

# **Press Statement:** Mt Warning Protest Rally

North Coast Locals Join Ngarakwal Elder: Call to Reopen Summit Climb

About 200 locals from Uki, Murwillumbah and surrounds answered an invitation from Ngarakwal Elder Sturt Boyd to protest the ongoing closure of Mt Warning. The meeting was held at Gerald Parker Park at Uki on Australia Day. The famous walk to the summit has been closed by NPWS since March 2020 on the basis of claims made about the mountain by the secretive Wollumbin Consultative Group (WCG).



Protest attendees assemble in front of the Re-open Mt Warning banner, Gerald Parker Park Uki, Australia Day 2024

Photo Steven Gibbs.

RUN

Ngarakwal Elder, Sturt Boyd Photo Steven Gibbs

The event was supported by the Save Our Summits Association. SOS president Craig Evans opened the meeting speaking about the importance of access to the natural world, including summits in the Glass House Mountains and Mt Warning,

has on the physical and mental health of the whole community.

Ngarakwal Elder Sturt Boyd then welcomed the crowd with a traditional dance, singing along to a recording of his late Grandmother Millie Boyd. Mr Boyd exerted his family's close connection and custodianship of the Mountain and challenged the claims of the WCG, labelling them false and for Mt Warning to be reopened for everyone; closing his speech stating: "I love you all and I will get our mountain back."

Other speakers included Marc Hendrickx, geologist and author of "A Guide to Climbing Mt Warning" who labelled claims of the WCG as "Secret Men's Business" and called for a Royal Commission; comparing the situation to the fabricated claims labelled as "Secret Women's Business" that held up construction of the Hindmarsh Bridge in South Australia in the mid-1990s.

Adventurer Andrew Flanagan spoke of visiting the summit with his grandchildren and the harm the closure has caused to the bushwalking community and local businesses severely impacted by the loss of visitors. Businesses along Mt Warning Road and elsewhere in the area have never been consulted about the closure by NPWS.

**Editor's Note:** For the next issue of the Uki News, reaction to this press statement will be sought from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and members of the Wollumbin Consultative Group which represents a range of Aboriginal groups and families with connections to Wollumbin (Mt Warning).

Uki local trail running champion Liam McKenzie, said not being able to access the mountain impacted his mental health:

"Since moving to the community I have had a very close connection with the mountain and it's extremely hard to look out at it each day and not be able to go up there. I just hope we can achieve something and see it reopened again." The meeting was closed by local Amulet Ov Acorn, who spoke about the spiritual significance of the land to non-indigenous people. Highlighting the close connection all of humanity has with nature

A question from the crowd raised the prospect of a future mass protest march to the summit. When asked who would come along most of the crowd raised their hands in support. There were no NPWS representatives at the meeting. It seems officials have once again missed an important opportunity to explain their position and to engage in meaningful dialogue with stakeholders they have ignored to date.

Earlier in the day Sturt Boyd accompanied by a number of other bushwalking enthusiasts defied the official closure and climbed the mountain to see the first sunrise on Australia Day. The climb was undertaken with the blessing of Mr Boyd. At the summit, to the background of a spectacular Mt Warning sunrise, Mr Boyd welcomed the new day, singing along with a recording of his grand Mother Millie Boyd, and spoke about the Ngarakwal connection to country and the importance of reopening the Mountain's summit to everyone.



Sturt Boyd looking over Country from the summit of Mt Warning, Australia Day 2024. Photo Marc Hendrickx

# From the Editors

### Welcome to Issue 134

What a dramatic beginning to the year, with parts of the catchment receiving over 400 mm of rain in the first day.

Not the expected weather for a El Nino season, but the phenomenal amount of water that was blasted in to the stratosphere by the explosive eruption of the Tongan volcano, two years ago, is estimated to take up to 10 years to fall back to Earth with increased intensity and record breaking rainfall events.

The deluge of February 2022 occurred just a few weeks after the volcanic

eruption in Tonga, which was reported as being heard by many residents of South Arm, as being similar to a gas bottle explosion in a distant fire. The eruption was also reported as being heard in Japan and Alaska.

