

Uki farewells the Fair Trade Shoppe

As the old saying goes, "nothing lasts forever." It's with a mix of sadness and deep gratitude that we announce the upcoming closure of the Uki Fair Trade Shoppe, after more than 10 wonderful years of serving our community.

On Easter Saturday 2015, The Uki Fair Trade Shoppe opened its doors.

From the very first day, the community was very friendly and welcoming. I knew that this venture was going to be the most wonderful fulfilling and joyous journey. I wasn't disappointed.

The Fair Trade Shoppe (the Shoppe) has welcomed returning visitors from overseas and all over Australia, some famous celebrities and the precious local community.

An American teacher told me that it was the best shop in the world!

I always wanted the Shoppe to be a tribute to the amazing, gentle artisans who hand create the exquisite range of handicrafts that grace the three rooms and two hallways.

My journey with fair trade began as a World Vision volunteer in the 1970s.

Although I continued my nursing career, my enduring passion was fair trade craft.

Having met many fair trade artisans who rely on their craft for their livelihood, I felt a strong desire to support them by creating a space here in Australia where their beautiful work could be showcased and sold.



Christine Mellor was one of two local staff who has welcomed visitors.

I've had the privilege of sitting with these talented artisans in the communities where they live and work, places like Bangladesh, India, Peru, Thailand, and the Philippines. I've witnessed their incredible craftsmanship firsthand, and more importantly, I've listened to their stories, learned about their cultures, and seen the passion and pride they pour into every piece they create.

The Shoppe has a serene feeling.

I sometimes referred to it as a sanctuary, a place of peace. Many customers have echoed this feeling.

The whole aim of the Shoppe has always been to uplift the lives of artisans living in the developing world by selling their hand made craft.

This kindness and gentleness has flowed through to the customers.

Some of you may know that I have not lived in Uki for the last two years. My heartfelt thanks to Christine and Judith who have carried the spirit of the Fair Trade Shoppe in my absence.

At the present time we do not know the date of closing.

Be sure to visit and purchase your "fair trade treasures" while you can. There are lots of greatly reduced items available. Rest assured that despite our reduced prices, the artisans have all been paid a fair wage for their work. Some of the more popular lines have already sold out.

Thank you to everyone for your friendship, the wonderful chats and your valuable purchases.

You have given love and hope to so many dear people.

From the Editor

Welcome to Issue 143 which explores endings and beginnings.

With sadness and deep gratitude, we mark the upcoming closure of the Uki Fair Trade Shoppe, a cherished part of our village for more than 10 years. Its legacy of ethical trade, global connection, and community spirit will not be forgotten.

As one chapter closes, others begin. RUKI welcomes new neighbours with welcome kits, offering a warm hello and

practical support to those just settling in.

Important conversations are stirring around rural housing reform and restoring our rivers—issues close to the heart of our community's future.

In this issue we invite you to help us shape the next stage of our community newsletter. Fill in our survey and tell us what matters to you and what you want to read, with a chance to win a \$50 voucher from Nixnibbles.

There's a call out to local healers to join a community support network, and for anyone inspired to live more sustainably, a new ecovillage is forming and looking for like-minded neighbours.

I am about to embark on a new adventure myself as I head off with hubby on a 6-12 month adventure of Australia. I will still be your editor (at large) and may not always have good coverage so ask for your understanding.

Andia

ADVERTISING

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

*The Uki News is a bimonthly, free publication by the Uki Village and Districts Residents Association (UKIRA).
Disclaimer: the opinions and views expressed in this newsletter may not reflect those of the Uki News or of UKIRA.
Uki News is printed by Uki Community Technology Centre (aka CTC) at the Buttery building.*

*It is delivered to most households on the South Arm of the Tweed River. Copies are also available at various local outlets, including the Uki Supermarket.
Current and past issues are available at Uki Village website
– www.ukivillage.com.au/uki-news*

Letters To The Editor

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

We'd love to hear from you.

Share your ideas, events, hopes and inspirations for all things Uki with us via theukinews@hotmail.com.

CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

Friday 14 Nov, 2025

Dec/Jan

UKIRA MEETINGS

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



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Take our survey to win a prize

Selina O'Connor

Spring is the time to revitalise, refresh, shake out the rugs and clear out the cupboards.

Here at the Uki News, we want to check in with our readers and see if we need to update our content and format.

We've created a short survey to get an idea of the existing themes you love and others you'd like to learn more about.

Community news is all about reflecting your interests and providing updates on topics that matter most to you.

Please provide your responses to the short questionnaire. Aim your phone camera on the QR code below or visit bit.ly/4gsCO9v and go into the draw for a \$50 meal voucher courtesy of Uki's awesome new takeaway – Nixnibbles, generously donated by Nicky.

