totality and due to that, many talented artists, musicians, writers, instrument makers, potters and crafters have gravitated to our beautiful part of the world.



A Preview of CTC's 2025 Uki Music & Art calendar

Featured events include:

The Images of Uki Exhibition is a well-attended annual event and a great chance for local artists to air their works.

A great time was had by all at **The Camp Jam Chowan Creek**. Making a return after a hiatus, dusting off the cobwebs and featuring local bands and performers.

Not to forget the people who serve our community in times of crisis and our volunteers who keep things ticking.

Bach in the Park was another great local event. Event manager David Innes and local performers delighted the large crowd at the Uki Park at the 'Square Tunder'. Many people had come from outside of our town to attend the event and were not disappointed by the performances and the relaxed Uki atmosphere on a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

Uki Refugee Project Fundraiser Ball. Uki & Murwillumbah residents hosted 33 visitors from 8 different countries and Uki refugee project team turned on a great night of entertainment to raise money for the cause. The resident band, Playing Possum, donated their time to assist the fund raising, along with all of those dedicated volunteers who gave their time to create a very successful fun **Bush Dance at Hall**, Friday mornings. **The Uki Refuge Project** hosted another music concert at the Uniting Church 30th November.

Uki Farmers Market and music jamming in the park at the Square Tunda every Saturday morning, bring an instrument.

Just Dance at Hall every Friday morning from 9 - 10.30am. All are welcome to lose some tension and have some fun shaking your body about. Bring your own music.

There are so many music opportunities around Uki that we can not list them all. Enjoy!



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TECHNOLOGY

E-Cycling Ideas

Louise Bally

With the fast pace of technological advancement, many of us update our mobile phones, laptops, desktop computers and TVs not just when they break, but to upgrade to the latest and greatest on offer.

Your replaced device can be handed down to another family member or friend, alternatively you can sell it in the local paper or on marketplace.

The main concern with selling or recycling our replaced devices is ensuring our data, including passwords and bank statements etc, do not fall into the wrong hands.

The hard drive or flash memory of your device needs to be securely deleted so that a hacker cannot easily retrieve your information. Most computer shops and reliable repair technicians can perform this service so you can then safely sell your old device. A factory reset can prepare most mobile phones for resale, but laptops and desktop computers require a secure delete process or a replacement of the hard drive. I often replace laptop hard drives and leave the owner with their old drive containing a copy of their files. I can order a cable that easily connects via USB to your new computer.

For broken unfixable devices remember they contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals so should always be disposed of responsibly in a similar place that takes used batteries.

If you have questions or would like help preparing your old technology to be passed onto a new home, you can get my details from the Uki CTC in the Buttery building.

E-waste



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Striking the Right Chord

Dave Innes

A huge thank you to all who came out last month for the inaugural Bach in the Park classical music event on the Uki village green.

We were blessed with great weather on the day and an incredible line-up of local talent spanning generations and genres.

A big shout out to all those who donated their amazing talent on the day, including Jarmbi (Welcome to Country) Lisa, Elvis, Stephanie, Gully, Raine, Gerard, Wren, Bernard, Noah, Lulu, Milton, Felix, Uki Public Hall, UKIRA for their community spirit and support, David Preston's aesthetic genius and to sound engineer, and local creative hero, Jake Mann.



Piano maestro Stephanie tickles the ivories

We'll see you all again same time next year for another celebration of classical music.

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Tweed Tap Water Passes the Test

Independent laboratory testing has confirmed the Tweed's tap water remains safe to drink and well below current and proposed reduced limits for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) set by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG).

The testing was undertaken in October following a recommendation by NSW Health for all water authorities in the state to undertake PFAS testing.

Treated tap water samples were collected by trained Council staff from the Tweed's three water supply systems – the Tweed District (Bray Park Water Treatment Plant), Uki village and Tyalgum village – and sent to the accredited Sydney Water Laboratory Services to undergo independent testing. Council's Manager Water and Wastewater Operations Brie Jowett said the test results confirmed the Tweed's tap water was safe to drink, meeting requirements of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG).

"When NSW Health recommended testing for PFAS in treated water, Council immediately took up the opportunity to test across all three of our water supply systems," Ms Jowett said.

"The results showed undetectable or incredibly low levels of key PFAS substances – PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS and PFBS."

Results from the testing showed:

- PFOA was measured at 0.1 ng/L in the Tweed District systems and less than 0.1ng/L (the minimum detectable limit) in the Uki and Tyalgum systems.
All results were well below the ADWG limit of 560 ng/L.
- PFOS and PFHxS, which are often measured together, were both less than 0.1 ng/L (the minimum detectable limit) in all three systems, significantly lower than the ADWG limit of 70 ng/L.
- PFBS, which currently has no set guideline, was found to be below 0.5 ng/L (the minimum detectable limit) in all systems. While there is no current ADWG limit, the results show that levels are very low and below the detectable limit of testing.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is currently reviewing the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), with any new recommendations expected to be finalised in 2025.

