

UKI NEWS

An initiative of the Uki and Districts Residents' Association (UKIRA)

Proudly Sponsored by the Uki Pharmacy

Issue 40 April/May 2008

'The best read on the Tweed!'



Initial meeting of the Ukitopia arts collective Feb 2008. Participants (from left to right) Kalia, Marty, Hamilton, Sue, Binnah, Michael, Loren, Richard and Natascha.

Ukitopia Community Arts Collective Dinner

The Ukitopia Community Arts Collective is holding a dinner on 9 May in the Uki Hall to showcase ideas for an 'Arts, Life and Culture' festival to be held in Uki.

The purpose of the dinner will be to inform the community and relevant arts bodies, including the Tweed Shire Council, Tweed River Art Gallery and Arts Northern Rivers of the proposed festival and its objectives. The dinner will also provide local artists, industry and businesses with a forum to present their ideas, glean information, and give feedback on the proposed 'Arts, Life and Culture Festival'.

With a view to celebrate, protect and strengthen the unique flavour and atmosphere of Uki, themes such as 'sustainability', 'healing arts', and 'community' have all been canvassed as long term objectives for the Ukitopia Community Arts Collective. The proposed festival hopes to highlight and initiate some of these themes.

It is hoped that with the community's support and participation the festival will help raise the profile of local arts and industry by providing a unique platform and 'spotlight' for Uki artists and businesses.

So come to the Ukitopia Arts Dinner and help shape the Uki you love and have an opportunity to participate in the 'Ukitopia Arts Life and Cultural Festival.' The evening includes a delicious dinner, live entertainment by prominent Uki musicians and performers, a multimedia local arts presentation, and a facilitated public forum. All welcome.

Tickets - \$25.00 and include dinner.
FRIDAY 9 MAY at the Uki Hall.

For bookings:

Email - ukitopia@gmail.com

Phone - Natascha 02 6679 5677

By Michael

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Uki Church Services

Mass at St Columba's Catholic Church 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 10am.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Morning Prayer 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays all at 9am.

UKIRA Report

by Barry Longland, President UKIRA

Many great ideas came forward from the community meetings that took place last year in the process of developing the Uki Community Plan. There is so much energy and enthusiasm from many residents to work together to bring about enhancements to the Uki living experience.

For improvements or additions that are sought to the available public spaces in the village centre, the involvement of the stakeholder groups who represent community interests over those spaces comes into play. Principally, those groups include the Uki Hall Trust, the Uki & South Arm Historical Society and the Uki Residents Association (UKIRA). While each of these groups needs to have a focus on the areas for which they have man-

agement responsibilities, they also have a duty to act in the best interests and in accordance with the wishes of residents. In that sense we are all engaged in a common cause, namely, to ensure that our decision making processes give due consideration to the needs and aspirations of our community.

The ideas that emerged from the Community Plan of 2007 clearly demonstrate a need for these three groups to work together to provide the outcomes that the community seeks in a co-ordinated way. The future planning for these public spaces in the village centre should be a joint responsibility that seeks to preserve those things that have to be preserved while being flexible enough to understand and adopt new ideas and ways to develop the

amenity of the village for all residents.

At their invitation, I addressed this topic at the meeting of the Historical Society on 8 March. The Society occupies a section of land excised from the Hall park under a lease arrangement with the Hall Trust. At that meeting and through discussion with members of the Hall Trust, the first joint meeting of the three groups took place on March 26.

The aim of that meeting was to try and develop a shared vision for enhancement to the village centre public areas in a planned and co-ordinated way with a focus on our job to help realise the legitimate aspirations of the wider Uki community.

Editorial

Well, what a fabulous response from contributors old and new—our 40th edition is a veritable feast of community news, shared knowledge and experience, and debate over issues that concern us all. Thank you to all who have made a special effort to share with the community—please keep it up!

I apologise in advance for any mistakes and omissions that might afflict this edition of the Uki News. I had grave technical difficulties (of the possibly terminal hard drive kind) while in the middle of putting the paper together. It is possible that some contributions might have got lost in the shuffle. It's all technology's fault!

Speaking of which, one contributor reported trouble sending to the new email address, but I'd like to assure everyone that it **does** work! Be assured that your emails are getting through, even if the server is temporarily down for some reason—just try again later. theukinews@hotmail.com is the address.

Deadline for Issue 41 is Monday 19th of May.

Anita Morton

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. You can contact President Barry Longland on 6679 5220.

UKIRA MEETINGS are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Uki Hall at 7pm. Please come along to our next meetings on 6 May and 3 June.

Disclaimer

The opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are the contributor's own. They are not necessarily those of the Uki News nor of UKIRA.

