



An initiative of UKIRA

Issue 10

APRIL 2003

Uki News

Where the mountains touch the sky!

Local Produce Market in Uki...

Come and celebrate the first Produce Market with a day of family fun and a sausage sizzle on Saturday 5th April from 8am to 1pm.

A regular Saturday morning produce market at the Uki Hall, an initiative of the Uki Hall Committee, will promote the sale of local, home grown or home made produce and goods. Proceeds will assist with the maintenance and renovation of this heritage building.

It is hoped that the market

will encourage people to shop locally and also provide the opportunity to find out what's on offer in our village. Trades and craft people are invited to exhibit their wares, as well as cottage industries. Limited stalls are also available for recycled goods etc.

The UKI Public Hall is an all weather venue, which will be a bonus to stall holders and shoppers alike. Any community members who would like to assist us on the day would be most welcome and appreciated. For stall bookings and details phone Kay on 6679 5795.

Our 10th Issue...

This issue marks our 10th edition of the Uki News. The first issue came out in May 2001, when we struggled to fill four pages. Now, we regularly have eight pages full of news, information and opinion, as well as local advertising. Around twenty people contribute articles, while three volunteers work on advertising, layout and editorial. Not a bad community effort! We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions. Or perhaps you would even like to help! Maybe you have something interesting to write about! See contacts on Page 2.

UKIRA would like to thank all contributors and advertisers for supporting the Uki News.

Uki News Distribution...

The Uki News is distributed bimonthly to every postal address between Byangum Bridge

and the Nimbin turnoff. However, some residents in the district do not receive a copy, simply because they have a Murwillumbah postal address. If you know anyone in this situation, please ask them to contact us so that we can make alternate arrangements.

Uki swimmer excels at district carnival...

Recently at the Far North Coast Regional Swimming Carnival, Uki local Charles Brincat achieved a 3rd place in the 50m Backstroke, qualifying for the North Coast Championships in Mullumbimby.

Previously, Charles had blitzed the field at the Murwillumbah District Swimming Carnival on 21st February.

Charles came 1st in the under 12s 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke and 200m Freestyle. He also came 2nd in the 100m Freestyle and 4th in the 50m Breaststroke.

Even more impressive than winning the Senior Boy Champion's medal, was the fact that Charles achieved his personal best times in every event except the Breaststroke.

Well done Charles!



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Uki Buttery Update

by Gloria Roszkiewicz

What a great public meeting on Sunday 9th March! Thanks to all those who attended. There was great discussion and input about the future of the Buttery and from these discussions some working teams are being formed in the following areas:

Historical, Retail, Cooperative Markets, Building & Construction, Landscaping & Groundwork, and Future Fundraising. Other groups will form as the Buttery project evolves further. If you would like to add your name to any of the teams, please drop a note to UKIRA at PO 141 Uki or ring Gloria on 66797395.

If you are interested in renting any of the shop/rooms facing Kyogle Road, please pick up an 'Expression of Interest' form from the Uki CTC, next to the Takeaway.

UKIRA is the Uki Village and Districts Residents Association Incorporated, a not-for-profit community organisation that provides a forum for residents to discuss and act upon local issues

UKIRA MEETINGS are held the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Uki Hall at 7pm.

Please come along to our next meeting Tuesday 6 May, 2003, 7pm. Note, this is also our AGM.

COPY DEADLINE for Uki News Issue 11, is Friday 13 June, 2003, due out early June. See page 2 for contact details.

DISCLAIMER... The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the contributor's own and are not necessarily those of UKIRA.

Super Secretarial Skills?

Do you need a document typed quickly? Do you need to send information to the other side of the world? Do you need to have your telephone answered by a professional? Don't have a facsimile and need one quickly? Well we have the answer for you. CTC@Uki can make your life and business run so much easier. If business is taking you away from the office, you can have your phone diverted to our centre. Obtaining the right look for your documents can be achieved by one of our fabulous experienced volunteers. Come & have a chat with us and we can show you what we can do for you.

Collection of Data

Ever have the need to know how many computers there are for public access, or how many butchers there are and where they are in the Tweed?

