

# Healing Thymes at Uki Village Gardens

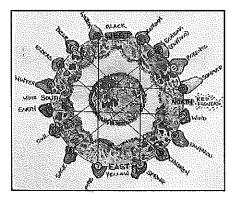
Greg O'Donnell

On 30th May over 30 enthusiastic locals participated in the creation of a "Stone Circle" at the Uki Village Gardens. You may have noticed the sculptural formation while driving past and wondered "What is it?" Well firstly it's a place of contemplation to remind us of our connection to the environment and reinforce our sense of place. And secondly, it's in the process of becoming a medicinal herb garden for anyone who needs a little healing in nature!



The stones were donated by Graham, a generous local who also participated in the circle's creation which was officiated by Maya Krasna. The day was full of song, joy and ceremony with participation by many of the village's younger folk. We even created an open fire circle with some of the left-over

stones, which was the centrepiece of a Winter Solstice celebration several weeks later.



You may also have noticed a new windy pathway in the gardens leading up to a timber "entrance folly" at the western end of the site. This is to provide easier access to and from the site from the village.

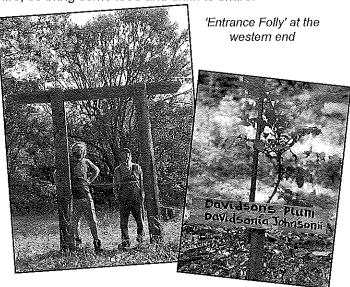
Lots of locals are pitching in to help build with the gardens and have donated cardboard, heavy machinery,

lawn mowing, fruit trees, vegie seedlings and even horse poo (which we collect ourselves!). We have also been blessed with some funding in the form of individual donations and a government grant.

The grant provides assistance with bushland restoration work and propagation of native species including bush tucker varieties around the gardens. It will also fund a water tank, pump and irrigation piping to fruit trees and garden beds which will greatly assist in productivity!

Our next big event is a free **Bush Tucker Planting Day on Saturday 15th August.** We will be planting a food forest in the gardens with some knowledgeable assistance from a local expert. You are invited to come and learn about bush tucker and get involved in your local gardens. Bring the whole family - there will be lots to do for everyone.

You are welcome to stay on for dinner around the camp fire, so bring some food and drink to share.



#### **Bush Tucker Planting Day**

When: 2pm Saturday 15th August (finish approx. 8pm)
Where: Uki Village Gardens, Corner Smiths Creek Rd and

Kyogle Road

Bring: Water, chair, gloves, and food and drink to share for dinner

## From the Editors

#### Welcome to Uki News Issue 113.

Due to the reduced size of the Uki News from 16 to 12 pages we weren't able to include all the submitted contributions in this issue. Please accept our apologies. We will endeavour to include those contributions that missed this Issue in

the next Issue.

Closing date for contributions in Issue 114 is September 18th with distribution to commence October 7th. With only two more Issues remaining in 2020 (114 & 115) please consider placing an ad for your business or contributing an article of local interest.

Advertising revenue is essential to continue the work of UKIRA in producing the Uki News. We appreciate all our advertisers and contributors and thank you for your continued support.

The Editors



#### Contact Uki News: theukinews@hotmail.com

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We'd love to hear from you... Send your letters to theukinews@hotmail.com.

## Uki Residents Association's Annual General Meeting

otice is hereby given for the forthcoming UKIRA AGM. The AGM will be held on **October 6th, starting 7pm** at the usual meeting place (**Hall meeting room**). All welcome to attend.

Samuel Quint - on behalf of UKIRA

# Tweed Valley Still to Fully Honour South Sea Islanders

am a member of the Uki Refugee Project. In my private capacity I am helping Robyn Watego Tait to restore dignity to the gravesites of South Sea Islanders and other locals buried in Chinderah. I wondered whether you are interested in the following article? Australian South Sea Islanders were brought to the Tweed in the 1800s and put to work in the sugar industry, on the railway and other agricultural jobs. Often blackbirded from the islands and treated harshly, their descendants are very proud of their forebears and are still seeking justice today.