The review proposes revised health protective levels for PFAS substances including lower levels for the 3 types of PFAS in the current ADWG guidelines (PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS) and a new level for PFBS. Ms Jowett said the Tweed's tap water would remain well below the new guidelines if they were implemented.

"The Tweed's tap water is currently safe to drink and will continue to be safe if the draft Australian Drinking Water Guidelines are introduced," Ms Jowett said.

"We take the safety of Tweed's tap water very seriously and these results are just one part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring Tweed's water remains safe and healthy for the long term."

About PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) PFAS substances have been manufactured in the United States, Europe and Asia since the 1950s. While they are not made in Australia, they have been widely used here in industrial and consumer products such as firefighting foams, pesticides, fertilisers, carpet, paint, frying pans, make-up, sunscreen, clothes, food packaging and other everyday items.

PFAS is not added to drinking water but very small amounts can be present in water due to contamination from external sources in the environment and these consumer products. For more details about Tweed's drinking water quality, regular testing and PFAS testing results, visit tweed.nsw.gov.au/drinking-water-quality. For information and updates on the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, visit nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-drinking-water-guidelines.



Tweed tap water: Independent testing has confirmed the Tweed's tap water is safe to drink with negligible PFAS levels detected.

Accelerated and unprecedented changes The end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025

Paola Emma
.....

I owe an apology to my astrological friends and readers. My prediction for the US Presidential Elections was wrong.

The fault is mine, not astrology. I underestimated an obvious element of surprise that played out in Trump's favour (we've seen it all before).

However, I stand by my conclusions that, character wise, Kamala Harris was the only reasonable choice.

The Retrogradation of Mercury from Sagittarius 22° to 06° (November 26 to December 16)

This period is about reviewing our plans for the future, our beliefs also, especially if we have been too trusting and naive.

Whenever possible it would be ideal to take some time off, in nature, bush-beach walking, swimming, with children and pets, to restore mental balance and hope. Being too busy with chores could prove counterproductive.

The Retrogradation of Mars (December 7 to February 24)

On November 4 Mars entered Leo. Mars will become Stationary Retrograde on December 7, Leo 6°; will re-enter Cancer on January 6 and transit this Water Sign all the way to April 18.

There is more to this Mars too: from early January to the first week in April, Mars will be also 'out of bounds' (exceeding the Sun's northern declination), operating like a maverick, in unpredictable ways.

Some transits of Mars will repeat during its retro period, thus producing a stronger and protracted effect.

On the positive side, this lengthy stay of Mars in Cancer may boost our physical and psychic powers, to achieve desired results in matters regarding family, home and personal business. Our intuition could be super activated providing us with vivid experiences.



We may feel more energetic to do jobs around the house or working space, repairs, renovations, getting rid of the old to welcome the new, building, refurbishing, changing things around; even extra cooking. Old members of the household may leave and new ones arrive.

On the problematic side, the transits of Mars tend to amplify everyone's competitive spirit, increasing the chance of disagreements. Retro Mars can bring to an acute state any underlying emotional or physical issue we may be experiencing.

In Cancer, Mars can make our emotions more turbulent and difficult to control, especially within families and communities. And, if we are unable to face issues honestly and directly, could also result in unhelpful passive-aggressive behaviour.

Confrontations are sometimes necessary, when there is a need to address issues we may have avoided for peace sake or fear of losing people we care for. Now we may find the courage to face them and hopefully bring them to a satisfactory resolution, using the challenge for constructive ends.

Planetary shifts 2025/26

On November 20 Pluto entered Aquarius, the first of many planetary resets soon coming for all of us. In fact Jupiter-Saturn-Chiron-Uranus-Neptune will change Signs, like Pluto just did, between 2025 and 2026.

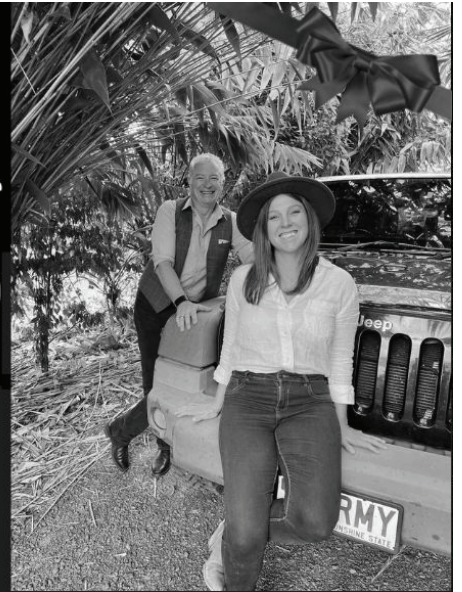
Also the Lunar Nodes will be shifting, from the Aries/Libra to the Pisces/Virgo axis, 1 highlighting the new areas activated by future eclipses. In leaps and bounds, the world is going through a period of accelerated, even unprecedented changes.

For more astrological posts and tuition please navigate to my site: <https://livingmoonastrology.wordpress.com>.



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