What do you need to know to help you effectively manage your business? Tweed Valley CTC can help you by collecting any relevant data you may need. They will col-

late this information into a database so that you may access it easily, effectively and usefully. This can be an incredible tool in helping you become a leader in your field. Drop into your CTC in Uki in the main street beside the takeaway and post office.

Community groups work hard for their money

CTC@Uki can typeset and email your newsletters to those in our community who are not electronically challenged, or let us just email it for you if you already have a member who typesets it.

This can save you many dollars that can be better spent on your projects, or resources for your organisation.

There is no need to post to many of your readers, so move with the times and send your newsletter out electronically. Call or email your local CTC today.

Ph: 66795399 or email
info@tweedvalleyctc.com.au

Who to contact

Uki Newsletter
PO Box 141 Uki 2484
Phone: 02 6679 5855

Advertising:

Jeanette Simpson
6679 5725

our reasonable rates are as follows
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- full page \$150

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Articles & features:

Phil Carr
pcarr@omcs.com.au
or 6679 5855

Layout & Design:

Tessa Martin
shauntessa@bigpond.com
or 6679 7060

Letters To The Editor...**Save Wollumbin...**

The Save Wollumbin Forest Campaign celebrate the Carr Labor Government's commitment to include Wollumbin State Forest into the National Park Estate. The habitats of the many rare and endangered species of flora and fauna are now secure for our future generations.

This is a huge win for the people of the Tweed and our Forest. After four years of lobbying the Government and making our community aware of the logging threat to the rare and endangered species in Wollumbin, Campaign founder and Coordinator Mr David Gleeson should be commended on his dedication and congratulated on this great success. Thank you to all the volunteers past and present for a job well done and thank you to the 15,000 people who signed petitions and letters to the Government. People Power works.

The Carr Government has been able to create these new National Parks by opening up areas to

logging that were not assessed during the Regional Forest Agreement. This means that there has been no loss of harvesting quotas under the RFA and therefore no job losses in the forests or at the mills.

Wollumbin Forest as National Park is a huge gain for conservation, eco-tourism and recreation potential in the Tweed. Uki and Tyalgum can directly benefit from the sealing of Byrill Creek Road, the only ring road around the mountain and now gateway to two National Parks, Mebbin and Wollumbin. This could open up the possibilities of tour buses and roadside attractions on this scenic drive. Sustainable local jobs can be created with balanced planning. Wollumbin is ideal as a recreational area and such activities can take place without compromising the environment.

The Paradise in our backyard is now protected and thank you again to all who made this possible.

Prudence Morrison, Byrill Creek.

**Linda Dickens Benefit Night**

WOW! What wonderful support we received for Linda's benefit night, held at the Uki Sports Ground on March 1st.

So many people helped in so many ways. The sports ground committee, businesses and individuals who donated the great raffle prizes, bands, PA's, karaoke, MC, ticket sellers, food donators, kitchen helpers, cleaners, parking attendants, and, of course, every one who came along to share a fantastic night.

Linda was blown out by the generosity and support shown by the community and by the people who travelled from far and wide. Please accept this as our thanks.

Andy Andreas, Pip Pierce, Andy Prior, Graeme Archer & Linda Dickens

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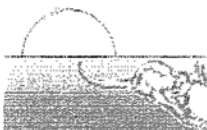
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Uki In Brief...

By Phil Carr

Australia Post Survey

In February, Australia Post conducted a poll of Uki households located within a 1.2km radius of the Post Office, to determine whether a mail delivery service should be introduced. These households are required to rent a post box, but at a heavily reduced price. The result of the poll was recently announced, showing that a clear majority of residents are satisfied with their existing arrangements, and, therefore, no change will be made to the service. In order for a mail delivery service to be introduced in Uki, more than 50% of all households needed to indicate a preference for change. Indications from Australia Post suggest that returns were split about 50:50, but, under the conditions of the poll, unreturned forms are counted as 'desiring no change'. Due to the considerable cost of the exercise, Australia Post would not be prepared to conduct another poll for at least five years.

Deteriorating roads

Sections of roadwork carried out on Kyogle Road within the last 12 months are already deteriorating. Council said this is probably due to damp conditions at the time of sealing. Repairs will be carried out as soon as possible, subject to favourable weather conditions.

Sewerage Works

Persistent wet weather has further de-

layed work on Uki's sewerage system. At this stage, Council estimates the system will not be ready for use before June.

