

# Uki News

*An initiative of the Uki and District Residents' Association (UKIRA)*

Issue 145: FEB - MARCH 2026

## Wollumbin Summit re-opening on hold until 2027

Philip Carr

**T**he Wollumbin (formerly Mount Warning) Summit and Track will remain closed until June 2027, according to an update from the NSW Government.

The popular hike to the summit has been off limits since March 2020.

A reopening of the trail in 2027 will mark seven years of deliberation by governments who have been assessing the conflicting demands of recreational users of Wollumbin National Park and 'right-to-climbers',

against the trail's safety considerations and Wollumbin's special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture.

The following statement from Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe, was issued on 24 December:



© A Cally Mount Wollumbin Track set to re-open in 2027.

"The NSW Government has extended the closure of the Wollumbin Summit and Track until 30 June 2027, with a view to reopening the summit once practical safety and culturally appropriate options are resolved.

Wollumbin (Mount Warning) summit track and Aboriginal Place (Wollumbin Summit) were originally closed during the pandemic to address public safety risks and allow for consultation with the Aboriginal community

and other stakeholders about future management of the site.

Over the past year, I continued constructive discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, including user groups, councils, the Wollumbin Consultative Group and other community members.

These conversations highlighted Wollumbin's significance to Aboriginal communities and the wider public.

I understand extending the temporary closure will disappoint some visitors. However, a number of practical challenges – such as ensuring safe access – must still be addressed. The additional time will help us create a clear plan for the future of this special place, that respects cultural responsibilities and safeguards visitor safety."



# From the Editor

Summer is here, the survey results are in and we've been listening.

This edition brings you stories of resilience, connection and creativity that reflect what matters most to our community.

We're excited to share news of a powerful partnership between Uki River Care and the Jagun Alliance, alongside the launch of a new local WhatsApp group providing timely local updates on potential severe rainfall in our upper catchments and the river height changes.

As requested, we've got updates on the reopening of the Mount Wollumbin Summit Track, plus news of an inspiring creative collaboration between Murwillumbah Theatre Company and Little Gallery, presenting their own interpretations of Shakespeare's The Tempest.

You'll also find reports from the newly renovated Uki Sports and Recreation Club, including upcoming sporting events, and highlights from the ever-popular Uki Village Gardens Funday.

To round things out, our IT wiz tackles Windows 11 update woes, while our resident astrologer peers ahead to what the stars have in store for 2026.

For our next issue we will be celebrating a quarter of a century since Uki News first went to print.

We're calling on former editors, authors and avid readers to share their favourite memories, stories and images over the last 25 years via [theukinews@hotmail.com](mailto:theukinews@hotmail.com).

Andia

## ADVERTISING

Business card size	\$30	Half page	\$100	All Advertisers will receive an invoice
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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 Butterly 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](http://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: 3 February, 7 April, 2 June, 4 August, 6 October, 1 December.

## CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES 2026

ISSUE 146 (Apr-May)	Friday 13 March
ISSUE 147 (June-July)	Friday 15 May
ISSUE 148 (Aug-Sept)	Friday 17 July
ISSUE 149 (Oct-Nov)	Friday 18 September
ISSUE 150 (Dec-Jan 27)	Friday 13 November

## Byrrill Creek roadworks update

Tweed Shire Council says flood restoration works underway on the major slip on Byrrill Creek Road is now expected to be complete in September 2026.

The work requires the closure of Byrrill Creek Road from 9am to 3pm daily, with a window for local residents' access from 1pm to 1:30pm daily.

## Letters To The Editor

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

Contact Uki News: [theukinews@hotmail.com](mailto:theukinews@hotmail.com)

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# Shaped by you: insights from the Uki News survey

Selina O'Connor

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our Uki News survey. Your feedback was incredibly encouraging, and you shared so many great ideas for stories we can explore throughout the year. It's clear that our core topics – resilience, local projects, history, gardening, health, and nature – really matter to you.

There was a request for an update on Mount Warning National Park, so we've made it the feature story in this issue.

