



**Don't forget the upcoming Council election Sat 27 March!**

# Uki News

*Where the mountains touch the sky!*

## Mitchell St Developments...

**By Phil Carr**

Development issues again face Uki residents as Tweed Shire Council prepares to consider a development application (DA) for a 3 lot subdivision on the same Mitchell St block for which a unit development was refused last year. Consideration of this latest DA will raise the matter of minimum sized allotments, but will also underline urgent concerns among the community that planning controls need to be prepared specifically for Uki. In September, Council resolved to commence the process for drafting a specific Development Control Plan for Uki, but has recently deferred this exercise.

Development Control Plan 44, relating to Dual Occupancy Controls in the Tweed, Council would not support an application for dual occupancy on land less than 900m<sup>2</sup>. The DA in question provides for 3 lots of 451m<sup>2</sup>, 493m<sup>2</sup> and 670m<sup>2</sup>. In other words, on such blocks only single dwellings would be supported.

There is also concern that, should this latest DA be approved, some form of multi-dwelling developments may follow. However, Council's Acting Director of Planning, Garry Smith, has

This latest DA follows extraordinary scenes last year when residents flocked to public meetings and Council chambers to protest the Mitchell Street unit development on the grounds that the design and scale was out of character with that of the village. Meanwhile, the developer has the right to appeal Council's decision in the Land and Environment Court for up to 12 months.

## Uki Australia Day...

**By Cath Donaldson**

Uki was proud to host the 2004 official Australia day celebrations and award ceremony for the Tweed Shire. With much thanks to the Uki sports club, we were able to put on a fantastic day!

then the grand finale, after the traditional kids wheelbarrow races, was the famous 'Uki Tug of war'. Two teams were drawn out of a hat and competed for the best out of three. The winners were gridders and enjoyed a free beer for their efforts!

From the limited overs of cricket in the morning (and the competition is getting pretty hot!) to kids races, Billy tea, damper and our own local awards before the official citizenship presentation and award ceremony. Congrats to Uki Citizens of the year Pip & Annette Nichols, who are much appreciated for their work with the Sports ground, Volunteer fire brigade and ongoing support for local activities. Congratulations also to all the other award recipients of the day. Volunteer - Thelma Dusi, Young Achiever - Grace Larkin, Junior Sports - Charles Brincat, Adult sportsperson- Trent Smith, Senior 'old Man' sportsperson - Graeme Dietrich, Outstanding sports team -the U/9's Uki Pythons soccer team and rounding up with the community event of the year our very own 'Uki Residents Association community Christmas party.' Thanks for the nominations.

Thanks Uki sports club and all who supported it. Don't miss next year's cricket challenge and the much loved 'Rusty Crusties' in action!

## Big Success for Little Athletics in Uki...

With three meets now under their belt, Uki Little Athletics group hopes to maintain its friendly and non-competitive atmosphere, stressing personal achievement as the ultimate goal. Despite limited equipment and amateur coaches, the kids seem to be having a lot of fun.

After all the awards and official part of the day was over, we had the crowd pleaser, a resurrection of the 'Rusty Ironman' and 'Rusty Ironwoman' competition. Winners were Max Harris and Jade Bianchetti. Heaps of fun and

Parental support and involvement has been outstanding. We are continuing to expand our repertoire of activities, with the long-jump pit next on the list. A free coaching clinic for interested parents is held on Sunday 22 Feb, starting 8am, and will last the entire day.

All new kids, aged 5 to 15, can try Uki Little Athletics free for two weeks. One parent must be in attendance. The season will continue until the end of March, so come on down to the Sportsground Friday afternoon from 5 to 7pm. For more info call Graham on 6679 4075 or Lloyd on 6679 5353.

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## Letters To The Editor...



### School Art...

I would like to thank all who read, signed and let their views be known on the petition I placed in the community to make people aware of the potential loss of Uki Public School's Art program. I was overwhelmed by the positive response and it was a good indication that art is in fact valued and people do not want to lose it. I sent copies of the petition with over 200 signatures to the Director General of Education, the Minister of Education, the Teachers Federation, Wayne Parkins, District Superintendent, and Larry Anthony. It now seems the art program will stay 2 days a week, enabling each child at Uki Public to do art once a week.