In response to concerns raised about the damage to roads and paths, Council advises that the contractor is required to carry out restoration work as soon as possible after completing work in that area. However, the rain has made this difficult for the contractor, because compaction is difficult to achieve in wet weather. As a consequence, temporary restoration has been carried out in some instances, but the contractor is also required to keep these topped up and maintained.

The requirement for 'making good' applies to private property as well. In fact, all affected residents have the opportunity to certify that restoration work has been carried out satisfactorily on their property. This information will be used in Council's performance appraisal process. As far as grassed areas are concerned, the contractor's responsibility is to reseed, but not to turf. Any concerns should be directed to Ted Gibson at Tweed Shire Council on 66702634.

Plantings at Tall Gums

Council has agreed to replant the block retaining wall at Tall Gums on Kyogle Road, in order to improve the rather drab appearance of the grey wall. After last year's plantings failed to survive the

drought, the Council Nursery has suggested *Hardenbergia violacea* (Happy Wanderer), a native rambling spreader with purple pea flowers in winter. All going well, this should cascade down the face of the wall.

Uki Grant

UKIRA has been granted \$20,000 under Tweed Shire Council's Rural Village Development Program. Funds will be used for:

- Paving and landscaping at the Buttery
- Replacement of Uki's bus shelter
- Native plant information board at Sweetnam Park
- Youth workshops
- A community noticeboard

Input from the community is invited. For example, is anyone interested in organising some youth workshops?

UKIRA Annual General Meeting

UKIRA's AGM will be held Tuesday 6 May 2003 at 7pm in the Uki Hall. All positions will be thrown open, and nominations will be invited for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, three committee members and the Public Officer. Financial statements for the year ending 31 January 2003 will be presented, and the year's activities will be reviewed. All residents are welcome to attend. The AGM will be followed by UKIRA's general meeting.

RSL Report...

by Ray Blissett, Secretary, Uki RSL Sub-Branch

The Uki Sub-Branch held its AGM for 2003 on 9th February 2003 and John Smith, a Vietnam Veteran, was elected as the 2003 President.

Other office bearers are:

- Senior Vice President Reg Armour
- Junior Vice President Ian Dusi
- Secretary/Treasurer Ray Blissett

A Dawn Service will be held on ANZAC Day, Friday 25th April 2003. The service will commence at 4.28am and will be held at the Uki War Memorial.

A light breakfast will be served in the Hall after the Service. Music pupils from the Uki Primary School have been invited to play at the Service. Federal, State and Shire representatives have been invited to attend.

Cadets from No. 225 Regional Cadet Unit will provide a guard for the Ceremony. All ex-service personnel and members of the local community are invited to attend our Dawn Service.

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Uki Public School...

The 2003 school year has started smoothly with 216 student enrolled in eight classes. Three classes make up the Junior Module, two classes the Middle Module and three classes the Senior Module.

Our Kindergarten class of 26 students is gradually settling into the school routine of "big school". Mrs Toni Reilly is currently on leave and Mrs Jenny Sage is replacing her in Term 1.

On Thursday 27th February, the school held its School Leaders Assembly for 2003. Thanks to the mums and dads, grandparents and friends who supported this important day in the school year. Congratulations to Grace Larkin and Cale Dietrich who were inducted as the Uki Public School Captain and Vice Captain for 2003.

The Student Representative Council for 2003 also received their badges during this ceremony. Congratulations to Callum Warren, Uria Mishtler, Corey Kinnear, Ema Marks, Jasmine Lucas, Mitchell Bohan-Jensen, Jillian Roberts and Jasmine Russ.

The House Captains and Vice Captains were also presented to the assembly. Congratulations to:

Cedars- Charles Brincat(c) Taylor Raymond-Vine(c) Uria Mishtler(vc) Lorena Newell(vc)

Gums - Daniel Neilon(c) Sophie Wheelahan(c) Marcus Roods(vc)

By Garry Brabham, Principal

Oaks- Mischa Neidhart(c) Grace Larkin(c) Nathan Hughes(vc) Ema Marks(vc)

Teaks - Sam Booth(c) Tiarny Meherne(c) Corey Kinnear(vc) Jasmine Lucas(vc)

School Librarians for 2003 were: Daniel Neilson; Priscilla Kendrick; Brodie McDonald -Kerr, Taylor Raymond-Vine, Nikki Fleming, Tiarny Meherne. They will all provide excellent support to Mrs Ray during 2003.

