



An Initiative of Uki Village and Districts Residents Association Inc

Issue 135 - JUNE 2024 - JULY 2024

Edith Streiner

Waiting Tree's New Lease on Life

Uki Public School

Andia Cally



Uki Public School students pose next to the new sculpture

Matty describes himself as a nature-loving optimist. "If I see someone standing next to a tree with a chainsaw in their hands I say 'hey, do you need a hand or a chat?'" He characterises his mission as "leaving a story behind in a town".

Rachel explains that the piece holds special significance for the school, enshrining its mascot, Ernie the Echidna, into physical form. The Echidna is also and the central figure in the school's merit awards program, entitled EKIDNA based on the acronym 'Every Kid Now Achieves'. Fittingly, many of the merit points in the program revolve around reading.

Rachel is thrilled with waiting tree's makeover, which symbolises a tree of knowledge, as well as speaking to the values of "storytelling, enjoyment, closeness and inclusivity," at the school. "It also highlights the importance of nature, imagination and the role that books play in children's lives".

Plans to title and paint the books in sculpture were abandoned once the work got underway. Everyone agreed it was best to leave the titles to the children's imaginations and to hero the wood and whimsy of the sculpture without extra adornment. "The shape of the books and the fact they're made from a living tree is more evocative somehow than turning them into artefacts", Rachel explains.

Uki Public students are overjoyed to see the new sculpture with their mascot immortalised. They were very excited to meet Matty and ask questions about his work.

Rachel has also been pleasantly surprised by the level of interest and praise from the Uki community. "From the moment Matt started, people have been so interested, chatting to the artist and being very supportive.

Story continues on page 2...

Since mid-May Uki has been literally buzzing with the transformation of the Uki Public School's tree from a serious safety hazard into an inspiring artwork. Travelling chainsaw artist Matty George has created a sculpture that preserves the school's well-loved 'waiting tree', which has been a central pickup point for generations of students.

School Principal, Rachel Watkins describes the native Hoop Pine tree, affectionately known as the 'waiting tree' as "a significant tree for many generations". After dropping a couple of five metre branches it became clear that the tree was no longer a safe waiting space. "Nobody likes to cut down trees, but the tree was infected by a fungus and the arborists recommended removing it."

As luck would have it, travelling Chainsaw Artist, Matty George, who created the iconic lifesaver sculptures in Kingscliff, was visiting a friend in Uki when he noticed the tree with no branches. "He literally walked in and asked 'what are you doing with that tree out there?'" Rachel recalls. "Matt walked in at the perfect time because shortly after his visit they came and removed most of the trunk". Luckily, they were able to leave requested three metres for Matty to work his magic.

From the Editors

Welcome to Issue 135

Hello Uki. My name is Andia and I am honoured to be the new editor of this 23-year old Uki institution, the Uki News.

As the days get shorter and the nights get colder, we know winter is upon us. It is a season where nature sheds what no longer serves, allowing the 'detritus' to nurture new lifeforms.

Fittingly, this issue follows both these themes, with two heart-warming stories about finding win/win solutions for people and the planet when trees shed their limbs. Little Gallery's June exhibition – Detritus Exhibition offers new ways of seeing the discarded. On the theme of 'shedding', we outline an exciting series of free carpentry workshops.

Editor

UKIRA would like to thank John Morrison (Jai) for his contribution as Uki News editor since February 2019. Jai has produced 31 editions of the paper and never missed a schedule. He is a very committed community worker and all these years has been generously donating his Uki News fee to the Uki Community Technology Centre where he volunteers as Treasurer. Thanks Jai, all the best.

Phil Carr, UKIRA

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Uki News is printed by Uki Community Technology Centre (aka CTC) at the Buttery building.
Current and past issues are available at Uki Village website – www.ukivillage.com.au/uki-news

*The Uki News is a free, bimonthly publication by the Uki Village and Districts Residents Association (UKIRA).
It is delivered to most households on the South Arm of the Tweed River.
Copies are also available at various local outlets, including the Uki Supermarket.*

Letters To The Editor



Dear readers,

We are inviting the community to share its feedback so we can continue to improve the Uki News and offer the kinds of stories and information that you would love to read.