I thank local business for allowing me to place the petition on their counters, Uki Shopping Centre, Post Office and Uki Dreaming Café. And also thanks to Principal Garry Brabham, for "finding a way" to keep the art program alive - I know I have been tenacious in my quest to keep the art program in place. I think the positive result serves to remind us that if we care enough about an issue and let our views be known and take action we do in fact still have the power to make a difference! My next passion is building the long-awaited art/music/multi-purpose/special learning space- the latter being the latest name given to the space we have fundraised hard for so that our children have a space for art/play music - Thank you kindly. **Debby Mishteler 6679 9183.**



### Well Done Uki School...

A notable recent event in our community was Presentation Day at Uki Public School in December. The significance of the occasion was marked by the presence of Joy Armour, our matriarch, who presented awards to the Captain and Vice-Captain of the school. These young citizens ran the function with the confidence and style typical of public speakers in the school. Despite the absence of a greatly needed school hall and difficulties presented by the pouring rain, the ceremony was invested with formality and dignity.

The keynote throughout was the striving for excellence, whether it be in the academic arena, sport, music, art, leadership or citizenship. It was an exercise in role modeling for the children from Kindy up, indeed, even for the parents - a recognition of and respect for endeavour and the path to achieve the best possible result. Tributes paid by members of staff to their peers, in particular Steve Dean, who is moving on, were a telling reflection of the unity and pride in the school. The students of Uki Public School are blessed to be in the care of such committed staff.

It is comforting to know that further down the track, some of these students might enter the political arena, hopefully at the local level. The future is theirs. We are in safe hands.

**Betty Starr, Doon Doon**

## UKIRA Report...

By Barry Longland, President Uki Village & District Residents' Association

Since the last Uki News we received news of success in gaining a grant for 2004 through the Rural Villages Development Fund. An amount of around \$100,000 is provided by Tweed Shire Council for projects to enhance the attraction of the rural villages of the Tweed. Our share this year was just over \$17,000. At meetings of the Association at the end of 2003, project ideas were discussed in order to establish priorities for the grant application. Not surprisingly, most of these funds will be dedicated to projects in and around the Buttery. This includes the refurbishment of the mezzanine area above the CTC, re-decking the verandah, as well as safety improvements and landscaping the surrounds. Other projects approved include the erection of a village signboard (to be themed with other villages as part of the City of the Arts project), assisting the Hall trust with the opening up of the old tennis shed including steps into the Buttery carpark, youth workshops and assisting the Historical Society with the cost of restoration of photographs.

On the question of a Development Control Plan (DCP) for Uki, I have been in correspondence with Council's General Manager concerning progress. Council voted unanimously in September 2003 to establish a DCP for Uki and an amount of \$20,000 was set aside to pay for a consultant to lead the process. Mid January, I was informed that the Uki project would remain on hold pending the completion of a DCP for Cabarita. Given the

length of time since this commitment was given to the Uki community, I have replied to Dr Griffin stating this delay is unacceptable and asked for a reassessment of priorities that would see the Uki project commenced without delay.

Many readers would have noted that the Association has a permanent presence at the monthly Uki market at the Buttery. This is proving a valuable means of contact with the local community and provides us with the opportunity to talk about the things that are important to the residents of Uki and district.

The Uki website, ukivillage.com, will soon be under the control of the Community Technology Centre at Uki. Since its establishment over a year ago, a need has been recognised for more involvement of local business, clubs and associations in promoting their goods and activities through this medium. Relocating the management of the site to the CTC will be part of a new round of promotion of the benefits of using this facility.

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. The President Barry Longland can be contacted on 6679 5220.

UKIRA MEETINGS are held the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Uki Hall at 7pm. Please come along to our next meetings Tuesday 2 March and 6 April 2004, 7pm.



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## **Uki Xmas Party Brings Community Together** by Phil Carr

Many locals took the opportunity to unwind at the Uki Community Xmas Party. Santa made various appearances and great value BBQd food was enjoyed by all. Musicians played, and, at dusk, Mary Roberts and Karen Brown led a chorus of carols, before children finally took the stage. The Party was organised by UKIRA, but, fittingly, involved a joint effort across the community. Acknowledgements are due to Uki Shopping Centre, Mt Warning Hotel, Uki Butchery, Uki Hall, Uki Public School and Greg Smith from Inter-Action, for the tarp and the offer of the marquee. Also a big thanks to John & Di Laycock, Julia Hancock, Lindy Treasure, Kaye & Les Wilson, Robin Free, Cath & Kevin Donaldson, Barry Longland, Gloria Roszkiewicz, Philip Carr and Tony Hyne, plus many who lent a hand on the day.