Robyn Watego Tait, whose family hails from the Tweed, is working hard to have a gravesite at Chinderah recognised. The gravesite has South Sea Islander graves and other local graves. There is no signage to acknowledge this important site in Tweed's history. Robyn has started a gofundme page to raise money to create and erect a sign. The sign will be made by a carver from Vanuatu and will have traditional Melanesian motifs. The sign will also feature black and white hands shaking in recognition of the different souls buried at the site and to send a message of our common humanity. Any donations would be most welcome https://www.gofundme.com/f/signage-at-chinderah-general-cemetery.

Further information: Robyn Watego Tait 0477 157407 or Steve Maguire 0458 799129





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# Relationship Health and our Environment

Heather McClelland

magine your fragility if you lived in a city where a huge, poorly maintained dam above you is about to burst because of glacial thaw and poverty.

In Uki we live in a relatively safe and complacent bubble despite our changing climate being brought home to us by the magnitude of the 2017 flood and the 2019 drought-ridden rainforest fires.

Lliuya is the Peruvian farmer arguing in court that a big German Company, one of the world's top emitters of climate-altering carbon dioxide, must share in the cost of protecting his hometown Huaraz from imminent disaster.

Scientists have now documented the percentage of carbon released into the atmosphere by the highest coal, oil and gas companies and the biggest polluting countries. The German Court has acknowledged the validity of Lliuya's claim. In the next few weeks the innovative evidence will be scrutinized!

While we are all engaged in the battle against Covid-19, awareness and acknowledgment that the pandemic is linked to climate change and humanity's relationship to nature, is limited.

Lee Hannah, ecologist and senior international climatechange scientist, urges that to reduce the likelihood of more pandemics we must protect nature's ecosystems. These function like the human body: When they are robust



and healthy — which means they have diverse species and space for healthy animal populations — they are more resistant to disease. Thriving ecosystems benefit humanity, from fresh water to food to fertile soil [and general wellness]. However, when human activities such as logging, mining and animal-trading disrupt and degrade these ecosystems, animals are forced closer together, are more likely to be stressed or sick and come into closer contact with people. Then diseases can bounce animal-human, back and forth.

We need to exercise our will at the ballot box to change and improve Climate Policy and environmental protections. Our record is abysmal. Right now we are logging fireravaged areas and even the habitats of our precious koalas! Conservationists warn that with warming, animal species, like humans in threatened cities, are being forced to move. Escape for animals means nearer the poles, up mountains or into extinction.

# Controversial Technologies 2020

Louise Bally

nnovation, particularly in the area of science and technology is an ever-expanding tree of knowledge that sees new devices and technologies entering our lives as time progresses. This should make us all stop and think - at what point do the negatives of innovation overshadow the good that it may bring? And is there ever an innovation so beneficial to the world that it would be worth compromising on ethics in order to achieve scientific and technological progress? Ponder these questions as new science and technology is introduced to our lives.

#### **Genetic Fortune Telling**

One day in the future, parents will be able to get their newborns DNA analysed at birth, providing predictions about career path potentiality, intelligence levels, and likeliness of heart attacks, cancer and addictive personality traits.

Scientists have studied the human genome of over a million volunteers and developed what they call "polygenic risk scores." These scores are not yet perfectly reliable, but they can predict trends in behaviour as well as likeliness of certain diseases. It sure begs the question: how will governments, parents and educators use that information? Will the existence of such data, stifle the freedom, individuality and artistic expression of future generations,

or will it assist developing youngsters to find their perfect niche in life.

According to Antonio Regalado, behavioral geneticists such as Eric Turkheimer, believe that such genetic data will likely be used for both good and bad, making the new technology "simultaneously exciting and alarming."

#### **Facial Recognition Software**

We are starting to see an increase in the use and scope of facial recognition software, outside use in device privacy such as phone locking and unlocking. During the last royal wedding the New York Times used such software to identify the arriving guests at the wedding, using it to determine the connection of each guest to the royal couple. CCTV is now capable of identification of individuals as they walk down the street leading to questions addressing the possibility of governments overstepping their authority, privacy right violations, racial ethics and of variation in the reliability of techniques in use.

The public need to become vigilant in questioning the introduction of new technologies, having some insight to look at what may lie further down the road after such techniques are put into use. Is privacy already a thing of the past?