You also suggested plenty of other topics you'd love to see more of, including local art and culture, sustainable living tips, local wildlife, and regular spotlights on community groups.

A number of you also asked for a directory of local trades and health practitioners, which we're excited to look into.

We were touched by this comment: "It is so much more than the words on the page. It represents and binds the essential feeling of community."

Another favourite:  
"The Uki News is an excellent way to stay connected to Uki – I always read it."



Hearing this means a lot to us. Many of you also said you'd like to see more columnists contributing, and we absolutely welcome community stories and voices.

What you told us matters most:

1. Resilience & preparedness: Storms, floods, and bushfires continue to be major themes for our community.
2. Local projects: Bush regeneration, river care, and environmental initiatives drew strong interest.
3. Local history

There's a real appetite for stories about our past, our places, and our heritage.

Gardening: Practical, hands on content remains a favourite.

4. Health & lifestyle: Everyday wellbeing and living well locally are important to many of you.
5. Local wildlife & bushwalking: Nature, ecology, and outdoor adventures are big drawcards.

Overall, your responses show just how much Uki News is valued. You'd like to see it continue growing with more practical local information, more community voices, and more arts and sustainability content, while staying useful and non political.

It was also great to hear that many of you are happy collecting Uki News from local shops or having it delivered, while others would prefer receiving it by email. We'll keep working to make it accessible in the ways that suit you best.

Congratulations to Mirielle Turner winner of the Nixnibbles \$50 voucher kindly donated by Nikki.

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# Partnering to heal the rivers

Matt Bloor

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We are hopeful that 2026 will be a good year for the rivers in our region. Many of us move between freshwater and salt water over summer, visiting clear creeks for a cool swim on a hot day and a surf or swim in the ocean over Christmas, but how many of us really think about a river or a catchment as a living breathing interconnected system?



A river-inspired artwork by Andia Cally.

and mangroves have suffered in the estuary, bank erosion continues and pollution is an ongoing problem.

In many ways, this is a natural process. But it is also unnatural. Floods are larger, fueled by atmospheric heating, draining floodplains and clearing riparian vegetation have had a huge impact of the health of rivers in our region and plastic is still being washed into our rivers.

Due to flooding and poor water quality, there is a measurable decline in the health of our river, Yarbirri (Tweed River). Seagrass beds

What will it take to reverse this trend and recover the health of our environment?

It starts with us – we may not have power and influence over land and politics, but our actions still matter.

Joining a nature care group can create ripples of change.

This year, Uki Rivercare is excited to be joined by Jagun Alliance – an Aboriginal organisation fostering partnerships and greater care for County. Through their Heal the Rivers project, Aboriginal bush regeneration teams will be working to restore riparian vegetation along Yarbirri in the Uki area.

Platypus Park will be one of the sites where Heal the Rivers focuses. Uki Rivercare will get a boost from the additional help, and we are looking forward to making connections and helping to build a more resilient community.

Rivercare is part of Council's Nature Care Program, in partnership with Tweed Landcare. There will be Nature Care training and networking events held throughout the year. Rivercare's work days will continue every 4th Sunday of the month, from 7.30am at Platypus Park (opposite Meadow Place). Hope to see you there!

Contact Matt Bloor for more information  
[mbloor@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mbloor@tweed.nsw.gov.au) or call 0490 330 632.



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# News from the Member for Lismore

Janelle Saffin MP

## Shaping the future of our parks together

It's fantastic to see that Sweetnam Park in Uki has been so beautifully rebuilt, flood resistant and ready for the summer holidays.

The park upgrade was funded through a \$15.5 million package from the Australian and NSW Governments, one of 57 projects for which Tweed Shire Council has received state and federal government disaster funding.

The park includes play equipment, a half basketball court and skate element, landscaping and connecting pathways for bike riding. All ready for families to enjoy

## Wollumbin

I know there is a lot of local interest in the future of the Wollumbin Summit track in the Wollumbin National Park, which is right in your backyard. The Wollumbin (Mount Warning) summit and summit track were closed by the previous state government during Covid to address public safety risks, and allow for consultation with the Aboriginal community and other stakeholders about management of the site.