## **Uki In Brief...**

By Phil Carr

### **Uki Sewerage System**

The Uki Sewerage System is finally operational, with many residents now connecting up. Council will soon be hosting an official opening. Meanwhile, some residents are still not happy about the tidying up work done by the sewerage contractor and Council officers will be meeting with UKIRA early February to discuss this and other matters. Council has agreed to find solutions to the problem of the two 'in your face' stainless steel control boxes in the village. The one in John Fowler Fitzhenry Park will be relocated within 12 months, but, in the meantime, Council has planted shrubs around it. The second box on the other side of the bridge may not be able to be relocated, but Council is examining other solutions.

### **New Path for Uki**

Local residents are delighted at the long-awaited path from Sweetnam Park to Uki, which now makes for a safe trip for those preferring shank's pony. Many thanks to Tweed Shire Council and local excavations contractor Darryl Harding. Council will eventually concrete the path. Access to the path

from Smiths Creek Road will be made safer over the next couple of months when Council undertakes paving work at the intersection of Smiths Creek Road and Kyogle Road. This work will also address the particularly tight turn for vehicles at this intersection.

### **Byangum Bridge Replacement**

Work will commence in March on the new Byangum Bridge. The project will also involve roadworks along Kyogle Road and will take 12 months to complete. Jointly funded between Tweed Shire Council and the NSW state government the project will cost \$3.5 million. Council has confirmed that the magnificent Fig tree further along Kyogle Road will not be in danger as a result of the roadworks.

### **Red Cross Appeal a Winner**

The Uki Red Cross Christmas Appeal raised over \$1,600. Joy Armour would like to thank everyone for their support.

### **Cards at Uki**

Cards are held in the Uki Hall every Tuesday from 10am to 3pm. Morning tea is provided at 9:45am. Bring or buy your own lunch. We welcome new and old residents and hope you will join us in friendship. For further information phone Joy Armour on 6679 5297.

## **CTC Move...**

By Di Kerr, Uki CTC

In December CTC@Uki started the mammoth task of shifting to their new premises in the Buttery and in January they moved into what was the Art Room for the students from Uki Public School. All refurbishment of the new premises was done by CTC volunteers. Uki residents are invited to drop in and see the excellent job they have done with little money and equipment. CTC@Uki will hold an official opening during February.

Youth projects were again organised for the students during the school holidays. Uki youth participated in film making workshops, computer gaming, and web design classes. CTC@Uki runs a variety of youth activities every school holidays.

Computer classes in computers for beginners, internet, spreadsheets, scanning, photoshop, web design, digital camera use and film making will commence again in February. Expressions of interest for a Saturday morning web design course are being sought from anyone keen to make their own web page.



Participants in the school holiday film making course were (L to R front) John McLaughlin, Michael Crichton, Kirsty Branch, Jessarrah Wilson, (R to L back) Jixin Xing and Felix Bloomfield, with tutor Hannah Kerr. Missing is Aidan Arnold.

For all enquiries please contact Di Kerr at Uki CTC on 6679 5399, or Lindy Treasure on 6679 9125.

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## Kaye's Kitchen



By Kaye Wilson

### IMPOSSIBLE PIE SAVOURY

As we are all probably very sick of all the Christmas/New Year cooking, here is a quick and easy recipe, given to me by Lyn from Uki Post Office. It can be served with salad or vegies.

Ingredients: 1/3 cup plain flour/  
1 1/2 cups milk/ 3 eggs, lightly beaten/ 2 or 3 bacon rashers chopped/ 3 spring onions sliced (or 1 onion chopped)/ 1 cup grated tasty cheese/ 130g can corn kernels drained/ 2 table-spoons chopped fresh parsley/ salt & pepper to taste

1. Lightly grease a shallow 12 cm flan dish.
2. Blend flour with milk in a bowl, add eggs, beat well. Stir in remaining ingredients.
3. Pour mixture into prepared dish.
4. Cook in a moderately slow oven 160c for about 1 hour or until set.

Enjoy!

Recipes can be sent to Kaye at [les.kaye@bigpond.com](mailto:les.kaye@bigpond.com) or UKIRA at PO Box 141 Uki, or phone 6679 5453.

## Uki School Report...

By Garry Brabham, Principal

The school's Presentation Day was held on Tuesday 16 December in the Outdoor Education Centre. A range of different awards was given to students for their achievements during the 2003 school year. Congratulations to Grace Larkin on being named the Dux for 2003. Well done to all of the following students who received class awards.