Send us an email theukinews@hotmail.com and share your favourite sections of the Uki News in its current format.

We would love to hear your ideas for stories or areas of interest, groups and goings on in Uki that you would love to see covered.

Waiting Tree's New Lease on Life cont'd from page 1

I can't tell you how many messages I've had from people passing by, and even principals from other schools".

The sculpture became an unlisted highlight at the Murwillumbah Arts Trail, as Matty worked on the Saturday and Sunday that coincided with the event, attracting appreciative art loving crowds who were already visiting local areas on the art trail map.

To celebrate the completion of the sculpture the school plans to create some fun activities around transforming some classic book titles into Echidna-themed names, such as turning, The Very Hungry Caterpillar into The Very Hungry Echidna.

At the time of writing the sculpture is near completion, with a final sand, seal, sun protection and pest prevention being the final steps before the new incarnation of the waiting tree is officially finished.



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Buttery Camphor Canopy Reduction

Solutions that serve creatures & the community

Michele Bevis

This is a public notice to Uki residents about the five large Camphor Laurel Trees located on the site of the historic Buttery building: four along Kyogle Road and one at the rear of the Buttery.

This project, to reduce the canopy and prevent falling limbs, is a significant work physically and financially, and has been the topic of many discussions at meetings over the past 10 years.

UKIRA is pleased to announce, in consultation with arborists and Tweed Shire Council, the trees will be pruned by a highly skilled level-8 arborist during the July school holidays.

The arborist has a deep understanding and respect for the fact that the trees provide habitat, including the importance of maintaining the existing habitat spaces, while undertaking this project. The entire operation will take about three days, at a cost of about \$15,000 to UKIRA. The review of the construction tender for these works has now been completed and the successful tenderer will be recommended to Council for approval.

Works are expected to commence in JULY 2024.

Electronic roadworks signage will provide up-to-date information.

In addition to trimming the Camphors, recommendations include placing habitat boxes to support the creatures that will continue to shelter and find safety in these trees. Canopy plants called epiphytes – Orchids, native Hoya Vine, Blue Jade Vine, Fraser Island Vine and Richmond Birdwing Ferns – will be added to the trees to support bees and butterflies, while the tree responds to this treatment.

We will be putting a call out for plant donations for the canopy, please consider if you have plentiful Orchids to share from your garden. If you are keen to assist in building habitat boxes, we will be running a workshop. Contact us: ukiresidentsassociation@gmail.com



Photo: Camphor Laurels surrounding the Uki Buttery to be trimmed, with habitat boxes added to support wildlife. Work due to start during the July school holidays, taken by Michele Bevis.



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Cosi



Murwillumbah Theatre Company presents "Cosi" by Louis Nowra from May 31 to June 16 2024 at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre Auditorium.

The play is set in a psychiatric institution in 1971 and follows the story of a young director named Lewis who takes on the task of mounting a production of Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte in a burnt-out theatre.

The play explores themes of love, madness, and politics. It challenges our perceptions about these themes and encourages us to think about the subtle signs of madness and darkness in our own lives.

Cosi was first performed in 1992 at the Belvoir St Theatre in Sydney, Australia, Cosi is semi-autobiographical, and is the sequel to Nowra's previous semi-autobiographical play, Summer of the Aliens. The play was adapted into the 1996 film Cosi.

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Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.



Government Gets Behind Local Growers

Janelle Saffin MP, Member for Lismore

There are two emerging crops that have an exciting future in our region – hemp and rice – and the NSW Government is getting behind both industries to help them move ahead.