In December NSW Environment Minister Penny Sharpe announced that the temporary closure has been extended until 30 June 2027 with a view to reopening the summit once safety and culturally appropriate options are resolved.

The minister has been in discussions with a wide range of stakeholders including the Wollumbin Consultative group, councils, user groups and other community members.

I know some people are keen to see the track reopened sooner, and others don't want it reopened at all. The additional time will be used to create a clear plan for the future of this special place that respects cultural responsibilities and safeguards

## Have Your Say on Great Koala National Park

visitor safety.

On the subject of National Parks, the NSW Government requests community input about recreational opportunities for the proposed Great Koala National Park on the NSW Mid North Coast.

As well as providing habitat for more than 100 threatened species, the park will also be a place for visitors and recreation, with individual reserves within the park for a range of activities.

The Great Koala National Park is an election commitment and we want the community at the centre of shaping what it becomes. It will be a major tourism drawcard benefiting communities across the North Coast.

There is an online survey on the NSW Have Your Say website seeking feedback to complement the input already received from a range of clubs including horseriding, mountain biking, bushwalking, and 4WD as well as environment groups, Aboriginal communities and local government.

The Have Your Say survey is open until Sunday 1 March at [www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/great-koala-national-park](http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/great-koala-national-park).



Left: Janelle Saffin MP with Mel Bloor at The Happy Herb shop. "Supporting local businesses is a great way to support your community".



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# The Tempest with a twist

Ken Corbitt

The magical world of Shakespeare comes to town when Murwillumbah Theatre Company presents The Tempest from March 13-29.

The Tempest follows the exiled magician Prospero, who uses magic to conjure a storm, shipwrecking his treacherous brother Antonio, King Alonso, and others on his island, seeking revenge and restoration.

On the island, his daughter Miranda falls in love with Alonso's son Ferdinand, while a separate plot involves drunken servants conspiring with the monster Caliban.

Ultimately, Prospero chooses forgiveness, reunites families, regains his dukedom, and frees his spirit servant Ariel, ending with a plea to the audience to release him from the stage.

This is an engaging story about betrayal, a plot for revenge, incompetence of drunkards, the enchantment of young love and overarching all – the power of the magic arts.

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**Murwillumbah Civic Centre**

[murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au](http://murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au)

**Bookings online or at the door**

The Tempest is a final Shakespeare showdown, combining all the elements of tragedy, comedy and deliverance.

The Tempest will be staged at Murwillumbah Civic Centre on March 13-15, 20-22, 27- 29.

Tickets are available by clicking the QR code in our ad below or via our website [murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au](http://murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au)

Little Gallery in Uki is staging an exhibition with The Tempest theme during the production.

## Images: call for entries

The Art Exhibition 'Images of Uki' will again put our village on the map, Easter 3rd-6th April, 2026.

Artists of 2484 your entry forms will be available @The Uki Supermarket from Thursday 5th Feb to be returned to the same place by Thursday 19th March.

Murwillumbah artists, entry forms will be available from 5th Feb @ Studio 8 M/ Arts (open Wed-Sat: 10am-2pm).

Please return by handing them to artist Helen Cochrane personally before March 19th i.e. they should not to be left under the door.

Artists, your artworks should be delivered to the Uki hall on the morning of Thursday 2nd April between 9am and 12 noon. Please bring your cash payment of \$10 for each artwork.

Find out about an exciting opportunity to volunteer at Images of Uki and help bring this year's event to life. Contact Heather on 0423 693 744 to find out more.



# Collective blame is racist

Heather McClelland

**A**ntisemitism affects Australians, even here in the Northern Rivers as recently explained to me by a Jewish mother on behalf of her children. Entrenched mindless prejudice damages lives. The horror of the Bondi massacre rightly galvanised the nation. Its horror was carried out by two men.