**Orange Class:** Haven English, Rosie Elliot, Connor Parker, David Ripps

**Red Class:** Claire Crossley, Sophie Stevens, Samantha Free- Daly, Jordan Paul

**Green Class:** Deon Bianchetti, Mitchell Martin, Emily Macpherson, Renee Robinson

**Purple Class:** Jasmine Russ, Millie Windshuttle-Walsh, Lachlan Laycock, Shaye Dietrich

**Silver Class:** Kyle Christensen, Phoebe Russ, Jessica Bohem-Jensen, Jack Maslen

**Crimson Class:** Tom Elliot, Gemma Brown, Taylor Raymond Vine, Bonnie Ayres

**Yellow Class:** Rya Coustley, Loe Harrell, Paul Larkin, Priscilla Kendrick

**Blue Class:** Forest Pearson, Natika Mishteler, Jesse Sharp, Mischa Neidhart

Citizenship Awards were received by Sam Elliot, Hannah Kendrick and Lily Morrison. The most improved boy and girl in Year 6 were Mitchell Bohem Jensen and Jessica Stevens. Sports Champions awards were made to Charles Brincat and Grace Larkin while the Music Award went to Daniel Neilson and the Art Award to Jasmine Lucas.

Congratulations to Sacha de Maere and Paul Larkin on being elected School Captains for 2004. Both of these students will take on great responsibility in leading the students of the school during the next twelve months.

Congratulations also to the newly elected Student Representative Council who will work with Mr Ray during 2004 to make the school an even better place for its students. The SRC members are Blake Lonsdale, Lucy Waldron, Gemma Brown, Tom Elliot, Jacob Morrow, Sheridan Castle, Max Lowe and Daniel Sage.

The school is trying to locate a community member who would be interested in helping to promote the school in the local media. We can provide access to a variety of different technologies to assist in this process. The person would be involved in taking photos/videos of school events, writing stories for publication in the school newsletter and local newspapers as well as assisting with the publication of the school's magazine MOLANG at the end of the year.

While we are unable to offer any remuneration for this service there will be lots of rewards along the way as you share in the thousand and one things that occur in the school. If you are interested in finding out more about this position, please contact Helen Fleming, President Uki P&C on 6679 5417 or principal Garry Brabham on 6679 5128.



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## Computer Help...

By Robert Harrell

Laptops are slowly taking over from desktop computers due to their size, portability and cute looks, but buyers beware all are not what they seem to be.

### What to Consider Before Purchasing a Laptop Computer

1. If you don't need portability, then you should probably buy a desktop.
2. Laptop computers cost almost twice as much as comparably equipped desktops.
3. Laptops are 20-30% slower than a desktop with the same features.
4. Laptop computers are mostly non-upgradeable. So be careful what you purchase will satisfy your needs.
5. Power consumption is very low for these machines, perfect for solar powered homes.

### Recommended Notebook Features:

**Batteries** Lithium batteries are superior to other kinds.

**Hard Drives** 10 GB minimum. Of course, larger is better.

**Video Screens** There are basically two kinds: active matrix (TFT) and dual scan passive matrix screens. Active matrix screens are faster, brighter and have a better angle of view. It's best to view the screen before purchase to see if you like it.

**Memory** Most lower-priced notebooks are sold with 64-128 MB of system memory (RAM). That's not enough for Windows XP. Power users should try to get a notebook with at least 512 MB or more. It is very important that the memory is purchased when you buy the computer as many notebooks have only one or two memory expansion slots and you will end up throwing away the old memory when you upgrade.

**Laptops with no dedicated video memory** If your notebook lists the term "shared memory" in its specifications, it is likely that it contains no dedicated video memory. If you are a hard core

gamer, don't even consider buying a laptop computer as your main gaming machine.

**Inputs and Outputs** Make sure the machine has enough of these connections USB 1 and 2, TV Out, Serial, Parallel, Fire wire, PCMCIA slots, etc. to cover your immediate and future needs.

**Case** Laptops require a case to carry them and keep them dry and safe. This case can usually be picked up free with some bargaining to seal the deal.

**Try before you buy** If at all possible, try out the laptop before you purchase it. Why? Because if you don't like the keyboard, mouse, screen, or performance, you shouldn't buy it in the first place.

**Store Return Policy, Beware!** Make triply sure that you can return the laptop for a refund if you don't like it (better stores allow returns of laptops up to 30 days after purchase for a full refund). Many stores have special rules on returning laptops - make sure you know them before you buy.