# Uki Post Office Update

Gary Wall

#### Changes to PO Boxes at the Uki Post Office

As a valued PO Box customer at the Uki Post Office, I am writing to advise you about some changes we will be making to the configuration of our current PO Box suite.

Commencing in early August 2020, the Uki Post Office will be undertaking some minor building works to restore heritage features and help improve the overall look and feel of the current site. Whilst there will be no interruption to trading, entry to the Post Office will temporarily be available via the new deck in the side laneway.

#### What these works mean for your PO Box

As part of these building works, new PO Boxes will be installed. They will be undercover and accessible 24/7 via the laneway, which we will ensure is well-lit for safe afterhours access.

Importantly, there will be no changes to your current PO Box number or address, however new keys will be made available.

#### **Next steps**

Once the new PO Box suite is installed, the existing PO Boxes will be removed. A week prior to their decommission, replacement keys will be delivered to your current PO Box and you will be able to access your new PO Box.

If you are unable to attend your current PO Box to collect your new keys prior to the old PO Boxes being

decommissioned, you can collect them at the Post Office during business hours. Please ensure you bring photo identification if collecting your new keys over the counter.

To assist us with decommissioning the old PO Box suite, we ask that you please return your old PO Box keys to the Post Office during business hours, or alternatively place them in the envelope provided and post them in the red box at the front of the building. We thank you for your understanding whilst we undertake this change, and look forward to continuing to serve you at the Uki Post Office.

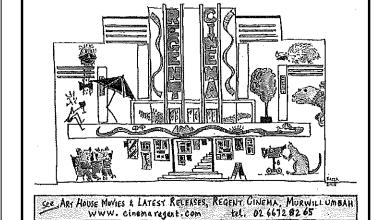
If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a friendly member of the team at the in-store.

## Picnic in the Park

After a 4 month shut down, it was exciting to get back to a little normality and for our community to enjoy an evening out.

Thank you to all our Picnickers who braved the cold and to Delta Groove for entertaining us. It was great to see so many happy faces, some regulars and some first timers. Also, big thanks to Gary for being our Covid marshal and reminding us of the rules.

Picnic will be held on the 1st Thursday of the month until Christmas. Artists that are booked in are Leigh James on August 6th, Phil and Tilley on September 3rd and Mantle peace on November 5th. Bring your winter woollies and come and have some fun!



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# A Four Finger Exercise

Rev. John Tyman, Holy Trinity Church

## Interesting, isn't it, how seemingly different things sometimes fit together to make a whole?

(1) A few weeks back, in a book of reflections published by the Society of St. Francis, I came across the words of the Czech playwright and statesman Vaclav Havel. The last president of Czechoslovakia and the first president of the new Czech Republic following partition. He is considered one of the great intellectuals of the 20th century. He was a lifelong champion of human rights and had been an outspoken critic of Russia's invasion of Czechoslovakia... and was imprisoned for doing so.

He wrote: "There is such an enormous gap between our words and our deeds! Everyone talks about freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and peace; but at the same time, everyone, more or less, consciously or unconsciously, serves those values and ideals only to the extent necessary to defend and serve their own interests and those of their group or their state. Who should break this vicious circle? Responsibility cannot be preached; it can only be borne, and the only possible place to begin is with myself."

(2) A day or two after I'd seen this I was challenged by the appointed daily reading in my statement of Franciscan Principles that, "we are prepared not only to speak out for justice and international peace, but to put these principles into practice in our own lives, cheerfully facing any scorn or persecution to which this may lead." In Canada I was threatened because of my opposition to the abuse of local Native Indian communities, but my subsequent migration to Australia was a blessing not a punishment.

In Australia I have become an inveterate writer of letters to editors, stirring as best I may, but I am uncertain as to their impact on others, or even on myself. May be I have not written enough! I still live in a nice house with a nice garden and I am well fed by Centrelink even as I lament my government's lack of vision or compassion for asylum seekers ... and its idea of a "greatness" not unlike that of President Trump.