Who to contact

See the editor (Anita) in person at the Uki Hall market, every Saturday between 8am and 1pm, if you would like to discuss any Uki News business, or email theukinews@hotmail.com.

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Uki Neighbourhood Watch

The Uki Neighbourhood Watch has been extremely active in its attempts to eliminate anti-social behaviour in the village. The Murwillumbah Police now regularly patrol Uki and have attended a number of recent incidents where fines have been issued.

However, we need everyone's help to combat crime in the village. It is important that each incident be reported, in order to give Police an accurate picture of what is happening in the area.

Please call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 for non-emergencies. You will be given an Incident Number for easy tracking and follow-up.

Your incident will be recorded and dealt with. However, accurate details are vital for prompt follow-up.

Should you need assistance please contact uki-neighbourhoodwatch@yahoo.com.au. NHW has a list of regular offenders, so the more details we can add to your report, the better for the village.



**Neighbourhood
watch**
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Mt Warning Preschool

The preschool year has begun with lots of enthusiasm and renewing of friendships amongst the children.

Dad's Night

We had a fabulous roll up of Dads and children to our inaugural Dad's Night. The children were so excited to show their Dads around the preschool. After making music and singing songs together, Jorge from Save the Children talked about the importance of sharing stories of growing up and congratulated the dads on showing their commitment to family life.

Snake Man

Following requests from families, the staff arranged a visit from the Snake Man. He brought Leo the python with him and spoke with the children about the dangers of snakes and what to do if they saw a snake in the house or yard. This was a valuable experience for all given the location of the preschool.

Playgroup Resumes

Following the renovations to the preschool office, playgroup area and the addition of the wheelchair/pram ramp, Playgroup will resume on **Tuesday 29th April 2008 from 9.30am to 11.30am**. Mums and Dads are welcome to come along with their young children to share in play-based experiences, meet other families and talk to staff about the preschool service. The cost is \$5 per child. Phone Kaye on 6679 5313 for info.

New Student Leaders for 2008

The new Uki Public School student leadership team for 2008 was inducted at a special whole school assembly on Thursday 6th March in the OEC. The assembly, hosted by School Captain Blake Dusi and Vice Captain Poppi Hmelnitsky featured students pledging to do their very best and uphold the responsibilities of the position into which they were inducted. Very proud parents also had the opportunity to pin on the badges of the new office bearers.

For 2008 the Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up Year 6 students Erin Ganser, Georgia Cunyngame, Nick Myler and Roslyn Barnett, as well as captains Blake Dusi and Poppi Hmelnitsky. Other representatives include Blake Kendrick (Year 5), Ella Magee-Carr (Year 4), Lilith Malcolm (Year 3) and Tahnee English (Year 2). As well as trying to make the school a better place for all of its students, and organising a range of fun activities throughout



Teacher Bruce Ray leads the pledge for the 2008 Student Representative Council of Uki Public School.

the school year, the SRC will be working hard to establish a sister school link with a local community in the Solomon Islands.

School Librarians Samantha Free-Daly, Syan Arane, Justin Schenk, Hannah Harris, Carly Waldron and Jack Duncan will have a busy year in the Library assisting librarian Jenny Sage to provide support to all of the students. Band Captains

Uki Public School

Roslyn Barnett, Erin Ganser, Samantha Free-Daly and Blake Dusi will also be working hard with band teacher Vikki Armour to ensure that all of the new members of the school band settle in well to their new roles.

By far the biggest group to take up their new positions were the House Captains. In 2008 the captains and vice captains for each house were as follows:

Cedars Captains: Erin Ganser and Louie Sole-Gillies. Vice Captains: Ebony Keech and Zeplen Roe

Gums Captains: Georgia Cunyngame and Liam Cunyngame. Vice Captains: Carly Waldron and Matthew Ripps

Oaks Captains: Samantha Free-Daly and Reece Middleton. Vice Captains: Rosie Elliot and Blake Dusi.

Teaks Captains: Poppi Hmelnitsky and Jack Duncan. Vice Captains: Roslyn Barnett and Angus Everson.

Green Corps in Uki

At a ceremony held in the Uki Hall on 25 February, the community welcomed the Green Corp team that will be working in and around the village until around July this year. Eddie Roberts, representing UKIRA as sponsoring body, gave an outline of the work that will be conducted over this period, starting with further riparian restoration along the river bank below Milsoms Lane and the Uki Centenary Park area around the junction of the Tweed River and Rowlands Creek. Make sure you make members of the team welcome when you encounter them in the village.