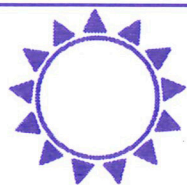
*Robert Harrell can be contacted on 6679 5589.*

## Rocking Chair Saves Santa's Legs

By Phil Carr

UKIRA's successful Rocking Chair Raffle was won by local Jim Warburton - many will have seen Jim in the weeks before Christmas dressed as Santa. Good on you Jim!

Thanks to Margaret Vine for donating the magnificent chair, which was beautifully handcrafted in Camphor Laurel by her son Paul. Anyone interested in acquiring their own rocking chair, or any other wooden masterpiece for that matter, might like to contact Paul on 6679 5118. Thanks also to the following businesses for helping to sell tickets: Uki Shopping Centre, Uki Post Office & Newsagency, Uki Butchery, Uki Dreaming Café, Pauline Viben c/- Uki Produce Market.



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## Hypertension...

By Judy Magee

Hypertension is a repeated blood pressure reading greater than 150/90. There are two types:

- Primary hypertension, aka essential or idiopathic, which means no particular cause can be identified.
- Secondary hypertension, which means due to some definable cause such as kidney failure or atherosclerosis.

The majority of cases are considered primary or essential hypertension, and while no specific cause can be singled out, many factors are implicated in its development. Some of the risk factors include:

- Family history
- Environment, family size, eating patterns, occupation, obesity
- Salt ingestion and sensitivity
- Hyperlipidemia (excessive quantity of fat in the blood)
- Diet
- Smoking

Some general measures to prevent or help reduce high blood pressure include:

- Stress management.
- Increased water consumption.
- Increased consumption of garlic, onions and ginger.
- Reduced consumption of animal protein.
- Increased intake of Calcium, vitamin C, Bioflavonoids, zinc, selenium, manganese.
- Increased Omega 3 fish oils to help reduce blood viscosity and hence blood pressure, found in vegetable, nut and seed oils (eg flaxseed oil), salmon, herring, mackerel, sardines, walnuts, evening primrose oil, and black currant oil.
- Avoid deep fried foods & food additives.
- Reduce or avoid tea, coffee and alcohol.
- Avoid sugar, especially refined, white sugar and products that contain it.
- Follow a low fat, low cholesterol diet, use predominantly unsaturated fats
- Increase complex whole grains & fibre.
- Avoid salt and high salt foods.

- Increased high Potassium foods, such as millet, buckwheat, oats, rice, raw goat's milk, raw leafy vegetables, watermelon, garlic, onions.
- Increased Rutin-rich foods such as corn silk tea, garlic, broccoli, celery, cherries, nectarines, pineapple, kumquats, watermelons, squash, pomegranate, guava, parsley, cucumber, dandelion greens, corn silk and white mushroom soup. .

Natural Therapies has much to offer in the prevention and management of hypertension. This can include dietary work, appropriate supplementation, herbs and homoeopathics.

Individual assessment from a health professional is recommended to ensure the best treatment outcome, particularly if medication is being used.

*Judy Magee can be contacted on 6679 5855.*

## Dig This... By Cathie Miles

After two years of drought, it's really wonderful to feel as though "the big dry" may be over for a while and "the big wet" is about to dominate our lives. This is the time that gardeners feel most comfortable and relaxed. The tanks are topped up to the brim; the garden is watered, everything in the garden seems

to grow before your eyes and anything you may transplant, starts growing almost instantly it's in the ground! If there is a "Universal Gardener's Prayer", then this wet season of ours would satisfy most gardeners' requirements.

So if you're an experienced gardener or just a beginning gardener and you want to meet other gardeners in the Tweed

Valley, then why not consider joining the Uki Garden Club. In 2004, members are planning to have "experts" talk on various plant and garden topics and have group outings to specialist nurseries and special plant shows. Membership only costs \$20 per household and this includes a very informative monthly newsletter.

*Cathie can be contacted on 6679 7191.*



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## Uki Pythons Soccer Club 2004 Sign On...

by Shirley Cross



If you missed the recent Uki Pythons Sign On day there is still the chance to join in one of your local soccer teams. No previous play or special skills are needed.

The kids teams are made up of both boys and girls. Non-competitive teams start with the U6's through to the U9's. The U10's through to the U16's play in a competitive competition. Uki also runs Women's and Men's teams.