This year the NSW Government set up the Hemp Industry Taskforce to support the expansion of the NSW industrial hemp sector. The taskforce will only consider cultivation and supply of low-THC hemp grown under the *NSW Industrial Hemp Act 2008*.

Hemp is a great value add product. Paper, clothes, construction materials and more can be made from it. Hemp also captures carbon, and the science I have read indicates at a larger rate than forestry. I am pleased that the NSW Government, and in particular Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty is supporting the expansion of this climate friendly industry – with great opportunities for local agriculture, manufacturing, and local jobs.



Janelle Saffin MP and Agriculture Minister Tara Moriarty were shown around Kyogle's Natural Rice Company by Steve Rogers, Nelson Green and Nathan Green last year.

In great news for the local rice industry, the Government will introduce legislation in May for a new rice export marketing and trade arrangement for Northern Rivers rice growing.

Up to now, the local industry has been unable to export because all rice exports had to go through SunRice in southern NSW. The distance from the Northern Rivers to the SunRice facilities made access to export markets unviable. It is also patently unfair. I could not understand why such a system was allowed to prevail, that disadvantaged our own rice growers.

I have been working with local rice growers on this for years and lobbying on their behalf so this is a most welcome development and opens up opportunities for expansion.

Tony Carusi has led the charge on behalf of local rice growers, and I know that he is over the moon. The legislation means that from September 1 Northern Rivers farmers will be able to organise their own arrangement for exporting rice and not have to go through the vesting arrangements binding them to southern NSW.

Relationship Health ... Eldership Pride

Heather McClelland

In 2024 Tweed Council spearheaded action against ageism with new Australia Day Award: 'Senior Ambassador'. As the inaugural recipient I'm excited to invite you to join me pioneering an Eldership Pride movement modeled on the Gay Pride's communal effort to transform societal attitudes!

In Australia ageing is often seen as detrimental, rather than an asset! Young people can be distanced from their elders and many older citizens made invisible by aged-care practices. Our Indigenous peoples show us a different way, honouring their elders who themselves make such efforts to teach their young people, often helping them find their way in a demoralising world.

I've begun interviewing elders, including some from Uki and my monthly column in Tweed Weekly is opening up hidden wisdom and important legacies, including this edition's local elder, Anne Pryke.

"I was only eight when I was sent away from home for two years during the blitz of Birmingham in WW2 and

I came to understand the importance of family that has stayed with me all my life. I had to live with scarcity (healthier you know) learning from my mother to cook and value healthy nourishing food, often quite basic, but without all the additives that science is also now showing are bad for us. I was particularly inspired by my grandfather who took a personal interest in each of his grandchildren. He was a flamboyant character, a tenor with a twirly moustache working as a tailor and making beautiful clothes. I came to value quality.



Anne Pryke with Heather McClelland

I absolutely deplore today's 'throw away' culture! I used to sit and play behind his beautiful oak counter in the tailor shop and I remember deciding that one day I'd become an administrator and I did".

Now 92 years of age, Anne used to organise bowls in the village hall. She still has a Scrabble group at her place. With her love of movies and politics, closeness to nature and determined independence she lives at home in the midst of extensive gardens. She continues to drive her own car and she constantly builds relationships with younger acquaintances.

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Freedom is Beautiful

Documentary Launch for Refugee Week

Bryan McClelland

uki.refugee.project@gmail.com

Uki Refugee Project (URP) will open Refugee Week with the screening of local artist and filmmaker Angus McDonald's documentary, 'FREEDOM IS BEAUTIFUL', at Murwillumbah's Regent Theatre, Sunday 16th June, 4pm.

Refugee Week's 2024 theme is 'Finding Freedom: Family', something we all aspire to.

Largely filmed in the Lennox Head area, the film tells the story of two extraordinary Kurdish refugees, Farhad Bandesh and Mostafa (Moz) Azimitabar, who fled persecution in Iran and arrived separately by boat into Australia seeking asylum in 2013.