(3) Yet it is easy to blame others for the inequalities and injustices that disfigure daily life at home and abroad. Prime ministers and presidents are easy targets especially, since most countries today are ruled by politicians

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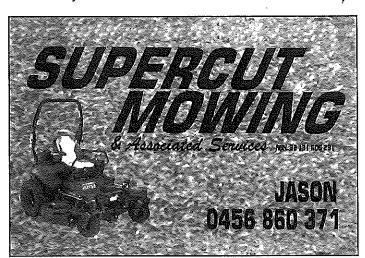
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finger at someone
I notice there are
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It's very threatening.



dependent on retaining the votes of an electorate which they believe to be equally lacking in compassion ... instead of being ruled by statesmen who incarnate principles of justice.

The ease with which we can blame others and overlook our own responsibilities as human beings, was actually highlighted the week before by Leunig in the Sydney Morning Herald (of June 27-28). In his usual whimsical but penetrating style he observed: "I'm having terrible trouble accusing and denouncing people. When I point my finger at someone I notice there are three of my fingers pointing back at me. It's very threatening."

How do you feel?



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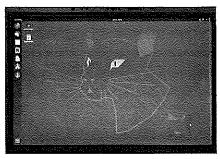
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# Upgrades at the CTC

Uki CTC

The Uki Community Technology Center is currently undergoing changes - public computers will be installed with Linux, a cross-platform operating system, more suitable for our aging computers & online personal data

safety.



There will be a small learning curve for all of us who are new to Linux - although it is a very intuitive and user-friendly operating system and the desktop display is in many ways very similar if not identical to Windows & Apple operating systems - and for 99% of users, Firefox, Chrome



etc. will all be exactly the same as experienced on any operating system.

Although the public computers will have multi-software support as provided by Linux community freeware - Photoshop will only be available on CTC Staff computers which are all currently undergoing hardware upgrades. One computer is especially being constructed for advanced graphics processing for artists / 3D models - it will feature 32GB DDR3 RAM, 6GB GTX1060 Graphics Card, i7 Intel Cpu processor - capable of producing, editing, and rendering images up to and including 48,000px \* 48,000px finalised at file size of ~40GB.

Hopefully this new addition can deal with the creative & editing demands of local artists at a speed much better than the current computers at the CTC can offer. So we would ask patience during this teething process. The CTC is also experiencing a shortage of staff with the Covid pandemic which is compromising opening hours.

# Interviews with Local Artists Series: Artist Sue Keneally

Diane Johansson

n my interviews with artists in our creative little town Sue was a person I was really interested in checking out.

With an Arts degree firmly in hand Sue Went on to choose to share her skills with a career in teaching. I was keen to see her studio, keen to learn her secrets.

Her finely honed skills in not only painting and drawing, but also ceramics, are wonderfully evident in her well designed studio developed with the help of her musician husband. David is not too shabby in the creative pursuits himself.

Her studio is well lit with natural light surrounded by works in progress, works that need a bit more thinking time and work that is stunning.

Sue is an artist that delves into the world of fine detail. Importantly for the lucky folks here, Sue was one of the

main drivers along with Postmaster Gary for the timely creation of UKI ART POST.

Now known around the country as the 'hippest' little post office, with not only the best coffee but a rotating gallery of artists due to resume exhibitions next year.

It was my great fortune to have met Sue and her husband not long after I moved here. My work has improved greatly with her generous and often hilarious advice.

I don't know about you but I just love talking to artists. They see the world in an entirely different way. They look at the landscape and see colour, lines, form and structure.

Its our landscape, our magnificent views that draw them all here. How fortunate we are to live in this creative community.





# Uki Refugee Project

Bryan McClelland

## undraising Success at Kingscliff Street Stall

"I haven't seen a cake stall for ages!" "Ooh, doesn't this look so tempting." "Look at those marmalades." Spontaneous comments flew. Passing trade was brisk at the stall located strategically on Marine Parade. URP supporters had stocked it with an enticing array of cakes, biscuits, preserves and plants as well as terrific raffle prizes. Almost \$1900 was raised from the sales, raffle and donations.

The street stall also raised awareness about the plight of refugees left unsupported by the Covid 19 emergency. Just one example from a recent briefing:

 Unemployment rates among bridging, safe haven enterprise and temporary protection visa holders are projected to rise from approximately 19.3% to 41.8%

As a result many are living below the poverty line. In relaxed conversation it was possible to explain also that URP enables people in the Tweed to make a meaningful difference for them. We have teamed up with the Romero Centre in Brisbane where a large number of refugees receive help via a food pantry, accommodation assistance and support groups. Earlier this year a direct



appeal to our support base raised \$2000 (more donations were made directly to Romero). Two members of our URP team now organise the regular Romero newsletter.