### Open Invitation to attend Coaching Clinics at Uki Sportsground

Jenny Allfree, Steve Ramadan, (Tweed District Soccer Association's Director of Coaching) and Richard Parle (ex NSW Coaches Federation) will be holding coaching clinics at Uki, for all present and future coaches, managers, and all interested parents and friends. The first clinic will be held on 28 February.

Soccer coaches and managers will be needed, especially for our younger teams. If you think you may be interested in one of these most rewarding positions, or know of anyone who might enjoy the role, please contact Jenny Allfree (Uki's coaching co-ordinator) on 6679 5013 or Cath Donaldson on 6679 5041.

## Historical Society...

by Helena Duckworth

The next meeting of the Uki Historical Society will be held on Saturday 14 February 2004 commencing at 10am in the Society's room between the Butter Factory and the Uki Hall. For more information contact Helena Duckworth on 6679 9121 or Mary Roberts on 6679 5157.

## Your Art Gallery...

The new Tweed River Art Gallery was officially opened 1st February. The gallery is designed by acclaimed Brisbane architect Bud Brannigan and has spectacular views of the Tweed Valley. It includes a café, five exhibition spaces, an education centre, shop and library.

Currently on display is a collection of photographs by Justin Ealand that document the stages of construction of the new gallery. The coming months will see a range of new exhibitions and a full

calendar of free public programs is scheduled for February and March. For those who are inspired to develop their own creative skills, exciting workshops for children and adults are being held in the Frances Mills Education Centre.

Contact the Gallery on 6670 2790 or at [tweedart@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tweedart@tweed.nsw.gov.au) for further details.

## The Mac File...

by Dave Macmunn

Well 2004 has begun in earnest. The "blink and you missed it" month of January has gone and parents have enjoyed or endured another school holidays in Uki. At Christmas I travelled to Tasmania where mainland visitors are described as being from the north island.

It is not on an interstate ferry in challenging seas that you necessarily expect to meet the embodiment of human compassion and selfless giving. Barry was sixty years of age and on his third career. After thirty years as head of ABC orchestras in Tasmania, twelve as sole proprietor of a B&B in Hobart he had decided he just wanted to be at sea. His position was foyer steward or as he explained in the rolling seas "vomit steward". His fatherly concern for the discomfort of passengers, his cheerful cleaning up after distressed children and his open happy attitude and genuine desire to help struck me.

He looked like a person who took absolute pride in his sometimes menial role probably to the amusement of his superiors. He looked somehow like a timeless feature of the ferry but as we chatted he said that he was only employed casual part time and had only been on the Spirit Of Tasmania for one week! He said he had shaved of his white beard to look younger when he applied for the job which made me wonder what a nice father Christmas he would make. When I thanked him at the end of the voyage Barry said it had been a privilege to serve us and make our voyage better. Wow!!

While on the subject of "feel goods" if you haven't seen it yet do yourself a favour and see "Love Actually". It is light in parts, you get Hugh Grant being Hugh Grant again but a great cast and script make you walk out feeling damn good. I think Barry must have seen it a few times.

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**Make sure your details are up to date for the reprint of the Uki & District Phone List. Forms are available at the Uki Post Office & Newsagency and the Uki CTC. For more info please contact Graham Smith on 6679 5966.**

*The Uki phone list is an initiative of UKIRA*

## Native Raspberries...

By Margaret Bailey

Coming out of my Bushfood orchard this morning I registered that the fruit had begun to set on the Native Raspberries, *Rubus* species. Ignoring the prickles I managed to harvest one or two ripe ones. Although small they were surprisingly tasty, quite tangy and flavoursome.

There are seven different species of Native Raspberries, distinguishable by different leaf shapes, of which four are restricted to rainforests. They tend to form quite a hedge or thicket if left to themselves and I usually find them on lower ground and not too far from water. Plants look not unlike European cultivars but there is only one Australian cultivar, the Atherton Raspberry, which can be found in most garden centres which sell fruit trees. The cultivar produces bigger fruit than most wild ones and is reasonably tasty, though I have to admit that northern hemisphere varieties, like those in Tasmania, are hard to beat.

Nevertheless Native Raspberries have a long history of use in this country by both the Aboriginal peoples and later settlers. The fruit is enjoyed and the leaves made into a tea, for certain medicinal purposes. So, if you have some popping up in your garden, don't dig them out but keep them for garden grazing on a hot summer's day. Little birds, like wrens, also really love the protection Raspberry thickets provide.

*Margaret can be contacted on 6679 9152.*



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