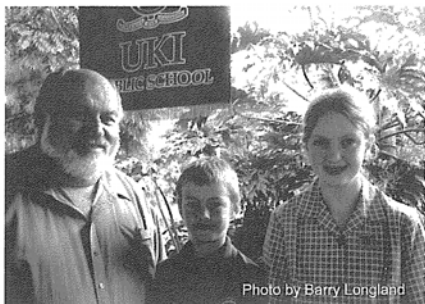
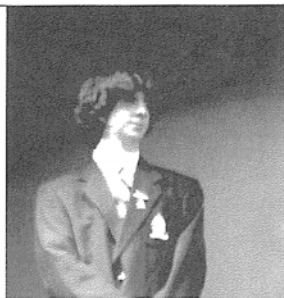
Many thanks to Jobfutures and to Eddie for his efforts in developing the Green Corps application and participating in such a 'hands on' way in its implementation.

Pictured are Jobfutures team leader, Douglas Meggatt, participant, Kesselle Wall and Eddie Roberts at the launch on 25 February. Photo by Barry Longland



Uki boy does good

Former Uki Public School student and local resident Aidan Arnold has been selected as this year's Murwillumbah High School captain. Congratulations Aidan and best wishes for the year ahead from the Uki community. This picture (right) of Aidan after his induction was supplied by his proud mum, Jayne Parrott.



Uki School leadership group

On 6 March, the first Uki Public School assembly for the year took place to induct the student leadership and representative group for 2008. The ceremony, attended by many parents and friends of the school, named the house captains, librarians, band captains, the student representative council and school captains. Congratulations to all those inducted from UKIRA and the Uki News.

Pictured are school captains Poppi Hmelnitsky and Blake Dusi with School Principal Garry Brabham.

Your shop at the Buttery?

From time to time, tenancies become available at the community-owned Uki Buttery Factory. Over the years since its purchase, people interested in retail possibilities through the Buttery have approached UKIRA and a record has been maintained. However, as some of those folks have moved on, it's time to create an up to date list of interested parties who think they may be able to make a go of it through this Uki heritage icon.

If you have an idea for a retail opportunity in Uki that will service our local community as well as the growing tourist traffic through the village, call Gloria Roszkiewicz on 6679 5395 and get your name on that list.

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market Sunday 20 April

We are a community group which has formed in response to the Uki Village action plan. The aim of our group, Uki 4 kids, is to work towards Uki having two designated play areas for children; one in the Uki Village for 2-6 year olds and the second at Sweetnam Park for 7-14 year olds. We are proposing the play ground for the 2-6 years olds to be located in the hall park, next to the fire place in the centre of the Uki village. (Corner of Norco St & Milsoms Lane)

The play area would consist of a double swing set, and a turtle rocker. The ground would be covered with soft fall, a low maintenance safety surface made up of recycled rubber.

The land is owned by Federal Department for Lands and it is managed by The Uki Hall Trust.

The Hall Trust has concerns about play equipment in the park. I believe by showing our community support we could assist them in seeing what the community wants.

If you support this proposal please write your name and email or phone number on the support village playground form.

Support Petition Forms are at:

Uki Post Office

Uki Cafe

Uki Public School

Uki Shopping Centre

You can also email your details to uki4kids@yahoo.com

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to view the full proposal please contact me at uki4kids@yahoo.com

Thank you for your support.



Photo by Alan Wain

Between thirty and forty fabulous females celebrated International Women's Day with a rousing chorus of inspiring songs. Led by Wendy Grace (back to camera), the tuneful women rattled the rafters of the Uki Hall with some classic power ballads. The main question afterwards was, 'why can't we do this every week?'

The park area proposed by Uki 4 Kids as a playground.

(Several other sites have been suggested, and debate is ongoing. See the Hall Trust article on Page 13. The Uki News will keep you informed of the outcome. Ed.)



Uki Hall Schedule

Monday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00 am
Tuesday	Cards 9.30 am Middle-eastern dance 9.00 to 11.00am
Wednesday	Yoga 8.30 to 10.00 am Creative Movement/Dance For 3 to 5 year olds 10.15 to 11.45 am
Thursday	Circle Dance 10.00am to 12.00 noon Yoga 5.30 to 7.00 pm Indoor bowls 7.30 pm
Friday	Yoga (with Naomi) 8.00 to 9.45 am Vocal Expression 10.30 am to 12.30pm GI'o Dance one a month, 3rd or 4th Friday night
Saturday	Produce and craft market 8.00 am to 12.30 pm Hap Ki Do 2.00pm to 4.00pm

The Residents Association meets at the Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm.



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Camphor laurel control

by Janet Townshend

A reminder to those who have attended a Camphor Laurel Control workshop, have worked out their long-term Camphor management programme and are now busy killing the Camphors they have targeted for 07/08. Remember the two most important words from the workshop: REPLACEMENT of the Camphors you kill, especially with native food trees for the birds now relying on the Camphors; and UN-DILUTED glyphosate 360 to stem inject the Camphors you cull.