#### Looking ahead

After several times on Zoom our team is now back to meeting face-to-face. We continue to explore future

possibilities. A Friendship Visit in October is yet to be confirmed. There are positive ideas for a hiking group for young people, which is also on hold until at least 2021. We are focusing some energy right now on the need for refugee accommodation.

Perhaps you would consider becoming involved as a member of the planning group? If so email us on:

uki.refugee.project@gmail.com

Donations will be used very effectively!

To Uki Refugee Project: Bank: BCU

Acc No: 236 187 BSB: 533 000 OR

Romero Centre donation link: (tax deductible status) https://romero.mercycommunity.org.

food pantry, accommodation assistance nd support groups. Earlier this year a dire Open 7 Days for Lunch and Dinner OFFER: \$12 Dinner Specials, Pizzas

Pool Comp Wed, Trivia Thurs, Jackpot and Raffles Fri.

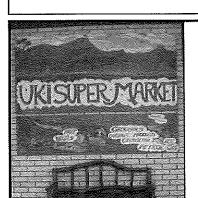
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## The Heroes of Uki

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Story by Brenda

We are still hearing of the devastation caused by the 2019 bush fires, and of the dedication of the Rural Fire fighters across the nation. Of course, Uki has their own heroes. The crew of the Uki Rural Fire Brigade. After extinguishing the local fires, they then teamed up with others brigades and gave generously of their time. This is old news now, however for Beverly of West Tweed Heads, it has stayed in her mind. Hearing of the lack of equipment some of the brigades have suffered, Beverly wanted to help out, and who better to support than the team of the Uki fire brigade.

A perfect Saturday morning at the Uki Farmers Markets saw Beverly presenting a cheque for \$2,000 (Saturday 6th June) to Captain Brett Ryan representing the Uki Rural Fire Brigade, Captain Brett said the money would purchase much needed items to ensure the safety of his team. He also said the brigade had two trucks but only one chainsaw and now he is able to purchase a much needed second one with some of the donation.



#### **NSW Rural Fire Service**

Captain Brett spent an enjoyable morning entertaining a small group with his fire fighting stories. He also wishes to thank and acknowledge the kindness and generosity of Beverly for supporting the Uki community.





# **Uki News Advertising Opportunities**

The Editors

ki News is an initiative of UKIRA (Uki Resident's Association) who are effectively the publishers. Uki News publishes 1100 copies, every 2 months. Distribution is from Byangum Bridge to the Nimbin/Blue Knob turn off. Quite good coverage for a \$25 business card advert! Advertising rates are as follows:

Business Card size: \$25, Quarter page: \$55, Half page: \$90, Full page: \$175

To advertise with Uki News please provide the following:

A PDF or JPEG version of your advertisement. (min 150dpi if possible), Your name and address (for invoicing), The size of advert you would like to run.

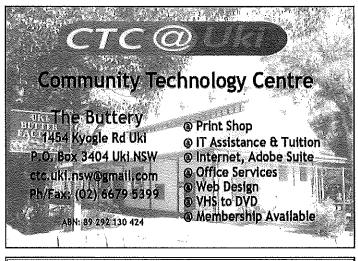
These details will be passed on to UKIRA. You will then receive an invoice from UKIRA after the publication of your advert. We will then run your advert until you inform us otherwise.

Funds raised by UKIRA go toward further publication of Uki News.

For more details or to place an ad with future Issues of Uki News contact us at:

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#### Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc

# **Byrrill Creek School 1923-1963**

Esma Thompson

here were 12 children of school age needing education at Byrrill Creek in 1920. The Education Department's policy at the time seemed to be an average of ten children for the establishment of a school. The application for a school in 1920 was turned down by the Chief Inspector as he felt there was no prospect of maintaining the school's viability with only 12 children. Letters were written by parents and representations were made by the Honourable R.S. Perdriau M.L.A. to the Department for the building of a school. After a meeting of parents on Saturday 19th November 1921 the parents decided they would contribute in a practical way to the building of a school. The land was donated by Mr Bob Spurway. In December 1921 approval was given by the Department for the building of a Provisional School at Byrrill Creek with the acceptance of the supply and delivery of timber by the parents. The Department's architect was put in charge of the building. Because of the isolation and day labour being hard to find, the building took much longer to build than expected and his costs blew out to £62/3/4 for which he was reprimanded.