Band Prefects for 2003 were presented with their badges by Mrs Vikki Armour. Well done to Brodie McDonald -Kerr, Daniel Nielson, Lorena Newell, Ashlee Dionysius, Priscilla Kendrick and Charles Brincat.

Uki has also had some success in the swimming pool with Charles Brincat heading to Sydney to swim in the 12 Years 50 Metre Backstroke at the State PSSA Carnival at Homebush in April. Charles swam a personal best time of 39.99 to qualify for this event. It would appear that it is some time since Uki has had a representative at the state carnival for swimming. Keep up the great work Charles!

The school is also trying to locate some second hand or spare pavers to pave an area around the pottery table and construct a path from the small gate on Rowlands Creek Rd to the cement path at the back of the Administration Block. If you have some pavers you would like to donate to the school please contact Kath Mills or Judy Arnold in the office on 6679 5128.

Kaye's Kitchen



By Kaye Wilson

Muesli Bars

- ¾ cup rolled oats
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 7 tablespoons reduced fat margarine
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla
- 2 egg whites
- 1 egg
- 1¼ cups plain flour
- ¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¾ cup sultanas

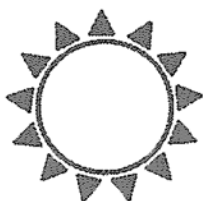
Spread oats in a shallow pan and bake at 200c for 6 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove from pan and set aside.

Cream sugars and margarine until light and fluffy. Add vanilla, egg whites and egg. Beat well. Combine flour, cinnamon, baking powder and baking soda. Add to creamed mixture, mixing well. Stir in oats and sultanas.

Spread evenly into lamington tin coated with baking spray. Bake at 180c for 15-20 minutes, then cool completely in pan. Slice into bars. Great for healthy snacks and lunch boxes. Energy 400KJ, Fat 2.5 grams per bar.

Bon Appetit!

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Toastmasters International, Murwillumbah Club meets at Greenhills on Tweed, every second Thursday - Dinner meeting, 6.45pm to 9.15pm. Guests & visitors welcome.

For more information, contact **Sandra Guthrie on 6672 4833 or 6677 0112**

Historical Society News...

By Mary Lee Connery

For some months now your Historical Society has been working with the other two Societies in the Tweed to clarify many local place names. This followed a meeting with Geographical Place Names Board where the lack of accurate interpretation of many aboriginal names and the historical significance of others, was highlighted.

Light-heartedly, we offered to help, thinking this would be a short exercise and we could knock it over in a few months.

We were wrong, but the task has proved fascinating. Bill Bainbridge, from Tweed Heads H.S. has collected many early dictionaries of the local dialects. Together we have collated the meanings, which relate to our district, and consultation with Tweed Shire Aboriginal Advisory Committee is under way.

Many lively debates have taken place with

local sentiment and local knowledge playing a strong part. Learning why some parks are so called and what community workers have contributed to our district to have the parks named as their memorial has been enlightening.

We found the long lost Commissioner for whom Commissioner's Creek is named. He was William C. Bennett, Commissioner and Engineer for Roads who in 1873 did the survey for the construction of a road along the Nightcap Track. Those who know this area can imagine the difficulties he must have encountered in finding the best route through this rugged country. Let's not forget him again.

All our research will have to be submitted to the Board before the adoption of the "new" meanings. This will then be available on the Board's website and at your Historical Society. Bill Bainbridge's research has given us valuable new resources in the form of dictionaries and early accounts

of European contact with the original inhabitants.

The Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 12th April at 10am in its room beside the Hall. All interested residents are invited to attend and the Society welcomes new members who would like to learn more about the past and to contribute to some of the many exciting projects the Society is engaged in. Currently these include, as well as the Place Names project, assisting with the Community-Based Heritage Study, Archival Storage for the School's records, and our own extensive photographic collection.

The Society is open on Fridays between 10am and 12.30pm. You can ring our Secretary, Mary Roberts on 6679 5157 with enquiries. Remember too, we are interested in recording current events in our area and you can help by donating copies of photos of changes as they happen.