Steadfastly ignore any advice you get, often from professionals, to water down your glyphosate. After all, you are the one continuing to get a near 100% success rate while the Camphors they 'kill' begin resprouting some months later, or, in order to get the correct total amount of glyphosate into any particular Camphor to kill it, they are making numerous holes to hold the large volume of diluted herbicide.

The method you were shown at the workshop of one row of drill holes

around the tree no more than 10cm apart and as near to the base of the tree as is practicable, with 4ml UN-DILUTED glyphosate into each hole is simple and effective.

Detailed instructions for the methods of stem injection of Camphor Laurel demonstrated at the workshops can be obtained from me at the monthly Buttery Bazaar, or ring me on 6677 9326. Or, if two or three landholders wish to get together on one of their properties we can arrange a free demo.

Garden Club news

by Jenny Wein

I would like to start with an apology to all members of the Uki Garden Club who haven't been receiving

their Garden Club Newsletter. All members have now been contacted, new email and mailing lists compiled and the March edition of the Newsletter should now be in your hands.

Previous members of the Uki Garden Club who are not financial members for 2007/8 will not have been receiving any newsletters. Please phone me if you wish to join or re-join the Uki Garden Club on 6672 3054.

One of our keen members, Jean Nuttall, has given me the following notes about the Club's Food Group which you may enjoy. The March meeting of the Food Group, held at Jean and Ron Nuttall's Eungella home, was as informative and interesting as these meetings always are.

With the veggie garden between seasons, and after so much rain,

many people reported self-seeding greens among the weeds, a surprising loss of parsley, gluts of snake beans, and choko vines going berserk. Kevin reminded us that the whole purpose of a veggie garden is to have something producing right through the year, even if it's only a handful of tomatoes. Barbara Waters suggested that to save buying mulch, we collect mown grass from the roadsides, place it in black plastic bags in the sun for a few weeks to kill the seeds, then spread it on the garden.

Zam described her raised corrugated iron garden beds, filled with a third of stones at the bottom, a third of soil, then topped up with mushroom compost.

We welcomed Barbara Thomas, a new Uki resident, who had many questions about fruit trees suitable for this area.

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UBUNTU.....What the!?

by Robert Harrell

Those of us who won't be rushing out to grab a copy of Windows Vista at 12:01 am like a bunch of drooling Pavlovian dogs being led to the dinner bell still have a few options. Not the least of which is sticking with Windows XP for the time being, as several tech experts have recommended.

What about those of us who've had it up to here with Windows XP but also aren't ready to spend tons of cash on a Vista capable PC, what are we to do? Here's a thought; take a second look at Linux and, specifically, Ubuntu.

Once just the stable and solid workhorse of quietly humming server rooms, Linux has made some incredible strides in recent years as a desktop operating system for the masses. Ubuntu, the pet project and entrepreneurial

venture of tech millionaire Mark Shuttleworth is constantly pushing the envelope, making Linux an easier choice for end users the world over.

I've put together a short list of tips and resources for the non-conformists out there who'd rather swim upstream than be carried down-river by the latest from Redmond. What's the point? *If you're ready for Linux, Linux is ready for you.* Ubuntu.com - The official source of Ubuntu Linux. Chock full of documentation, resources and a popular help forum, Ubuntu.com is the first stop on your new desktop computing adventure. If you're a little trepidatious about dropping Windows for Ubuntu and you're comfortable burning a CD, check out the Ubuntu Live CD, which lets you boot Ubuntu up, play around

and even get some work done, all without changing a thing about your existing Windows install.

Automatix - The very first thing you'll install after Ubuntu is up and running, Automatix is a useful downloader/package installer for just about everything you could ever need in Ubuntu that isn't included in the install CD. Automatix makes it easy to install things like video codecs, Google Earth, Open Office, and much more. Really, it's far too much to list. As the Automatix team motto says, 'Download, Install, Enjoy.'

So go and save yourself some big money and have a play - Ubuntu is much faster and more stable than Windows and really easy to use.

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Despite the well-known health risks, escalating costs and increasing restrictions on smoking in public areas, many struggle to conquer their addiction to cigarettes. If that includes you, there are some things you should know:

- Nicotine, the active and addictive ingredient of tobacco, is a mild central nervous system stimulant and a stronger cardiovascular system stimulant. It constricts blood vessels, increases blood pressure, stimulates the heart and raises the blood fat levels. It is the nicotine that causes people to continue to smoke cigarettes, but it is the cigarette smoke that causes many of the problems.

- Cigarette smoke is a combination of lethal gases—carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, and nitrogen and sulphur oxides—and tars, which contain an estimated 4,000 chemicals. Cigarettes also include

pesticides and chemicals added to the tobacco to make it burn better or taste different.