We will report responses in our next edition.



CTC@Uki

The Uki CTC is holding an AGM
Monday 27th October 1.30 pm
at the Buttery, 1454 Kyogle Rd, Uki.

Friendship visit

Bryan McClelland

The Uki Refugee Project invites you to be part of our annual Friendship Visit, happening on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October 2025. This much-loved event brings together local community members and recent refugees or asylum seekers from Brisbane for a weekend of connection, culture, and fun.

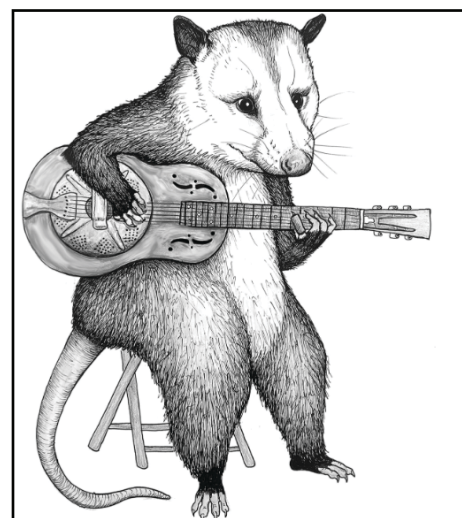
On Saturday night, join us for a lively Bush Dance with the Playing Possum Bush Band, followed by a pot luck dinner where everyone brings a dish to share. It's a great chance to enjoy music, laughter, and the warmth of community.

On Sunday, we'll gather for a relaxed picnic lunch at Cudgen Creek, complete with games and swimming in the beautiful natural surroundings.

We're calling on our wonderful supporters to help make this event possible:

- Hosts needed: If you have space to welcome one or more visitors overnight, please text Heather on 0423 693 744.
- Meal contributions: Bring a dish to share for either Saturday dinner or Sunday lunch.
- Drivers needed: Offer transport to and from Varsity Lakes Station.

Let's continue building bridges and making newcomers feel at home in our community.



For more details, email: uki.refugee.project@gmail.com.



Extend a hand of friendship. Playing Possum Bush Band headline at October friendship visit.

Welcome to the neighbourhood kits

Resilient Uki (RUKI)



Have you just moved to the area or perhaps you have a new neighbour?

There are always people joining our thriving community and, to help them become familiar with the lay of the land, Resilient Uki (RUKI) has put together a 'New Neighbour Welcome Kit'.

These kits were created by local volunteers to help new residents in Uki and nearby communities (from Dum Dum to Mount Burrell) know where to find help, access services, explore things to do, and how to get involved and become part of this region's ongoing story.

While the kit focuses predominantly on services and groups in Uki, we have endeavoured to provide information for folks who live closer to Nimbin and Murwillumbah too.

The kit contains information about: a brief history of Uki Village; information services and village facilities; sports, arts and leisure activities; educational facilities; transport; churches and

places of worship; medical services and animal health; volunteering and community services; and how to make sure you're aware of and prepared for emergencies and disasters.

It's not exhaustive of course, but feedback from new residents tells us it's a great start. We'll aim to check it for updates quarterly.

You can download the kit from the RUKI website <https://resilientuki.org/neighbourhoods-project/#new-residents-kit> or scan the QR code featured in our ad in this issue of the Uki News.

Even better, you can pop into the CTC at the Buttery or visit the UKIRA stall at the next monthly market to grab a physical copy of the kit.

It's a great excuse to drop in and meet a new neighbour and say hello.



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ACN 638 213 171

**Brendon Veares
Matt Clark**
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1504 Kyogle Rd, Uki, NSW 2484

**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 Buttery Bazaar Markets. Let's work together to connect and prepare for the future.

resilientuki.org



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News from the Member for Lismore

Janelle Saffin MP

Rural housing reform

I welcome the announcement of a Parliamentary inquiry into rural housing and second dwellings.

I have spoken about our housing crisis in Parliament championing the simplification of having secondary dwellings on land in rural and regional areas. My farmer groups have also approached me about the need for planning reforms so they can build extra houses on their land.

I have discussed secondary dwellings with the Minister for Planning Paul Scully and it was raised with him at the recent Community Cabinet in Tweed Heads. We all support this inquiry and eagerly await its findings and recommendations.

The Select Committee on Rural Housing and Second Dwellings Reform will conduct the inquiry and report back by February 2026.

Under the terms of reference, the committee will inquire into, and report on, reforms to facilitate the building of second dwellings in rural zones, potential amendments to state environment planning policies, the benefits and risks of secondary dwellings and interaction between secondary dwellings and potential impacts on rural activities.