However, social cohesion is complex. Racism and hatred grow exponentially when the common humanity of any group in our multicultural society is negated. Self-serving nationalism can become the highest value. Politics which makes genocide acceptable and lobbyists, influencers and politicians who constantly raise the rights of one ethnicity above another are moving Australia in a dangerous direction.

In January 2026, the Adelaide Festival board cancelled Palestinian-Australian author Randa Abdel-Fattah's appearance at Adelaide Writers' Week, citing cultural sensitivity concerns after the December 2025 Bondi Beach terror attack and her past comments on Israel.

A writer from Adelaide posted the following this week: "Imagine if all white Christian writers were removed from writer's festivals after the Christchurch massacre or after Port Arthur. Oh, you can't? That's because it would never happen.

## RELATIONSHIP HEALTH

Collective blame is racist. Also, it is completely counter-productive and creates the opposite of a cohesive society. Shame Adelaide writer's festival, shame."

Subsequently, 180 authors withdrew from Writer's week and it collapsed. Freedom of speech, including the right to criticise a government for genocide was being conflated with terrorism as a Muslim author was withdrawn from the line-up. Social sensitivity regarding another ethnicity was inflated as the only sensitivity to be considered.

Putting empathy to work isn't easy. What would it be like to walk in the shoes of a minority group? What is the full context when fear and anger and violence increases? How can we fight against the entrenched habit of generalising that put groups of people into a box out of which they can't emerge unscathed? It is frightening how the pattern of making sweeping judgments and collective damnation quickly takes over conversations and thought patterns.

The politics of division plays to a receptive audience and can easily emerge in the ballot box as the present rise of populist ideas here and dictatorial governments around the world, signals.

Post Script: On January 15 the Writer's Festival apologised to the banned author inviting her for Writer's Week 2027.



**I love working with  
our local communities  
to make a difference**



**Janelle Saffin MP**

MEMBER FOR LISMORE

[Lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

ph: 02 6621 3624



Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.



## Small creations & theatrical collaboration



Little Gallery begins 2026 with two vibrant feature wall exhibitions, showcasing both a solo artist exhibition and a collaborative group response to a live theatre production, presented by Murwillumbah Theatre Company.

In February, Little Gallery presents Small Wonders, a solo exhibition by Uki-based artist Marlena Basser.

Working with one of her favourite mediums (second-hand children's wooden blocks) Marlena brings her signature style of bright, whimsical abstract landscapes to life.

The works explore both the outer world of nature and the artist's joyful inner landscape.

With works available across a range of sizes and price points, the exhibition offers something for all tastes and budgets., including individual block artworks, free-standing sculptures, hanging pieces, wall art and wearable art, in the form of unique, handpainted earrings.

Small Wonders runs for the month of February, opening on Friday the 6th at 6pm.

**Top left work by February feature artist Marlena Basser.**

March brings an exciting creative collaboration as Little Gallery teams up with the Murwillumbah Theatre Company for the Tempest, a dynamic group exhibition inspired by the company's stage production of William Shakespeare's iconic play.

Responding to the play's rich language, vivid imagery and enduring themes of power, exile, magic, forgiveness and reconciliation, Little Gallery's collective of local artists will present paintings, ceramics, sculpture, mosaics and jewellery.

Shakespeare's tale follows the sorcerer Prospero, shipwrecked with his daughter on a mysterious island, as he conjures a storm to confront betrayal and ultimately choose mercy over revenge.

Together, this exhibition and performance celebrate the energy of local collaboration, inviting audiences to experience a lively dialogue between theatre and visual art.

The Tempest by William Shakespeare will be performed by Murwillumbah Theatre Company from 13–29 March at Murwillumbah Civic Centre. See page 6 for booking details.

The Little Gallery exhibition opening, known for their warm welcome, good food, wine and conversation, will take place on:

- Friday 6 March, 6–8pm Tempest

Both events are open to the public. All are welcome.



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## MARCH Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 15 MARCH

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More than a performance, it is an invitation — to gather, to listen, and to immerse in a vibration of love.