They were subsequently transferred offshore & held for almost eight years by the Federal Government. Both men used art and music as a means of peaceful struggle against the system. The two men fell in love with the Northern Rivers during the film's production, which premiered at the Sydney Film Festival last year.

It is hoped that a speaker and/or Q&A will be firmed up as the event will combine providing information with fundraising. The film provides a perfect opportunity to hear from asylum seekers themselves and demonstrate their contribution to Australia.

Friendship Weekend:

The weekend of 7-8th September has been tentatively set for another visit of refugees to our area. Anyone who would like to help with the planning or hosting guests can contact me on my email: hbmcclelland@gmail.com or URP's email uki.refugee.project@gmail.com.





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Andia Cally

Little Gallery is still basking in the afterglow of the Murwillumbah Arts Trail that saw an estimated 300 visitors spill through its doors, enjoying the artworks of its 12 resident artists, along with various workshops and demos in mid-May.

Coming up over June and July are two exciting collaborative exhibitions. Kicking off in June is Detritus, a collaboration between artists Judy-Collins Haynes and Christine Mellor, which focuses on “imagining the potential in discarded and decaying objects to give them new life and bring out their hidden qualities”.

Judy uses detritus created by leaf litter and other vegetative matter, as well as the rust from the slow disintegration of metal items. Christine gathers her detritus from creatures, who's lives have been extinguished by human interference, as well as numerous discarded objects. Exhibition opens Friday 7 June at 6pm.

Stalactites and Stalagmites is a collaborative exhibition featuring michele bevis and Marlena Basser. The exhibition explores these well-known forms and their relationship, using modern day materiality, including painted blocks, glass, ceramics, metalwork and upcycled ready-made objects.

Both artists have responded to these naturally occurring phenomena through sculptural forms.

little gallery

WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

10am – 3pm **Mosaic Leaf Workshop** with Jenny Sayer. Cost \$110 Booking essential email: jenny.sayer@gmail.com
Dates: May 20 & 25, June 17 & 22, July 3 & 10

10am – 2pm **Rethread** with Michele Bevis. Repurpose your old jewellery. Includes \$20 of glass embeads. Cost \$130
Dates: 18 May, 15 June, 20 July

Times TBA **Gel Plate Printing** with Yuriya Bruce. Learn various Gelplate printing techniques.
Dates: TBA

12pm – 3pm **Pottary for Beginners** with Cathryn Binslead and Peter Smith. Handbuild your own ceramic piece. Materials & tools provided. BYO apron. Cost \$90. For enquiries & bookings email: cathryn.mulvan@gmail.com.
Dates: 3 June & 1 July

RSVP via Email
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Photos top left : Upcoming workshops.top right preview Stalagmites Exhibitions work by Michele Bevis.

Marlena will use these forms to represent the metaphor of heaven meeting earth, speaking to the aspiration of living in alignment with our higher selves. Michele will use contemporary and found materials to highlight the fragility of life on earth. Stalactites and Stalagmites opens Friday 5 July, 6pm, drinks and nibbles provided.

Our Gallery is profiled in the winter edition of Tweed Coast Living, along with many other local Uki businesses. Pick up a copy at the gallery.

To keep your creativity burning this winter we will be offering a number of workshops (see above for dates and booking details).



Photos bottom left : Upcoming exhibition—Detritus. Left work by Christine Mellor, Right work Judy Collins-Haynes. Far right cover of Tweed Coast Living magazine, all about Uki

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A big thanks and best wishes to one of Uki's most energetic community members Hugh Flower.

Hugh was President of the Tweed Valley Mountain Bike Riders Association during the development of the Uki Mountain Bike Park on Smiths Creek Road, which features eight mountain bike trails and opened last October.

Hugh was a fierce advocate for the parks development and a tireless organiser. Hugh and his family are now moving on with life, and as such, are about to move to France to be closer to his wife Alissan who has a job in Saudi Arabia working on 'The Line', a futuristic lineal city in the desert.