The terms of reference also cover issues such as, the potential impacts of reforms on housing affordability, multi-generational living and rural population growth.

I know this an area of local interest, and I will inform you when they are calling for submissions. There are several aspects to consider, and I know councils have concerns about rate assessments for secondary dwellings. That's something that can be resolved and shouldn't impede reform.



Information on the committee and its inquiry is available on the Parliamentary website: bit.ly/46wZ4KN

Minister for Sport's visit

I had the pleasure of showing off the beautiful Uki area to my colleague, Sports Minister Steve Kamper, when we drove

down from Community Cabinet in Tweed for the official reopening of the Vic Bianchetti Sports Club. After the devastation of the 2022 floods the club has been rebuilt and upgraded with flood-resilient design and modern amenities thanks to \$1.2 million in funding from the NSW and Australian Governments. Having this hub of local sport and social activity back up and running is great news for Uki and the broader community.



Above: NSW Minister for Sport, the Hon Steve Kamper, Janelle Saffin MP, Council staff and club members at the Vic Bianchetti Club reopening

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From suffering to service

Andia Cally

For more than 15 years, Uki local Karl Baumgartner lived with the debilitating effects of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) a condition that left him physically exhausted and emotionally drained.

Repeatedly told by doctors that his tests were "normal" and he was "just depressed," Karl felt abandoned by the medical system and began seeking answers elsewhere.

His healing journey became inward and holistic. While addressing physical aspects like digestion, blood sugar, and immunity, he also explored the emotional roots of illness, from childhood trauma to chronic stress. "If you're unconsciously angry," he says, "that stress can stop healing."

Years of meditation, breathwork, qigong, and self-inquiry helped Karl gradually recover. His experience also inspired him to support others with chronic illness, and to advocate for community-based healing.



Karl practicing his healing with a client.

Today, Karl offers bodywork, energy healing, and emotional support sessions on a sliding scale.

But his vision goes further: he's building a local network of healers, bodyworkers, therapists, energy workers, who can collaborate, share knowledge, and offer affordable, integrated care.

He believes healing is not a solo journey, but one supported by community.

If you're a healer interested in co-creating this supportive network, contact Karl at karltree@googlemail.com or 0447 816 537.

"It's not just about treating illness," he says. "It's about building something that helps all of us thrive."



We can all support local businesses to help our community thrive



Janelle Saffin MP

MEMBER FOR LISMORE
Lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

ph: 02 6621 3624



Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.



Restoring our rivers

Matthew Bloor
.....

Uki RiverCare volunteers meet on the fourth Sunday of each month to restore riparian vegetation at Platypus Park. Thanks to steady work, around 1,000 young plants have now been planted, mulched, and weeded by dedicated volunteers.

Exciting developments are ahead: we're planning a weed identification and control workshop in November, in collaboration with a local bush regeneration company and Tweed Landcare. If you're interested in attending, contact details are below.

Uki has its share of highly invasive weeds, including Cats Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine, and Balloon Vine – all of which smother native plants and damage sensitive creekside areas. The good news? Bush regenerators have developed effective, low-impact control techniques. These can be easily learned and applied in home gardens, local bushland, or community sites like Platypus Park.

In the coming months, Uki RiverCare will begin opening walking paths through Platypus Park, providing greater access to the beautiful confluence of the Tweed River and Smiths Creek – a great spot to swim, walk, and relax in nature.

Our progress shows what a community can achieve. The image accompanying this article was taken in 2015, before National Tree Day. Back then, the site was a bare paddock; today, it's a thriving forest, restored by community.

Get involved

Email: mbloor@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Phone: (02) 6670 2400 or join us at our next working bee 8:30–10am on 26 October and 23 November, meet at the Platypus Park carpark, opposite Meadow Place and stay for some morning tea.



PLATYPUS PARK WHEN IT WAS JUST A Paddock

UKI
RIVER
CARE

Tilly and the Time Machine

Ken Corbitt
.....

Tilly and the Time Machine by Adrian Edmondson is a lively, heartfelt children's adventure coming to life on stage at Murwillumbah Civic Centre from October 18 to November 2, presented by Murwillumbah Theatre Company.

Seven-and-a-half-year-old Tilly travels through time to rescue her dad after he gets stuck in the past.

Along the way, she visits Victorian England, has tea with Queen Victoria, and witnesses the 1966 World Cup win – all while hoping to see her mum again.

Praised for its humour, emotional depth, and educational value, this play offers fast-paced fun and a touching story about love, loss, and adventure.