# Good times at the Uki Family Funday

Rachael Twinkle

The bunting was hung, the tunes were played, the faces were painted and the folks had a cracking time at the Uki Family Funday.



Activities for all the family at the recent Funday.

The Funday was held at the Uki Village Gardens, with an action packed program. The kids craft tent was a hive of activity with a range of creative projects on offer, including rainbow dance ribbons, fairy houses and clay play with flowers.

We were treated to a very special debut set from Whala and Family, who lit up the space with

## What is UKIRA?

Philip Carr

Many people are familiar with groups such as Uki Sporting Horse, Uki Pythons Football Club, Uki Sport and Recreation Club, Uki Public Hall, Uki Historical Society, Uki Parents and Citizens' Association, Uki Community Technology Centre (CTC), Resilient Uki, Tweed Water Alliance and Mt Warning Community Preschool.

But people often ask: What is UKIRA?

Like these groups, the Uki Village & Districts Residents Association (UKIRA) is a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers, with a broad, whole-of-community focus.

Formed in 2001, UKIRA began with ambitious ideas around town-centre projects and community engagement, including early initiatives, such as Uki News and the Uki village website. Public meetings identified shared community values around arts and music, health

their beautiful music.

Tug of war was a favourite as always, with some nail biting rounds of kids vs adults. Needless to say the kids had the lions share of stamina. My personal favourite moment was the Dads' sack race, where the blokes of Uki walk (or jump) the delicate line between competitive speed and careful manoeuvring, striving for glory without popping a hip out or pulling a hamstring.

Fortunately the majority of men participating in the event were largely unscathed at the finish line.

We got another round of fruit trees in the ground with the help of the families who came, so we're looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labours in the years to come.

Thanks so much to everyone who played, crafted, jumped, cooked, painted and attended, it was a lovely day in the gardens. These events wouldn't happen without our local community getting involved and supporting us, so we truly appreciate those who contribute their energy to create these special days.



and healing, sustainability, tree planting and river care, history and heritage, and protecting village character.

In 2003, UKIRA purchased the Uki Butter Factory with the help of a government grant and a loan from Southern Cross Credit Union, placing one of Uki's most significant buildings into community ownership and responsibility for the Uki Butter Bazaar Market.

After grant-funded maintenance, the Butter Factory became fully tenanted by local businesses. Rental income now supports community needs.

UKIRA also publishes Uki News bi-monthly and auspices Images of Uki, Uki Village Gardens and the Little Gallery.

If you'd like to get involved or learn more, attend a public meeting (first Tuesday every second month, 7:00pm, rear of Uki Hall) or email.

# Share your stories for Uki News 25th birthday celebration

**Andia Cally**

In May this year, Uki News turns 25. Since our very first issue in May 2001, the paper has captured the voices, ideas and everyday moments that make Uki unique.

To mark this milestone, we're inviting our readers to help us celebrate by sharing your favourite memories, stories or moments from Uki News over the past 25 years.

Was there an article that stuck with you, sparked a conversation, or still feels relevant today? A photo, a headline, a piece of community history you'd love to see again?

We'd love to hear from previous editors and content providers about the spirit of the early days, who was there, how it started and what a typical day looked like.

These stories belong to all of us. If Uki News has meant something to you over the years, we'd love to hear from you at [theukinews@hotmail.com](mailto:theukinews@hotmail.com) and share it as part of our 25th anniversary celebrations.

Share your memories for our next issue





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# Rain & flood monitoring in Uki's upper catchments

Luke Naismith Resilient Uki (RUKI)

February and March are typically our wettest months, and when east coast lows, cyclones and ex-cyclones have their strongest impact. Any weather event with heavy, prolonged rain



may cause the Tweed River and its tributaries to flood.

While the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) provides forecasts on a regional basis, their monitoring doesn't provide the local detail we need. It would be wonderful if there was a way we could be notified of potential severe rainfall in our own upper catchment areas and consequent local river height changes.