We would like to wish Hugh, Alissan, Audrey and Sophie all the best for the future.



Photo courtesy Tweed Shire Council at the opening of the Uki Mountain Bike Park. Left: Dep Mayor Meredith Dennis, Dane Folpp, Geoff Provest MP, President Hugh Flower, Murray Smith, Janelle Saffin MP, Gabe Saffin, Mayor Chris Cherry, local kids and trail enthusiasts, Cr Nola Firth back



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Uki Buttery Bazaar Entertainment

Sanne Grace Kenna

8am - 2pm

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

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

PLENTY OF PARKING AT RAINBOW BRIDGE AND SWEETNAM PARK

JUNE Buttery Bazaar



Sunday 16th JUNE

Funkatu Louey Howell and the FUNKATU Collective are a psychedelic bush funk band who combine an eclectic fusion of reggae, soul, ska and hip-hop into a delightfully delicious explosion of funky goodness guaranteed to get your booty shakin'. Featuring the unmistakable Aussie songwriting of lyricist Louey Howell on drum kit and didgeridoo, Dan McCosker on de funky bass, Hannah Harlan on sweet vocals and electric guitar and Ahva Dub on synths and jazz bansuri. A great live act, this fresh outfit deliver the goods in style.



FUNKATU

Octagon is a one man didge and drum dance band performed by Louey Howell. Louey will take you on a journey from spacey meditative sounds to full tilt dance beats! Louey plays the drum kit, didgeridoo and tongue drums all at the same time! an impressive show not to be missed!



OCTAGON



HANNAH HARLAN

Hannah Harlan is one of Bellingen valley's most treasured singer-songwriters. Hannah has a beautiful singing voice and impressive musical skills, slapping strings and looping things. Rhythmically stirring up heartfelt tunes. A performer that will leave you wanting more.



JULY Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 21st JULY

The Celestial Serpent Band are a funky, rocking, hip-hop, dub n reggae, live band based in the Northern Rivers N.S.W., who have been compared to Rage Against the Machine, Fat Freddie's Drop and politically lyrical underground rappers like Immortal Technique. Featuring Celestial Serpent on vocals and bass, Jake Mann on drums, Iman Dan on keys and vox, Sanne Kenna on percussion and vox.



THE CELESTIAL SERPENT BAND

On top of band projects Celestial is also known for his solo performances and his sacred geometry art exploring deep concepts of esoteric symbolism and mysticism. This live sound journey will get your body moving, your mind thinking and your spirit connected through the unifying experience of music.

Mantlepeace Local Jamsters, Jake and Sanne, will be bringing their eclectic slant on music to the Buttery Bazaar one more time again!

Playing their greatest hits and reinvigorating some old material from previous line ups.

Joined by Imandan on Kit and special guests.



MANTLEPEACE

End of year get together
18th December from 3pm
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UKI CTC seeks new volunteers

The Uki CTC has recently lost the valuable volunteer Warren due to his long-awaited retirement. He has been an invaluable member of CTC, volunteering on Mondays and Tuesdays. Warren has been with us for five years and has become a well-loved member of the team. He will now have time to catch up on the backlog of jobs to

do around his property, at last.

The CTC had a farewell gathering at the Mount Warning Hotel for Warren on Friday the 10th of May and a good time was had by all. The gathering gave us an opportunity to welcome the new volunteers to the team, those being Holly, Stuart and Serle, who will share the Monday and Tuesday shifts.

Uki CTC is seeking new volunteers, so to all of you who have some IT skills and wish to donate some of your time to our community, drop by the CTC at the Buttery and have a chat with a volunteer for more details.

CTC@Uki

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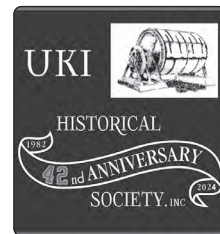
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PIONEERS

of the South Arm - Tweed River cont'd from ISSUE 135

Reta Best, a life-long resident of the South Arm and the only recorded female bullock driver on the South Arm.