Red Cross News...

by Joy Armour, President, Uki Red Cross

The Great Australian Morning Tea, in aid of cancer research, will be held in Uki Hall on Thursday 22nd May, 2003 from 10am. This is a community effort and any help will be very welcome. Donations of cooking gratefully accepted. For further information phone Joy on 6679 5297.

Another one to put in your diary is the Red Cross Winter Appeal to be held in the Uki Hall on Friday 6th June, 2003. Goods on sale from 9am. Luncheon served from noon to 1.30pm. All donations will be gratefully accepted.

www.ukivillage.com

Have you checked out Uki's website yet?

Look out for the next issue of Uki News, you'll find out all you need to know to make your website work for you!

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Bunya Pine...

By Margaret Bailey

Bunya Pines - *Araucaria bidwillii* - indigenous to Queensland particularly the Bunya Mountain area, produce highly nutritious 'nuts'. They are not really nuts as the Araucarias, (which include the Hoop Pine and Norfolk Island Pine), are conifers and so have cones. The edible part is the ripeseed in the cone. A fully mature cone is the size of a rugby football and can weigh 7 kg - not something you want to drop on you so be careful where you plant these trees!

As with nuts the outer shell needs to be removed, which can be done easily by first roasting, baking or grilling, and then the sweet inside meat can be taken out and eaten. The kernels can be ground and

used instead of flour or in recipes which call for almond meal, like friandes or cheesecake bases.

Or they can be used in sweet and savoury recipes instead of sweet chestnuts or pine nuts: pestos, garnishes for other vegetables such as red cabbage, and Elizabeth David's sinful recipe for Chestnut and Chocolate cake, all come to mind.

Bunyas can reach the fruiting stage in about ten years but will continue to grow for many years. Mature trees can be up to 40 m high, so these are trees for a large block where they will have sufficient space. They make a good focal point, or can be used for windbreaks.

Bunyas are frost tolerant and, although reputed to be sensitive to dry conditions, our's have come through the drought well.

Bunyas grow quite quickly - trees we planted as small seedlings five years ago are now 4 metres plus high. The needle-covered trunks deter predators and our trees look like small bird apartment blocks, with nests at regular intervals all the way up.

The trees do not fruit heavily every year but seem to have a three year cycle. Aboriginal people came from long distances at the period of heavy fruiting for a time of great feasting.

Margaret can be contacted on 6679 9152.

Planet Ark...

By Cathie Miles, President Uki Garden Club

Forests, and consequently plant species, are disappearing around the globe for a number of reasons such as habitat exploitation/destruction and climate change. Unfortunately plants, unlike animals, cannot move out of the way of the bulldozer, chainsaw; or move to a more favourable climate when the climate gets wetter/drier/hotter/colder than the species prefers. Sometimes people have just loved a plant, such as the Cedar of Lebanon, to near extinction, by overusing its wonderful timber thousands of years ago, just as the great Asian teak forests are under threat now.

Our globe is in a period when mass extinctions will take place: the sub-tropical conifers atop high Pacific islands may be gone before they are even named, and the ancient cycad plants, some of which are unchanged for millions of years since the era of the Dinosaurs, may disappear forever. Unscrupulous collectors

have deliberately pushed many endangered species to the very brink of extinction to ensure the monetary value of the plant is increased.

As gardeners though, we have the power to grow some of these threatened plants in our gardens and farms, and make them so common they will be of no use to collectors. If you know of a fragrant old-fashioned rose, or a delicious old tomato variety why not either grow it or pass it on to another gardener to preserve and save for the future of planet Ark. Perhaps even join a garden group such as the Uki Garden Club.

Members meet on the last Saturday of the month at a different member's garden for an informal meeting and buy or swap plants, seeds or excess produce; go for a wander around the garden; have a chat about gardening in general; borrow some gardening books from our library and share a delicious afternoon tea. Members can join up with any or all of the 4 sub-groups: the Native Australian Plant group, the Food group, the Flower Arranging group and the Movie Group.

Annual membership only costs \$20 per household and this includes a very informative monthly newsletter. During 2003 we plan to have a bus trip to the Garden Expo in Brisbane and visit specialist plant wholesale nurseries as well as our regular private garden visits. Anyone is welcome to come to a meeting to see if you'd like to join our group.