The school layout was the main room with six desks and stools for pupils, a desk plus a chair for the teacher.

Provision was also made for a black board, shelves for library books, storage cupboards and a black stove for warmth in winter. There was an adjoining porch where school bags and hats were hung and a large cupboard for storage of used books of pupils. The verandah had a full length stool to sit on to eat lunch. In March 1928 enrolment was 13 with an average attendance of 11.1. By August 1928 only 10 children were enrolled. The teacher Mr Bailey had a falling out with a parent, Mr Cusack, who showed his anger and his power by withdrawing his three children, sending them to Terragon School. The result was that Byrrill Creek's enrolment fell to crisis level so the Inspector spoke to the parents about the closure of the school at the end of the year, December 1928. When the school

year opened in 1929 without a teacher being appointed the parents called a meeting. The Inspector responded by recommending that the parents and children be given another chance. The nearest school Terragon was 5 miles away and was difficult for the children to get to.

Mr Griffin was appointed to the school in 1929. Sadly he was killed in a motor bike accident on the 11th August 1929. Mathew Currigan was his replacement. Local meetings were held in the school, the Agricultural Bureau and Mebbin Tennis Club.

In 1931 the situation regarding attendance was at crisis with low enrolment. When whooping cough swept through the school, Mr Currigan marked all the pupils absent, so the Department closed the school. After a year without a school the parents approached the Department to get the school reopened, but the Department only offered a subsidised school with the Department paying half the

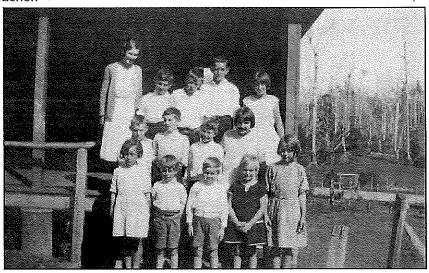
teacher's salary and the parents to pay the other half. [The following information was written by an unknown Byrrill Creek Student who started school in 1929: "We were very lucky at this time to secure Mysie Spurway to teach us. Mysie was a trained high school teacher, but was not able to secure a position with the department owing to the Depression. Mysie taught us till she secured parttime teaching at Lismore. Eva Spurway then taught us. Eva was not trained as a teacher, but did an excellent job of teaching us." | During 1932 to 1937 as a Provisional School the P. & C. completed considerable improvements around the school and planted ornamental trees and the children were taught by stand-in community members. The school was reopened 1938 with the appointment of a new teacher Charles Pearce. The school closed in 1956 reopened in 1957 until December 1962. Formal closure was January 1963.

Contact: Esma Thompson (secretary)

Ph: 02 6679 5890 Ph. AH: 02 6679 9121

Email: trmuki@tweed.nsw.gov.au<mailto:trmuki@tweed.

nsw.gov.au>



Byrrill Creek School Circa 1928 Teacher; Mysie Spurway Photo Courtesy Tweed Regional Museum



# Uki Buttery Bazaar Entertainment

Sanne Grace Kerma

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

To book a stall at the monthly Uki Buttery Bazaar please contact Lisa on **0487 329 150**.

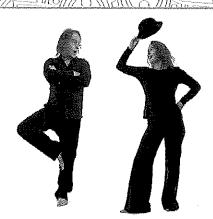
## **AUGUST Buttery Bazaar**

Sunday 16th AUGUST

## Dinkum Boho's and special guests

Dinkum Bohos' are Vashudha and Jem, a pair of consummate musicians who have been merging their love and musical artistry for 12 years. Inspired by a spectrum of styles from around the world, audiences may find themselves magically transported to a parisian café, a smoky jazz club, a flamenco fiesta, a poet's wine bar, a steamy dance floor, a sacred sound temple, a tango milonga, a greek taverna, an acoustic folk club, all in the middle of the marketplace!