- Other toxic contaminants in cigarettes include cadmium, lead, arsenic, cyanide, and nickel. Dioxin, the most toxic pesticide chemical known to date, has been found in cigarettes. Acetonitrile, another pesticide, is also found in tobacco. The nitrogen gases from cigarettes generate carcinogenic nitrosamines in the body tissues. The tars in smoke contain Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH), which are carcinogens.

Continued smoking – independent of number or strength, will almost inevitably seriously compromise health, well being and length of life and will predispose to serious disease states including atherosclerosis, hypertension, stroke, cancers, lung diseases, infertility, Alzheimer's, osteoporosis, impotence,

low libido, varicose veins, skin conditions, allergies and hernias.

As anyone who has tried will testify, stopping smoking is not easy. Success depends on a number of factors including getting the right support, advice and potentially using the wide variety of therapeutic options which exist – both natural and conventional. Complementary medicine has a wide range of safe and effective products to help with the cravings, toxicity, addiction struggles, weight gain and emotional meltdowns.

Always, the principal ingredient for needed for success is determination. In my experience, when a smoker finally engages in the reality of smoking, then they usually succeed in giving up. The bottom line is— it is always, *always* doing you damage and it is *never* too late to stop.



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RSL Report

By Ray Blisset

Hon. Secretary Uki RSL Sub-Branch

At the Sub-Branch AGM held on Sunday 10 February, the following members were elected, unopposed, as office bearers:

President – John Smith
Vice President – Ivan Dusi
Vice President – Peter Ridgeway
Secretary/Treasurer – Ray Blissett

The Anzac Dawn Service will commence at 4.28am. The 225 Regional Cadet Unit will provide the Cenotaph Guard. State member for Lismore Mr Thomas George will be in attendance. A light breakfast and refreshments will be available in the Hall immediately after the Service. All attending the Service are invited to join the members of the Sub-Branch at the breakfast.

Red Cross Report

With Joy Armour



The next meeting of the Uki Red Cross will be held in the Hall on Tuesday 1 April starting at 9.45am. New members would be very welcome.

The Winter Appeal day will be held on 30 May. Come along and pick up a bargain, or enjoy lunch. We will be happy to accept donations of goods, cooking etc, and remember that all proceeds support the work of the Red Cross.

Don't forget that Australia's Biggest Morning Tea is on again on 22 May, as is the next Lifeline sale. A big day for the Hall!

One of our members, Jean Scholes, will turn 80 on 3 April. Jean will join the OBE Club (Over B----y Eighty). Our members are helping her to celebrate at a morning tea on 2 April, to be held at the home of Gayanne Gleave at 10.00am.

Bye for now.

Fire Brigade news

Two Kunghur Brigade members as well as the Cat7 Bravo truck attended the Region North Annual Field Exercise at Glen Innes over the weekend 14th-16th March. The Kunghur crew was part of the 60 Appliances and the 500 personal involved with the weekend.

Four new recruits have successfully completed their Basic Training course.

With the approaching winter I strongly urge property owners to do hazard reduction around their property or buildings. With the wet summer and the amount of growth that has built up it will only take a few frosts to create a fire hazard.

Residents seeking advice or assistance in preparing their property against fires can contact me.

Ron Duckworth, Captain

Phone 6679 9121

Do you need information about our local markets? Would you like to book a stall? For the Buttery Bazaar, phone Kara on 6679 9026. For the weekly Hall Market, phone Anita on 6679 5438.

UKI BAKERY At the Buttery

We are now open and offer you a delicious range of fresh bread, pies, small cakes and slices. We welcome your orders and would love to meet you. Call in and see Michelle, Ron and David for friendly service and wholesome country cooking.

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Main Street, Uki

Feeding our wildlife

by Maree Coley

Whilst it is a pleasure to attract native birds into our garden, feeding them artificial food can be detrimental to their health and wellbeing.

Feeding bread, honey and water to our nectar feeders has been well documented as causing health problems in adult birds and also their young. Feeding plain mince meat without added vitamin and mineral supplements can cause deficiencies in insectivorous birds, such as magpies and butcherbirds and especially young fed in the nest.

All wildlife needs to have the correct balance of nutrients in their

diet. Artificial feeding can lead to obesity and laziness, eg some birds will stop foraging for their normal food and totally rely on you.

It is essential if you intend to feed artificial food to do some research and find out the type of food that is naturally eaten and plan a diet around that. For instance, most seed eating birds, irrespective of their size, eat small seed. Sunflower seed is very high in fat and is not recommended (even though we know they prefer it). Seed should be put out fresh every day and not left in wet weather to go soggy and mouldy.