For further information, phone Cathie Miles on 6679 7191.



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Headaches...

By Judy Magee



Headaches represent one of the most common physical ailments experienced by people worldwide. They can be caused by a wide variety of things, including: muscle tension, caffeine, alcohol, food or environmental allergies, high blood pressure, spinal misalignments, dental problems, hormonal problems, trauma and brain tumours.

Headaches can be a serious health problem. Some people suffer from headaches that are severe or frequent enough to be incapacitating. Headaches like these may signal a serious health condition, and investigation by an appropriate health professional is recommended.

In the great majority of cases, however, the pain of a headache serves as a warning that a change is needed. These can include being able to:

- Recognize and avoid simple causes of physical tension - eg over exertion, poor posture, too long spent at the computer, etc.
- Recognize and address emotionally stressful situations.
- Development of a regular relaxation program.
- Exercise and/or have a massage
- Learn useful acupressure points. Points

include:

- ✂ In the web at the point where the thumb and first finger join.
- ✂ At the inner corners of the eye sockets at the root of the nose. Press upward as you massage the point. Also along the upper edge of the eye sockets.
- ✂ All along the flat ridge where the skull and neck meet.
- ✂ Two thumbs above the wrist crease on the back of the forearm in line with the middle finger.
- ✂ The pads and the sides of the thumbs and big toes.

Homoeopathic remedies for the treatment of Headaches include:

Belladonna:

- Intense headaches with violent throbbing pains, often right-sided and sometimes with associated fever.
- Pain aggravated by light, noise, touch, strong or unusual smells, motion, or jarring
- Pain begins and passes suddenly
- Pain most typically located in the forehead, from which it may extend to the back of the head

Bryonia:

- Headache aggravated by motion, even very slight motion of the head or eyes

- Steady aching or sense of heaviness with little throbbing
- Headache often centred over left eye
- Headache accompanied by nausea, vomiting, or constipation
- Patient irritable - wants to be left alone

Nux vomica:

- Headaches beginning after overeating; from alcohol, coffee or other drugs; from loss of sleep or insomnia; or from excessive mental work
- The person is irritable, impatient, and chilly.
- Headache accompanied by general sick feeling and by digestive upsets including vomiting, gas, or sour or bitter taste

Confirmatory symptoms
There are many essential oils that can be used to relieve headaches. Particularly effective oils are Lavender, Rosemary and Peppermint, either separately or in combination. Oils can be rubbed on the temples, or made into a cold compress and applied to the temples, forehead or the back of the neck, or placed in a tepid footbath.

Leigh Koppman's

Tweed District Wildlife Rescue Report will resume next issue. The help number for local wildlife in need is 0500 824 789.



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Your Art Gallery, What's On...



By Anouk Beck

Gary Corbett, Director of the Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, has been busy acquiring pieces for the Gallery's permanent collection since he took on his position here in June 1999. On show until Sunday 4 May is The Director's Cut, showcasing but a small selection of the Gallery's 160 acquisitions over the last four years and including sculpture, woodwork, print-making, portrait paintings, landscapes and more.

The Director's Cut will feature works seen here only once, twice, or never before. View again the beautiful Untitled portrait of a woman (circa 1890, possibly of the artist's wife) by John Llewelyn Jones, a recent gift to the gallery from Patrick Corbally Stourton under the Tax Incentives for the Arts (TIA) scheme. Many will remember the portrait from its original showing here in 1999 in the Gallery's touring exhibition John Llewelyn Jones - Australia's Forgotten Painter which travelled to over 21 venues and was seen by 50,000 visitors nationwide.

Philanthropy is a major way in which the Gallery is able to acquire artworks. Other donated works on show include works from Mr Thomas Pilgrim and Mr Pat Corrigan as well as from anonymous donors who prefer to maintain a low profile.

Uki's Lisa Gair will have a specially commissioned work on show. Other local artists include Lorraine Abernethy, Lesley Gail, Steven Giese, Jim Hall, Shirley Kennedy and more.