Each show features different combinations of instruments: vocals, piano, accordion, spanish guitar, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, slide guitar, ukulele bass, drums, percussion, vibraphone, melodica, harmonic chimes.



Dinkum Bohos' extensive and diverse repertoire embraces the gentle meditative ambient trancey side of life and can slowly transform into jazzy jaunty modern folklorica flamenco tango frenchy chic gypsy mojo. Ole!.

Special guests include Leif, Matt Connolly and Vashuda's young music students.



## **SEPTEMBER Buttery Bazaar**

Sunday 20th SEPTEMBER

#### Murray Kyle and special guests

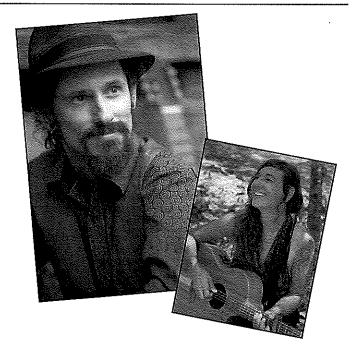
rom a life rich in musical pilgrimage, comes the auditory download of Murray Kyle.

Hailing from the visionary Byron Bay region of Australia, this mystic troubadour has built a dedicated international fan base from 15 years of grass roots touring all over the world. His live performances of heart medicine and Earth honouring songs, successfully blend conscious lyrics and authentic intention with a well produced sound. The inner world of this profound artist comes alive on stage spanning Shamanic Soul, Conscious Roots, World, and Sacred Music genres.

A prolific songwriter, multi instrumentalist, and sound engineer, Murray has released multiple self produced studio albums over the last decade, grounded in unity consciousness, and dedicated to the re-awakening of the beauty way.

His journey in the worldwide heart music network has led to studio and live collaborations with artists such as Rising Appalachia, Nessi Gomes, Tina Malia, Trevor Hall, Elijah Ray, Peia, Shimshai, and many more.

This is contagious soul restoring music that will sweep you off your feet, out of your head, and into your heart.



**Special guest, Shaeh** - Inspired by a deep reverence for nature, love, and spiritual devotion, Byron Bay musician Shaeh captures beauty and awe with her lyrics.

She carries a harmonic journey of prayer to remember the power of simple connection to the world around, and to the world within.

#### Thanks to the Uki Supermarket

UKIRA wants to thank and acknowledge the Uki Supermarket for offering to support the Uki Buttery Bazaar Markets. Thanks to the generosity of proprietors Dave and Bec, the Uki community can look forward to future markets having a broader showcase of musicians and bands, plus other colourful ideas like children's activities, buskers, roving performers. Thanks so much Dave & Bec!!

# **Astrology**

Paola Emma

#### **Astrology: August September 2020** Jupiter and Neptune

Jupiter-Neptune's transit (July 28) shines a bright light on an otherwise difficult period. This influence, whose first pass was one of few positive aspects last February, will remain active this time well into August and then return, for the third and last time, on October 12. The energies of those two Planets, when in harmony like now, promise a reawakening of spirituality and goodwill, an evolving philosophy of compassion and acceptance. Considering the power belligerent Mars is gaining from now to the end of the year, this harmonious alignment could help to develop the qualities that are now more than ever needed to avoid all out conflicts.

#### Focus on Mars

Mars entered Aries on June 28 and, due to Retrogradation (Sep10-Nov14), it will transit Aries all the way to January 7 2021. This is important because some of Mars' difficult transits, becoming exact in August and September, will re-occur from October to December, even spilling over into 2021. These transits will be triggering again the planets at the centre of the present crisis. Due to Mars' slowing motion, while close to retrogradation, its transits not only will last longer but could also be more intense and problematic.

Mars symbolizes our physical drive, instinctual fight/flight reactions, acting upon our impulses, but, negatively, it can manifest as uncompromising, confrontational, aggressive, me-first tendencies. All that said, there is also a positive side to Mars transiting Aries for this length of time. It could afford us the courage to assert our rights in more open and direct ways, fighting for independence and justice, in our personal and social lives.