I have set up the Upper Tweed Flood Information WhatsApp group to provide exactly that local data. Various government, commercial and citizen websites and apps are scanned to identify future flood events and to gather information on rainfall and river heights.

Messages to the group are only sent when significant events are anticipated and when river heights rise to impact low-lying causeways.

This group is about providing information only – it is not professional or official advice. It's still up to individuals to interpret this information



## New to the area or have a new neighbour?

Download a New Resident Welcome Kit or share one with your new neighbours. You can also pick these up at the CTC or UKIRA stall at the Monthly Butterly Bazaar Markets. Let's work together to connect and prepare for the future.

[resilientuki.org](http://resilientuki.org)



along with all available advice, including official warnings and forecasts from the SES and BOM, to take appropriate action.

Anyone can join the WhatsApp group, just scan the QR code (on the right) with your phone.

### Could a rain gauge at your place help?

We know it takes about 3 to 5 hours for rain in upper catchment areas at Byrrill Creek, Mebbin and Mount Burrell to make its way down the Tweed River to around Uki.

More online rain gauges in these areas would give us a better understanding of where rain has fallen and how much we can expect the Tweed River to flood. Our friends at the Australian National University are helping with a study on

this topic and they have provided some rain gauges to us to distribute.



We're seeking people who live in Commissioners Creek, Doon Doon, Kunghur Creek, Mount Burrell and Byrrill

Creek to host a rain gauge.

Ideally (not essentially), you'd have back-up power or be off grid and have satellite Internet so the gauges will continue working when power/communications is disrupted. If you're interested, please email [secretary@resilientuki.org](mailto:secretary@resilientuki.org).



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# Update: Uki Sports and Recreation Club

Clayton Myler, USRC - Secretary USRC

The newly restored and renovated clubhouse has been buzzing with activity for a while now. The Uki Touch Competition is in full swing on Wednesday nights, and the Uki Pythons Football/Soccer Club has kicked off pre-season training in preparation for the 2026 season.

The fields, freshly top-dressed, are a pleasure to play on, and the brand-new covered grandstands provide much-needed shade and shelter for spectators. After a Christmas break, Touch has returned, and the ladies in the new canteen have been serving up crowd favorites like steak sangas, hamburgers, sausage sangas, plus of course, hot chips. Cold drinks are also available at the bar each Touch night.

The spacious clubroom, complete with a full-length covered outdoor area and a dedicated caterer's room, is shaping up to be a great function venue. With just a little fine-tuning left, it's expected to be available for hire in the near future.



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Dates to note:

Uki Touch:

- Wednesday 11th March - First semifinal night
- Wednesday 18th March - Second semifinal night
- Friday 20th March - Grand Final Night with entertainment for all ages! Details will be posted on "Uki Community News and Social Group" and "Uki Touch Footy" Facebook pages.

Uki Pythons Football/Soccer:

- Soccer sign-up for all age groups, from Mini Roos to seniors, starts in February. Keep an eye out for dates and info!

Uki Tennis/Pickleball:

- That's right - Pickleball is coming to Uki in 2026! Restoration of the Uki Tennis Courts begins this year, with combination tennis and pickleball courts to be installed as soon as possible. Watch this space if you're interested!



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# The Windows 11 dilemma for older computers

Louise Bally

When Microsoft introduced Windows 11, the controversy wasn't about its appearance or features. It was about exclusion.

Millions of computers that ran Windows 10 perfectly well were suddenly deemed "unsupported".



Now, in 2026, the stakes are no longer theoretical. Windows 10 reached end of support on 14 October 2025.

That means for home users, there will be no ongoing

security updates. Windows Defender continues to function with updates, but only targets Virus and trojan detection and web and email threat blocking, it cannot fix OS level vulnerabilities. The question is no longer whether to move on – but how?

The security features that Windows 11 enforces are the same features that can optionally be turned on for windows 10 if the hardware supports it.

Windows 11 requires TPM 2.0 (Trusted Platform Module), Secure Boot, CPUs from roughly 2018 onward and Virtualisation-Based Security support.