The last word on this exhibition must come from the Director: Most local and regional galleries have collections that reflect the cultural activity of its artistic community. The collections are guided or informed by the development of acquisition and deaccession policies. A deaccession policy guides the institution on the procedures that must be taken in the disposal of objects from the collection. Many galleries and museums have stories of masterpieces that were disposed of because of fashion. As for me, I like to collect."

Gallery Director, Gary Corbett will present a free Exhibition talk at 11am Wed 26 March 2003. This is your chance to learn more about why these recent acquisitions are important additions to the Gallery's collection. Don't miss it!

Gallery hours are Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm and admission is FREE. The Gallery is at 5 Tumbulgum Rd, Murwillumbah. Ph 6670 2790.

Uki Rural Fire Service...

By Darryl Harding, Captain Uki Rural Fire Service

Well this rain has quietened us down in relation to fires, but we have been busy with MVA's (Motor Vehicle Accidents). Jan - Feb saw us with 12 all up. There were no fatalities but most accidents were treated by Ambulance Officers. Byangum to Kunghur (Kyogle Road) was the worst in the Tweed for several years. Just remember after a dry spell a bit of rain will make these roads a hazard.

On the 25th January, 3 members from Uki Rural Fire Service "Jacko" John Griffiths, John "Tallgums" Buikhuisen and myself went to the Canberra Fires for 5 days. 36 members from Tweed, Byron and Lismore flew from Lismore to Wagga Wagga and then took a 3 hour bus ride to Adaminaby (2hrs southwest of Canberra). On arriving in Wagga, we stepped off the small charter plane into a staggering 44 degree heat, we weren't in our over-



alls yet or against any fires. The crew was split up into day/night shift, and the night shift got dropped off at Tumut at 5pm and went straight into their waiting trucks for their first shift. (14 hours each shift, including changeovers).

The first day saw us travelling through Mt Kosciusko National Park mopping up from the previous few days of fires. The next couple of days we did some large back-burns and also had some hot spots, which jumped containment lines, but with 3 helicopters, 2 with buckets and one as a spotter, we brought the fires back to a containment situation. National Parks also had 2 dozers and 1 grader putting in roads and fire breaks. On the 2nd last day we had fire crews from Lightning Ridge, Forbes as well as surrounding districts.

We stayed at an old ski lodge where we were looked after quite well. It was off season so they were bending over backwards looking after us, which was good compared to when our guys stayed in Shoalhaven (the Sydney Fires) where they had fold out single beds with 7 guys to a room, not good to wake up to!

Half the crew were elected to stay an extra day to fight fires and then return the fire trucks back to Woodburn and Lismore areas where the previous crew before us had borrowed them. Jacko and John were a part of this and were very tired after a 17hour long drive back.

Well it had been a long week for us, and a very good experience. I was glad a small village like Uki had made an impact on such a large-scale disaster. On leaving Canberra I got told how well our brigade performed, and how much Jacko loves red wine! Cheers.

Remember, fire permits ceased 31st March. Open fires in residential areas are prohibited. Paper and cardboard can be burnt in incinerators, but not green waste. If you have any questions phone Darryl Harding on 6679 5028.

Native Plant Garden in Sweetnam Park...

With minimal attention, the newly established native garden at Sweetnam Park flourished through its first nine months despite frosts and drought. It is scary to think what will happen now that we've been blessed with adequate rain. Will we see something like the *Day of the Triffids* - uncontrolled plant growth taking over?

Due to the generosity of the Tweed Shire Council, an interpretive sign will soon be erected, to explain the aim of the garden (to grow plants from this area that are suitable for gardens) and give people information about what we have achieved and what we plan to do next. We'd welcome involvement from anyone who is interested in this project.

Julia Hancock, Sue Phillips, Penny Watsford 6679 5257.

Landcare Activities...

Friends of Wollumbin Landcare Group (FOW) held two very successful Field Days recently - the first in the Byangum area, the second in Glenock/Braeside. Landholders in these areas are celebrating the arrival of the rains by planting local species of trees to repair some of the damage done in the past by land clearing for dairying and the resultant spread of exotics such as camphor laurel and privet.

FOW is putting together an application for funding under Green Corps, for a team of workers to begin work regenerating the riparian zone near Byangum. Anyone wishing to be involved in Friends of Wollumbin Landcare, phone Lloyd on 6679 5353.