#### Mars square Jupiter: August4-October19 2020 + January 23 2021.

This is a transit for risk taking and the irrepressible urge for freedom of action and expression. Self-righteousness may prevail in the collective, as well as an exaggerated sense of entitlement, lack of caution and forethought. While it could be a positive thing to fight with courage for our rights and to redress injustice, it could also lead to



#### Interested in rural land sharing for sustainable living?

We are a small like-minded group looking for a property that offers climate resilience and sustainability, with the intention of deeply adapting to future planetary conditions.

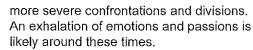
Ideally located between Murwillumbah & Mt Burrell, 25-100 acres with abundant water. Our aim is to have separate dwellings with shared gardens, facilities etc.

We are a group of two professional couples with older children who have lived in the area for many years and are involved in the local community, ideally we are looking for an individual contribution of \$250,000 for purchasing and setting up the property.

Would you like to join us, or do you have a property that would suit our objectives?

Please call Alison 0484 141 787 for more info & to discuss your potential participation:





Mars square Pluto: August13-October9-December 24 2020.

This transit falls on the 23rd degree of Aries and Capricorn, the latter the same sensitive degree where the Saturn-Pluto conjunction occurred in early January. That aspect was at the centre not only of the

whole Covid saga and its disastrous economic aftermath, but also of the global civil unrest and drive to redress historical wrongs that, like the virus, doesn't show signs of

During the Mars-Pluto's transit we could find ourselves in situations we cannot control, particularly resenting their negative impact on our lives, and likely responding in dramatic and extreme ways. A similar transit of Mars-Pluto became active in March at the time most governments had to put in place draconian measures to deal with the worsening pandemic. These measures generated then and could cause again some serious backlash, many fearing the unprecedented power of the authorities over our individual freedom.

#### Mars Square Saturn: August25-September30 2020 + January 13 2021.

This must be the exemplary transit of frustration and angry discontent. The desire to act out our desire is strong with Mars in Aries but it is now finding powerful obstacles. It could be anything, from bad luck to lack of opportunities, financial hardship, people standing in our way or good old negative thinking. This could make duties, discipline, restrictions and commitments harder to bear than usual. More patience that we feel we have may be required to deal with these jarring energies; two antithetical planets forced to work together for an extended period of time. Working at long term plans will be a great way to navigate this transit for a positive outcome.

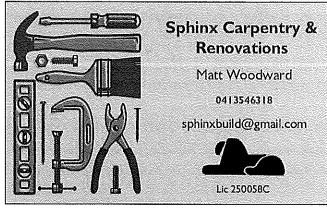
#### The Libra Spring Equinox, Waxing Crescent Sagittarius Moon, September 22, 11.30 pm local time

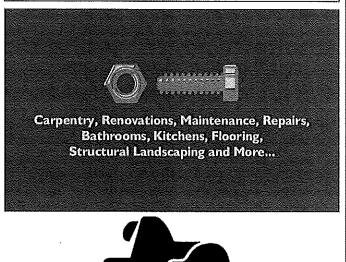
The Libra Equinox shows a near perfect opposition of Mercury in Libra and Mars in Aries, a difficult balance between the drive for direct action (Aries Mars) and the need for careful deliberation before taking action (Libra Mercury). Both Mercury and Mars are at right angle to Saturn and Pluto in Capricorn (t-square), stressing the potential for conflict and power struggles, and also again highlighting that the end of this global crisis is still in the future. Because the planetary configuration at this crucial time could mean a bumpy start to the new season, its celebrations could include some symbolical reminder of the need to create harmony and accord out of disharmony and discord, a balanced mind (Mercury) over unruly impulses (Mars).

For more astrological insight visit my site: livingmoonastrology.com



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Sunbeam Solar are a local business who have served the Tweed and Byron shires for the past 21 years. We are committed to providing clients with solar power systems that suit their needs, helping to significantly lower their energy costs or in putting an end to their electricity bills

Government rebates are available for both types of solar, grid connect or stand alone systems. We offer competitive prices and installation of the highest quality. We have a track record of supporting our local clientele for over 20 years, providing back up service and warranties.

Our team is professional and thorough from jobs as small as sheds and houses to larger installations such as their recent 40Kw system install at the Mullumbimby Rural Co-op.

For more information please contact: sunbeamsolar@bigpond.com (02) 6679 7228