You can check your BIOS to see if these security features exist in your hardware but have been disabled. If present, after enabling them Windows 11 will offer an automatic upgrade.

Microsoft has acknowledged that Windows 11 runs perfectly well on many unsupported systems and can be installed by bypassing the incompatibility check during install. Updates should still be delivered as expected. An upgrade from Windows 10 can also be done the same way instead of a clean install.

Alternatively, you can install Windows 11 by accepting an onscreen disclaimer during install. Microsoft may block updates in the future but that said, unsupported systems have been running Windows 11 since 2021 without issue.

If you choose to continue using Windows 10, there are no immediate catastrophic events on the horizon, at least in the short term. Use protected browsers like Brave or Firefox with No Script and stay away from dodgy websites.

Other options are to switch operating systems to open source Linus (Mint, Zorin or Ubuntu) which are actively updated in 2026 and offer a serious, mainstream alternative to Windows and Apple. If you need further advice or assistance visit the CTC in Uki on a Wednesday and I may be able to help you.

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# ASTROLOGY

## The quickening

Paola Emma

It is not an over-estimation to say the decisive conjunction of Saturn-Neptune in Aries (February 21) will prove to be one of the last decades' most significant.

It may initiate a reset in world history, being part of a wider picture, including the near synchronous signs' shift of all the slow moving planets (2024/25/26/27), from Jupiter to Pluto: a rare event indeed.

From January 27, 2026 to May 2038 Neptune will transit Aries, pioneering spiritual and creative ideals, actively seeking new outlets to actualise them. Aries can provide the courage to uphold Neptune's visions, with renewed readiness to defend them.

Saturn will be in Aries from February 14 2026 to April 2028. The double highlight in Aries will offer opportunities to make our aspirations (Neptune) more tangible, with a willingness to release old patterns and reduce our expectations to what it's realistically possible (Saturn).

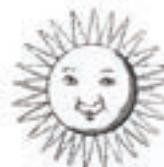
What hopefully we may be able to outgrow from the Saturn-Neptune's Pisces years is the dangerous erosion of boundaries between facts and fiction, fostered by the wider use of social media, with the confusion and mistrust that it has generated.

Other signs that historical changes are beginning to take shape. November 2024 Pluto in Aquarius initiated a 20-year period of radical reforms of our political/ideological makeup, toward a more egalitarian, democratic, grassroots approach; a welcome, if slow, change from the authoritarian trends that become more prevalent during the transit of Pluto in conservative Capricorn (2008/2024), culminating in Saturn's conjunction to Pluto in 2020 (the Covid crisis with all its implications).

Next will be Uranus entering Gemini on April 26, from conservative Taurus. This transit will last until 2032.

The quantum leaps we are experiencing in the area of renewable technologies and artificial intelligence will look like little steps compared with what it's ahead of us.

New generations will truly embrace these amazing innovations and discoveries in



all ares of science, from space exploration to communication, to medicine, art and social trends.

Positive aspects among the planetary players involved give me hope that the raise of even more powerful and pervasive technologies will eventually enhance our sense of community and togetherness, rather than exacerbate our existential alienation.

Visit

<https://livingmoonastrology.wordpress.com>  
for more insights.



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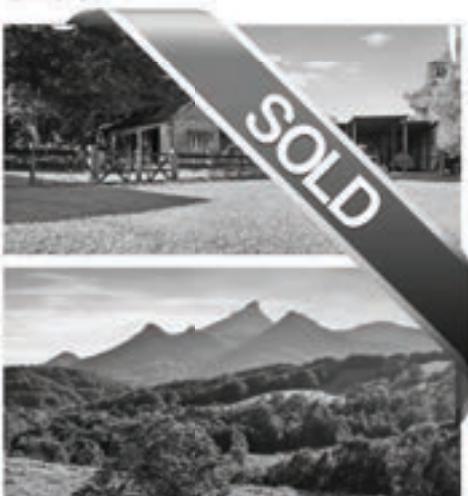
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