Esma Thompson

uki.history@gmail.com

When Reta's grandfather William Hall took up dairying on Gus and Emily's farm, Reta developed an undying love of dairy cattle, Australian Illawarra Shorthorn dairy cattle were her favourites. After Grandfather William died in 1921, with Gus also being unwell, Gus and Emily bought the herd to enable them to make a living dairying.

Despite the dire predictions about her health, Reta at age 26, married Bert Best on 18th November 1929. She then gave birth to six children, Robert 1930, Helen 1931, Emily 1933, Aubrey 1934, Irene 1936, and Olive 1939.

Her father Gus sadly died in 1932 and Reta and Bert continued to dairy. Bert also cut firewood and burned charcoal for gas burning vehicles during WW2.

Life was very hard for farmers, hand milking, carrying water, chopping firewood, raising children and all the other farm chores. Reta lost her husband Bert when he passed away in 1946, followed by her mother Emily's passing in 1947. Reta then had to carry on farming on her own while raising her 6 children. Shortly after finally acquiring a milking machine Reta had her long hair caught in a belt on the separator. The belt lifted the scalp off the back of her head, the scar and lump stayed with her for the rest of her life. She was also gored in the leg by a bull, she fell over him in the pre-dawn, getting the milkers in ready for milking.



Photo: Reta & Bert marry 1929.

She didn't seek medical help for either of these incidents as she would have had to travel to reach a doctor at Murwillumbah. One day to get there, another day to travel back home. Reta had to continue with her farm work, milking cows couldn't wait two days to be milked and she had to look after her family. Reta continued to farm, she had to carry cream cans across flooded creeks, this was while she was unable to swim, milk cows, plough paddocks with her horses, skin calves, repair fences, cart water from the creek, and walk for miles looking for stray cattle accompanied by her cat.

Reta eventually sold her farm to her daughter Irene and son-in-law Kevin Martin.

After her retirement Reta lived with the Martin family, her daughter Irene recalls many of the stories told by Reta about her dad Gus and his family. The stories were so interesting, Irene said they never grew weary of hearing them, it was like listening to a serial on the radio.

Reta had been a good horse rider and out of necessity she became a good bush vet, she was also a great cook and she loved to read. Reta was a very strong lady physically and up to the age of eighty she could still move her heavy bedroom furniture around in her bedroom. In her late eighties, she started to lose her eyesight and for her last 12 years of life was totally blind.

Reta passed away 18th January 2007, 6 weeks short off her 104th birthday.



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Shedding Is Coming to Uki

Be Prepared - Get Connected - Check in on Your Neighbours

Brendan Esposito, RUKI Vice President

Shedding Community Workshops are usually based in Mullumbimby, but are on the road with pop-up workshops and will be in Uki on the 15th and 16th of June (insert small cheer here!!).

The workshops will be held in the outdoor education area of Uki Public School and supported whole heartedly by Resilient Uki. A big shout out to the school staff for being such a great part of the Uki community and supporting this venture. Much appreciated.

Shedding is an inclusive space for community to come together in a safe environment and discover a passion for carpentry, tools, hands-on learning, and self-discovery.

Shedding is a 'grass roots' not-for-profit organisation that cares deeply for the well-being of 'Shedders' and the environment. Shedding uses reclaimed and recycled materials to provide an inventive education in sustainability, using tools as an avenue towards self-empowerment, resilience, and community connection.

So come and have a crack!

If you want to be 'hands on' involved, book now for the morning Saturday tools and carpentry session (there's limited spaces). And if you want to go even deeper, book in for the all-day Sunday session (once again, only limited spots). Just text or call the wonderful Sophie on 0490 501 745.