As wildlife carers, we recommend

that is better for our wildlife to fend for themselves and find their own natural food. This is what balance in nature is all about.

We encourage people to plant native shrubs and trees, if possible, in their gardens to attract birds and marsupials and so enjoy watching and learning how they feed themselves.

However, if the temptation is too strong and you feel the need to feed, please do some research or ring your local vets or wildlife organisation for more information.

Tweed Wildlife Carers run a volunteer 24 hour service on 6672 4789.

Historical Society news

by Helena Duckworth

News from the Museum front. In May the Friends of the Museum will be holding a launch of their Society. If you would like to become a Friend the subscription is \$20. More information is available from our Uki and South Arm Society. The office is open on Fridays. Phone 6679 5890.

We have been fortunate to have had some family letters offered to us. They are from a life long resident of the area to her sister and we hope you'll find them interesting. If so, we will continue to share them with you.

Dear Gertrude,

Just a short note to say hello. I had a lovely chat over the fence

this morning with George and Ethel, they've been neighbours forever and we got to reminiscing about some of the things we got up to when we were kids. George asked me if I remembered the great times we had when the circus came to Uki and how excited we were watching the circus tent being erected in the paddock across from the War Memorial. The Uki Guest House stands on that spot today, where Dalton's used to live too. Gertie, can you remember, when the circus had to walk some of their animals from Uki to their next performance at Nimbin and how when the local horses got a sniff of the camels they went berserk trying to get away. How angry

was Dad when his horses were hurt from pushing through and over the fences in fright.

We walked for miles looking for those horses to bring them home. What a drama then. Just as well we were used to walking everywhere eh? The circus was worth it to us kids but our neighbours grumbled for months about having to fix broken fences.

I hope you enjoyed reminiscing with me. How's the new hip performing? It's wonderful you can get around your garden again. Will write again soon,

Your loving sister, Maude.



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Health Fund Rebate Available

Channel-billed Cuckoo (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*)

This is a large (58-66cm), pale-grey cuckoo, with a large curved straw-coloured bill. It has red skin around the eyes, and the tail has a dark terminal band and is tipped with white. The head and neck are light grey, the belly white with faint bars. The flanks are white with dark brown bars. The eyes are red, with bare red skin surrounding them, and the beak is light cream. The sexes are similar, though the male is slightly larger than the female.

Immature birds have the head, neck and breast coloured pale buff. Their backs, wings and tails are dark grey with broad buff coloured tips. The tail has a dark terminal band and white tip. The eyes are brown, bill red-brown and legs lead grey.

Channel-billed cuckoos arrive in



Australia in spring, moving south to Sydney in September and October, and occasionally down to Victoria. They are seen as single birds, pairs and small flocks, mainly in tall timber areas. They feed mostly on native figs.

The cuckoo heads north in autumn, going as far as the Celebes and Bismarck Archipelago. It is an uncommon winter visitor to New Guinea. In Australia, it does not occur in very humid areas, but is found from Cloncurry Qld to north-east South Australia and also the Kimberley region of WA.

Breeds: October to November and is a nest parasite.

Egg: slightly glossy, pale cream or pale yellow with fine markings all over of pale lavender – sometimes with larger, scattered brown markings. 48 x 32mm.

Nest: lays in the nests of other birds, usually a crow, raven or currawong. Eggs have also been found in the nests of magpies and collared sparrowhawks. Often two eggs are laid, but there is a record of five young cuckoos in the nest of a little crow (*Corvus bennetti*).

Enjoy your birdwatching.

Astrological insights

by Paola Emma

Happy autumn season, everyone.

April 6, Aries New Moon: Aries-Libra-Cancer-Capricorn will be galvanized into action, initiating projects relegated before to the 'too hard basket', for lack of courage or opportunity. Unreserved optimism could prove however risky now: be careful not to overstep your mark, throwing caution to the wind.

April 20, two synchronous events: the beginning of a Sun Sign period (0°Taurus) and a Full Moon (0°Scorpio): This phase could tighten the grip of powerful emotions over the heart, but it also promises redemption, if we learn dispassion and letting go: Scorpio's task of elimination. The Sun-Moon-Saturn-Pluto Grand-Trine can help to liberate much positive energy for change; for early Scorpio, Cancer, Pisces, Taurus, Leo, Aquarius.

May 3, Saturn direct: Virgo-Pisces-Gemini-Sagittarius will be glad to see Saturn ending its cosmic loop: for months retrograded Saturn has held you back, slowly preparing you for the task ahead and future successes. Here is a turning point, when the impasse on your progress can be finally lifted.

May 5, Taurus New Moon coincides with the conjunction Lunar North Node to Neptune, aligning the personal destiny of the children born at this time with the mystical sphere of Neptune, producing musicians and visionaries, artists, mystics, dreamers, redeemers and happy go lucky drifters.