Directed by David Thomas, the show features cabaret-style seating, refreshments, and tickets at \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids, or \$50 for families. Book at murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au.





Mountain of colours

Cameron Pitcher is a Uki-based photographic artist whose nature images are personal and intimate; softening the boundary between inside and outside; between the observer and the observed; between nature image and portrait.



Mountain of colours is a photographic exhibition that acknowledges and reflects the vibrant and ubiquitous cultural presence of the mountain (Mount Wollumbin) in our lives through a series of repeating colourful and resonant pop art images.

"At the heart of the caldera sits the mountain," Cameron says. "It looms above us, physically and culturally. It is a symbol of home and identity for those of us who live around it, or come from it.

We commodify and commercialise its image to brand our businesses and advertise our products. We feel its emanations and trace its contours looking for meaning, spiritual significance and a sense of the sacred. It rouses passionate feelings and attitudes and has become a political battleground for adversarial exchanges. It is a kind of local celebrity, a meme, a symbol of beauty, and a cliché".

On display 1 October - 2 November at Little Gallery.

little gallery

Wed-Fri, 10-3PM

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where little things make big things happen



Sticks and stones

Artist Peter Smith started making ceramics 50 years ago. After a long break he returned to the craft 8 years ago.

He uses found objects from the bush to combine with ceramics to create unique pieces.

Peter collects the fallen branches of certain native trees because they have interesting shapes and textures, not knowing exactly where they will be used.

While proficient on the wheel, Peter also makes hand-built ceramic pieces, testing and refining ideas along the way.

Selecting timber pieces that naturally suit the ceramic project at hand, timber and clay come together with a spontaneity that often produces unexpected results. The works are continually evolving and the exhibition represents a moment in time of that evolution.

You are invited to the Sticks and stones opening on Friday 7 November of at 6pm. The exhibition will continue until 30 November and will feature alongside the work of the other Little Gallery artists.



Top left a sample from Cameron's October exhibition, Mountain of colours.

Above a preview of upcoming attractions at Peter Smith's Sticks and stones, opening in November.



Uki Buttery Bazaar Entertainment

Sanne Grace Kenna

8am - 2pm

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

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

PLENTY OF PARKING AT RAINBOW BRIDGE AND SWEETNAM PARK

OCTOBER Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 19 OCTOBER



Gregory Kindread.

Veteran reggae artist Gregory Kindread brings his powerful message of Peace, Love and Unity to the Uki Buttery Markets on Sunday, October 19 with The One Love Alliance, featuring Sistasoundz, King Solomon, Cisco Bizkit, and guest Sanne Kenna.

Dance for Unity, Chant for Freedom — Jah Bless!

Womanera is a new female-led project by singer-songwriters Ladi Abundance and Sanne Kenna, blending soul vocals, roots, dub, and folk into rich, conscious soundscapes.

With keys, guitar, bass, and layered percussion, they spotlight women's talent across the Northern Rivers, welcoming special guests for unique, ever-evolving performances.



LEFT: GREGORY KINDREAD
ABOVE: WOMANERA

NOVEMBER Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 16 NOVEMBER

Southwall from Tamworth, blends country roots with world-class vocals from Mark Heazlett, who delivers both original songs and contemporary favourites on acoustic guitar.

Steeped in blues improvisation, Toby Andrews' electric guitar adds a dynamic edge.

With over a decade refining their sound, Southwall offers a truly unique live experience.



SOUTHWALL



CHEYNNE MURPHY

Cheyenne Murphy is a heartfelt, folk-rock singer-songwriter originally born in Nowra (South Coast, NSW).

With no musical training he discovered his voice and "three chords and the truth" at the end of a university marketing degree.

Two years later he had abandoned corporate aspirations and signed a world-wide songwriting deal with BMG publishing where he is still signed.

Cheyenne's songs seem to effortlessly traverse the musical terrains of pop, folk-rock and alternative country.

Afterlee Ecovillage seeking young families

Geoffrey Colwill

We are building an ecovillage from scratch called Afterlee Healthy Living Ecovillage on Bundjalung country near Kyogle Northern Rivers NSW and we are looking for young families to join us.

Not only is this a fantastic opportunity to secure an acreage for well under market price, there is a beautiful old school on the property ready to be reignited.

It takes a village to raise a child, and we are 40 families, (9 with young children) who are committed to being the change and building our lives in a new way. Imagine growing food, caring for the land, singing and dancing and rekindling the human spirit where we mean something to each other and feel a sense of belonging.



With your very own 1-2 acre lot and a share in the whole 700-acre property, you can build your new home and dream life alongside some quirky permanents, bright entrepreneurs, alternative teachers, builders, architects, doctors, naturopaths, accountants, lovers and cloud watchers.