Or, if you want a less structured 'peek' just come along from 2-4pm on Saturday, no need to book. Saturday afternoon 4-6pm is also a 'come along' session for an informal chat, Resilient Uki and Shedding would love to hear from engaged and enthusiastic community members that may have any questions, queries, or suggestions... or maybe even something to offer. We would love to see you here.

If you have always wanted to use tools and make things in a supportive, non-judgemental environment, connect with some like-minded folk, and learn some new skills, this is the scene for you!

SHEDDING ON THE ROAD
Weekend Workshop Schedule
UKI Uki Public School
1465 Kyogle Road

SATURDAY 15th JUNE

- 8am - 2pm **UPSKILL INTRO** An intro to the fundamentals of building, carpentry & our wellbeing values + practices
- 2pm - 4pm **TOOLS & TINKER** Join our volunteer mentors to play with all our power tools and hand tools
- 4pm - 6pm **COMMUNITY CHATS** Join us for a cuppa and a chat about how we can support you with more workshops (and workshop debrief)

SUNDAY 16th JUNE

- 8am - 5pm **EMPOWER WORKSHOP** Hands-on training in non-hierarchical teaching + leading

Complete **UPSKILL** first!

Keen to join? - text/call Sophie - 0490 501 745

Hosted by Shedding Community Workshop Inc
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Community Workshops Inc

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Community divided on reopening of Mt Wollumbin Summit Walk

Phil Carr

With opinions divided on the closure of the Wollumbin (Mt Warning) summit, the push to re-open the trail continues to grow with recent rallies in Uki drawing large crowds and an e-petition containing 10,943 signatures being presented to the NSW Legislative Council last month.

The government response to the petition is due on 12 June 2024 but the matter is in the hands of the Minister for the Environment Penny Sharpe who after consulting with all major stakeholders has described the issue as “complex” stating that a decision “will take longer...as we work through the pathways for resolution”.

While the walking trail was initially closed during the COVID lockdowns, the Wollumbin Consultative Group which represents different Aboriginal groups and families with a connection to Wollumbin called for the climb’s permanent closure due to reasons of cultural significance. The (previous) government agreed, citing safety concerns as well.

Despite being officially closed since 2020 some hikers continue to defy the barrier in place.



Mount Warning Summit Trail

Re-open Mt Warning’ advocate and Ngarakwal elder Sturt Davis Boyd (pictured) says that his family has never opposed public access to Wollumbin. Photo by Adrian Hoffman.

A Fruitful Day

Uki Village Gardens Rachel Dickson



Top row far left Sebastien Boisliveau permaculturalist and landscaper Fourth left Allison O Donnell an original founder of the gardens, Eighth from left member Ben Boehm. Bottom row seated second right member Rachel Dickson

The Uki Village Gardens held a tree planting event on Sunday 19th May, planting an orchard that will feed the community for years to come. Donations from past fundraising events, the popular Uki Family Fun Days, covered the cost of more than 50 fruit trees and understory shrubs.

The planting was well attended by locals, getting their hands in the soil, planting, watering and mulching as well as enjoying homemade chai and cakes. As an organiser it's great to see so many people become regulars of the Uki Village Gardens events.

Most of the people here also enjoyed the last Family Fun Day and have come back for more of that warm community feeling that comes with working together. It's so important to participate in our community. What better way than laying the groundwork to feed everyone for years to come.

The Uki Village Gardens want to extend a special thank you to UKIRA, who kindly funded the hire of an auger, saving time and next-day soreness. To get involved with the Uki Village Gardens or for more information follow Uki Village Gardens on Facebook or email ukivillagegardens@gmail.com.

Astrology

Paola Emma

Welcome to my astrological musings for June-July 2024 and beyond. At the time of writing, May 19/20, the Sun has just aligned to Jupiter (a hopeful reset for the planet) before leaving Taurus to enter Gemini. The Sun is the first celestial body to crossover from Taurus to Gemini, soon to be followed by Venus, on May 24, Jupiter, on May 26 and Mercury, on June 3. On top of this, the first New Moon, on June 6, will also be in Gemini.