May 20, the 'Blue' Scorpio Full Moon (second consecutive Scorpio Full Moon), cusp Sagittarius (Sun cusp Taurus-Gemini) is a significant phase (Grand-Cross), all Signs falling within its aura. Venus-

Neptune-Moon's Nodes' Transits bring awareness of the need to integrate our personal desires and expectations of love (Venus) with the unlimited reservoir and universal sympathy stored within, the eternal spring of love (Neptune).

May 10: Cancerians will happily farewell boisterous Mars, at length leaving their Sign to enter Leo. Leo, Aries, Sagittarius will begin to experience Mars' competitive spirit and desire for adventure (until July 1). Be warned: fiery Mars can augment too much the Fire Signs, causing rash, thoughtless actions, and all sorts of strife. Prudence and temperance are key virtues here.

paolaemmastrologia@gmail.com

Uki Public Hall proposals

The Board of Trustees are asking for community input/opinion for the Uki Recreation Reserve Trust Park area next to the Hall. Proposals have been submitted for our consideration as follows:

- remodeling old tennis club (rotunda). Plans on Community Noticeboard
- removal of BBQ (due to above changes).
- installation of electric BBQ (position?)
- installation of playground equipment (not approved by Trust at this time)
- redesign/removal/maintenance of garden areas.

Any input should be in writing (mud maps ok) left at PO or sent to PO Box 107 UKI, ASAP.

The Trustees are also asking for assistance with care of the Hall building and surrounds. Remember the Hall IS a community building and the Trust is only a small number of people from this community. We cannot physically monitor the area every day or personally undertake the cleaning, repairs and improvements that we would all like to see.

As with most community organizations the shortage of funds is always an issue but thanks to the wonderful group of ladies who are now assisting us some long needed work may soon be 'a happenin' thing'. Thank you.

We are also urgently in need of the assistance of a carpenter or someone competent in that area, for small repairs and maintenance work (gophers & lackeys supplied).

And just a reminder that **any** ideas or proposals for the Hall or Park area must be referred to the Trust for consideration and/or approval prior to application for grants, council approvals etc. There are criteria and restrictions placed on us as a Trust Board of the Dept of Lands.

CRAG update

Tweed Shire Council has rejected an application from Nightcap Village developer to close roads within and on the proposed development site. CRAG, along with TSC and other interested parties, have forwarded submissions to the Lands Department rejecting these proposed road closures. CRAG is still awaiting a reply from the Lands Department.

TSC has rejected the application because the proposed road closures conflict with Council's Road Closure Policy for the following reasons:

- Consent has not been obtained from two adjoining landowners.
- Several of the roads form part of an intricate network of Crown Road reserves enabling access to further private properties.
- Several of the roads in question provide the only public road access to certain Lots and if closed, these parcels of land would become landlocked.

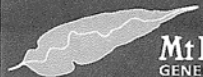
Two of the road reserves provide direct access to the Tweed River.

It is stated within Council's Road Closure Policy that roads which are not eligible for closure include those that:

Can provide or are capable of providing, physical access to rivers, creeks, lakes, beaches and their foreshores, as well as to other roads, public and private properties.

The hearing within the Land and Environment Court that was scheduled for 10 February, will now be heard in April. CRAG would like to thank those who put forward submissions to stop the road closures, and will keep you informed of further issues re the outcomes of the hearing.

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Having been ordained a priest late in life I always wondered why we could celebrate Jesus' birth on the same day each year but not his resurrection. Easter was early this year because the timing of our Christian festival is linked to that of a pagan celebration honouring Eostre, the Teutonic goddess of light and spring. In the northern hemisphere the Spring Equinox – when day and night are of equal length – falls on March 21st. From then onwards the days get longer and warmer, and life returns to a land hitherto dormant in a grave fashioned from frost and snow. This explains the use of Easter Eggs and Easter Bunnies, as symbols of fertility and new life.

The Resurrection, too, offers a promise of new life and a fresh start, and the timing of Easter therefore parallels that of the ancient festival. It is observed on the Sunday following the first full moon that occurs on or after the equinox

(a whole week later if the full moon falls on Sunday). Easter can in fact fall at any time between March 22 and April 25.

But, as the buns remind us, Easter Sunday means next to nothing divorced from Good Friday – for death is a pre-condition to resurrection: death to self in our case and death for us in Christ's case. This explains why a group of us joined in a 'Good Friday Walk through Uki'. As in the traditional 'Stations of the Cross' we stopped at fourteen points, between the Buttery and the Sports Ground, to reflect upon contemporary issues that lie at the heart of Christ's crucifixion – like grief and shame, violence and abuse, verbalising and betrayal, loneliness and pain, but also love. As we left each building we prayed:

Jesus who for love of me
Didst bear Thy Cross to Calvary,
In Thy sweet mercy grant to me
To suffer and to die with Thee.
Bless all who gather in this place
And fill them all with heavenly
grace.