We have bought the property, spent the last 3 years planning and dreaming and running our favourite communication workshops, we have secured a DA for 65 lots and the roads go in later this year.

If you like the sound of organic farming, beautiful rolling hills, multiple dams and springs, Steiner and Montessori-inspired school, micro grid, community hall, mini goats, festivals, fire circles and all round awesomeness put in an application and join us in the co-creation of a true village.

For more info watch these videos <https://youtu.be/VEJnTYyeDsc> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDkrARpawKQ&t=3s> and join our next site tour.

Call Sara, our friendly mother of four / new members consultant on: 0493 072 565

Or if you would like to speak to a Uki local, who is also a member, Geoffrey 0427 701 892 <https://afterleevillage.au>



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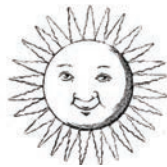
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ASTROLOGY

Equinox eclipse shifts

Paola Emma

At the time of writing we are in the middle of the last eclipse season of 2025. Not surprisingly the world's news reflects the cosmic intensity of this special period.



The effect of the September 21st solar eclipse will be felt for months because it coincides with the Equinox.

This could hamper impulses and decision making. We are planning ahead, the natural thing to do at this time of the year, under a certain shadow. A somewhat blurred vision of future possibilities, pessimism about outcomes, uncertainty and limitations may affect our ability to move ahead as we wish (opposition to Neptune in early Aries and Saturn in late Pisces).

A desire for change, coupled with an intense drive to move on from negative past patterns may help us to move out of the stalemate (positive aspect to Gemini-Uranus and Aquarius-Pluto), but, combined with the difficult transits, perhaps also causing deep frustration.

Furthermore at the solar eclipse sun and moon will be on the very last degree of Virgo, known as a 'critical degree', often more difficult to navigate, indicating a time of uneasy transitions. The solar eclipse will be also aligned with the south lunar node, another indication that unresolved issues from the past may still dominate our present and future prospects.

Matters of work, routine, health and habits may become central themes of this Virgo eclipse.

Of great significance is that, around the same time, Mars will be also on a 'critical degree', leaving Libra to enter Scorpio, another transition aspect demanding further adjustments in the way we take action and embrace initiative for the extended period of influence indicated by the Eclipse. Mars in fact will become a main player by forming some difficult aspects to Pluto and Uranus, making it more challenging to choose peace over conflict.

In October and November Saturn, Uranus and Neptune will be all retrograde, the find out and often more challenging phase of any planet's cycle.

For more astrological insight please visit my site <https://livingmoonastrology.wordpress.com>.





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Price Guide \$6,800,000 to \$7,300,000

8 6 5 76ha

Durobby Retreat – A Once-in-a-Lifetime Sanctuary

Set at the foothills of Wollumbin (Mt Warning) National Park, flowing from the banks of the Tweed River, across a shimmering lake and upwards to the backdrop of Hattons Bluff, lies the breathtaking Durobby Retreat. Spanning approximately 190 acres over 2 separate titles, this extraordinary estate combines pristine bushland, lush manicured grounds, abundant water sources, and a luxurious homestead with additional eco cabins and infrastructure. A truly unique offering, Durobby Retreat is supplied by Mount Warning Water Co-op—a rare feature reserved for only a handful of properties in the region.



7083 Tweed Valley Way, Dunbible, NSW 2484

Price Guide \$4,200,000 to \$4,500,000

6 3 6 16.48ha

A Scenic Outlook with the Freedom to Create, Relax or Invest

Breathtaking views, dual living, income potential and just minutes to Murwillumbah. If you have been searching for something special, this might just be it. Set high on a ridgeline with sweeping views over the Tweed Valley and mountains beyond, this standout property is more than just a home, it's a lifestyle. Located approximately 6 to 8 minutes from the regional town of Murwillumbah, you'll feel a world away as the sealed driveway winds past fruit trees—dragon fruit, sapotes, and carambolas. Leading you up to the residence set proudly at the top.



517 Upper Burringbar, Upper Burringbar, NSW 2483

Price Guide \$3,500,000 to \$3,600,000

8 3 8 77.7ha

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Set on 192 acres with Burringbar Creek frontage, this property combines fertile, flood-free flats with ridgelines that rise to reveal sweeping coastal and hinterland views. Approximately 40 acres of level land transitioning into productive hillsides, offering a unique balance of lifestyle and agricultural potential. The main home is vacant, fully renovated, and ready for its next family to move straight in. Property offers other income streams from rentals and farming opportunities.



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0402 608 503

To Inspect Privately Call Agents



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