This is significant of a shift from the steady but somewhat slow and intense pace of Taurus to the faster and lighter pace of Gemini.

The exciting effect of the conjunction Jupiter-Uranus (April 21), bringing changes and renewal to the collective consciousness of the planet, could become more obvious in June-July, as it has been somewhat curtailed in May by the great number of planets in Earthy Taurus, a sign often resisting changes and seeking security in the status quo.

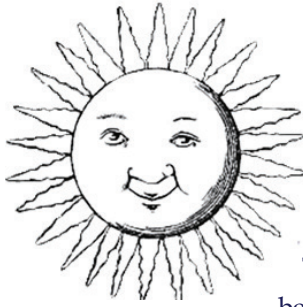
Pluto moved from earthy Capricorn to airy Aquarius in January. And Jupiter is going through a similar shift on May 26, leaving behind earthy Taurus and starting a year-long transit in airy Gemini. These transits are presages of other cosmic shifts to come: Uranus moving from Taurus to Gemini in 2025, to transit Gemini for seven years.

In light of all these impending events, in the not too distant future, the shift of Jupiter into Gemini and its recent alignment to Uranus acquire greater significance.

Jupiter in astrology represents the guiding philosophy permeating our collective mind, influencing ideas, beliefs and visions for the future. In its evolving cycle of 12 years, Jupiter passes through a sign annually, each imprinting its particular colour onto the world's philosophical outlook.

In the last 12 months, Taurus has promoted stable, conservative beliefs, aiming to establish a reliable set of guidelines to live by, building a sense of personal security, while potentially also generating intolerance based on personal experiences.

With the ingress of Jupiter in Gemini, we are moving into a more eclectic, adaptable and less conservative view of life, naturally more accepting and even welcoming diversity and change.



This seems particularly significant this year because of the recent conjunction of Jupiter to Uranus (April 21), the unorthodox, rebellious planetary spirit; the alignment opening a whole new vista of possibilities, with a remarkably stronger drive toward change, not just affecting the present, but also the upcoming seven years transit of Uranus in Gemini (from 2025).

This speaks of an opening of the collective mind to a host of new ideas and visions. All of this could indicate a time of opportunities and risk taking for all. However, if Gemini or the other mutable signs (Sagittarius-Virgo-Pisces) or the other two air signs (Libra-Aquarius) are highlighted in your birth chart (Sun/Moon/planets/angles), you could be feeling the Jupiter's effect in a more noticeable way.

Suitable choices to express Jupiter's energy positively would be to study, write, travel, expand your business, take action aiming at bettering your circumstances, or embark on a metaphysical search of some kind. Jupiter will help you to get more out of life, giving meaning to your personal experiences, improving your general mood, inspiring you with confidence.

Dates to watch: June 3, Jupiter-Mercury in Gemini Trine Pluto in Aquarius, a boost of mental energy and resourcefulness. June 6, Venus-Sun's superior conjunction, a reset for the planet of love, peak of Venus' 584 cycle (just over 19 months) and beginning of Venus' 263 days evening apparitions (8.63 months). June 9, Mars enters Taurus. June 11, Mars in Taurus Square Pluto in Aquarius, a very intense configuration. June 17, both Mercury and Venus move into Cancer. June 21, we celebrate the Cancer Winter Solstice, the shortest day in the Southern Hemisphere, at 6.50am local time. July 15/22, Mars conjunct Uranus in Taurus, while both also conjunct the Alpha star of the constellation Perseus, Algol, Medusa's Head. This is a rare alignment, linked with rather dramatic world events in history.

Escalation of conflicts and/or dramatic developments in world affairs real possibilities. Time will tell.

For more astrological insights and tutorials visit my site: <https://livingmoonastrology.wordpress.com>



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—Lynne Paterson

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