Rev'd Dr. John Tyman
Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Native plant garden in Sweetnam Park - Update

The first plantings in this community garden were almost exactly six years ago in 2002. It seems hard to believe that a small forest has grown in such a short time. In winter last year, a couple of trees were badly affected by the severe frost, but they have bounced back and are now covered with foliage. The recent warm, wet weather has meant abundant growth of both the plants we want as well those we don't (the weeds). An attractive plant for your garden, the Native Coleus (Plectranthus) has flourished, making an excellent low shrubby space filler. If you'd like more information or would like to contribute voluntary labour, please contact me.

Penny Watsford 02 6679 5257



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ART BEAT

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6.30 for 7.00pm on Friday 4 April

Philip Bacon AM will open

Open Spaces / Other Places

Open Spaces / Other

Places: a 40 year survey – the work of local artist Ken Johnson will be known to many visitors to the Tweed River Art Gallery. As an artist of national significance, this fascinating exhibition of painting, drawing, sculpture and photography showcases every stage of his successful career, which has been inspired by the diverse cultures and landscapes of the world.

Free Public Program - 2pm Saturday 5 April

Exhibition floortalk with Ken Johnson

Free Public Program – 11am-3pm Sunday 20 April

Points of view: paint, draw or collage a still life with Francesca Yasukawa

René Bolten: paintings and drawings – painting and drawing is an integral part of the rhythm and structure of daily life for classically trained local artist and teacher René Bolten, however his contrasting approach to each medium is anything but routine. René's traditional approach to painting explores the formal relationships between subject and technique. In comparison, his drawings are a spontaneous celebration of mark making.

Painting Masterclass with René Bolten Sat 10 and Sun 11 May, 10am-4pm each day \$125

Book and pay in advance – contact Gallery for details

Free Public Program – 3pm Sunday 18 May

Exhibition floortalk with René Bolten

The carelessness of exile – in 2007, emerging local artist Christine Porter travelled through England, Scotland and Ireland as the University of Southern Queensland McGregor Fellow. The works included in this exhibition were inspired by that trip, and include paintings, small bronze sculptures and found-object installations. Porter says, 'this exhibition of new work is a result of how the ideas of colonisation, exile and belonging

informed that journey to the place of my ancestors'.

Free Public Program - 11am Sunday 11 May

Exhibition floortalk with Christine Porter followed by

Printmaking demonstration 11.30am - 3pm

Free Seniors Week Public Program – 11am Wednesday 9 April

Behind the Scenes tour with Gallery Director, Susi Muddiman

GET IN QUICK

School Holidays Programs - Children's Workshops

Tues 15 to Thurs 24 April – contact Gallery for details

Contributions sought

Do you have an event coming up, a special achievement, a worthy cause, or a particular interest? Share it with your community by contributing to the Uki News!

Email contributions to theukinews@hotmail.com, or post them to The Uki News, c/- Post Office, Uki.

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Expressions of love

Some locals have been expressing the love they have for each other in ceremonies of marriage. As a civil marriage celebrant I am privileged to share these occasions. Two very lovely weddings have taken place recently. I am sharing these beautiful expressions of love with you, the community, with the approval of the brides and grooms.

1 December, in a traditional style ceremony, Maxene Mitchell and George Watt married at Hitchins gardens,

George and Maxene.

Photo by Denise White.



(the wonderful gardens near Byangum Bridge). Then on 16 February, Kelly Skinner and Loren Dent literally tied the knot with a Pagan hand fasting ritual at Midginbil Hill Resort.

Debbie Hodge C.M.C., Dip Dru Yoga

(Best wishes to both couples for many happy years together. Ed)



Left to right Jet, Kelly, Debbie, Wala and Loren.

Photo by Sacha.

Kaye's Kitchen

By Kaye Wilson



FRUITY SQUARES

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 125g butter or margarine
- 1 egg
- Pinch salt
- 1½ cups S.R. flour
- 1 cup mixed fruit

Cream butter or margarine with the brown sugar. Add egg, then sifted flour and lastly mixed fruit. Press into flat tin and bake in slow oven (150° C) for 30 minutes. When cool cut into squares.

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- Computer Basics / how to trust the computer
- Learning Word
- How to access various websites such as Seniors and Public Trustees
- How to do Internet banking
- Skype and Blogging explained
- National Livestock Identification System
- Herbs for the Elderly
- Genealogy Basics
- Digital Photography tips and photo manipulation
- National Livestock Identification System explained
- And more

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