What goes up, must come down Editor

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Disclaimer: The opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Uki News nor of UKIRA.

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



Thank you Editors and supporters, This is a wonderful publiation for newbies like us.

Andrew Bennrtt

### POSITIONS VACANT

The Uki News has two positions available:

- 1 Coordination/Editorial
- 2 Layout

(Note: These roles may be filled separately, or one suitably qualified person could perform both)

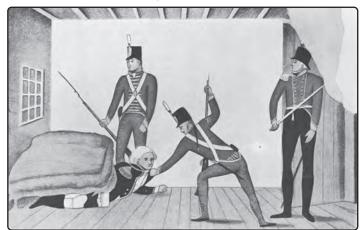
Please email Expressions of Interest to: ukiresidentsassociation@gmail.com Or send to: Uki Residents Association, PO Box 3141 Uki 2484 For more info, call Mob 0403 314134

The Uki News is published by the Uki Residents Association – Six issues per year.



# **RUM REBELLION DAY**

January 26 th 1808



The 26th of January is the anniversary of the Rum Rebellion in 1808. The only military Coup in Australian history.

The arrest of Governor William Bligh by Officers and men of the New South Wales Corps after Bligh attempted to limit the supply of rum in the colony. Bligh was later released and fled to Tasmania.



# Word from UKIRA by Philip Carr (based on information from TSC) Road Works - Kyogle Road & Mount Warning Road

Major work has commenced to restore significant landslips on Mount Warning Road and on Kyogle Road between Byangum and Uki.

Work on the four flood-damaged sites, set to cost around \$40m, will continue for the best part of a year with an expected completion date of January 2025.

Each work site will allow single-lane vehicle access only, controlled by traffic lights.

The safety of workers and motorists is always paramount. Road users are asked to please drive carefully and adhere to the reduced roadworks speed limits.

Arrangements are in place for emergency vehicles to retain unrestricted access through Kyogle Road.

Tweed Shire Council has contracted Civil Mining and Construction Pty Ltd (CMC) to carry out the roadworks.

The slip restabilisation works require soil anchors, gabion baskets, reno mattress and timber pinning, while the road reconstruction works include pavement/sealing, drainage and guard rail works and, finally, reinstate line-markings.

CMC will be working 6 days per week - Monday to Friday between 7am - 6pm and Saturday between 8am - 1 pm.

TSC also advises that there are significant pavement rehabilitation works forthcoming on Kyogle Road. A total of 9 sections will be reconstructed throughout 2024, starting near the shire boundary and finishing at Bray Park. Works are expected to commence in March.



Further info:

Ken Fox

Project Manager, TSC Phone: 6670 2400/0448 565 463

Phone: 1300 727 023 / 0408 398 663

Email: kfox@tweed.nsw.gov.au E: josh.hungerford@cmc.net.au Afterhours, call 1800 818 326. In case of an emergency, phone 000.

Project Manager, CMC

Josh Hungerford

Weekly project updates can be found at: tweed.nsw.gov.au/floodrestoration-works.

### Flood Study Information Session

As part of plans to complete the Tweed Valley Flood Study, Tweed Shire Council invites residents to attend a drop-in session at the Uki Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday 21st February from 4-6 pm. More info at tweed.nsw.gov.au/flood-risk-management.



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# The Man From Earth

CI-FI buffs are in for a treat when Murwillumbah Theatre Company presents the intriguing **The Man from Earth** at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre from March 8-24.

The Man from Earth was written by Jerome Bixby, who conceived the screenplay in the early 1960s and completed it on his deathbed in April 1998. It's all about John Oldman, a departing university professor, who puts forth the notion that he is more than 14,000 years old.

The entire play is set in and around Oldman's house during his farewell party and plays out through intellectual arguments between Oldman and his fellow university members who are versed in biology, anthropology and psychiatry.

The claims and counter-claims fly thick and fast, with Oldman standing his ground. How could this be true?

The screenplay mirrors similar concepts of longevity which Bixby had introduced in Requiem for Methuselah, a Star Trek episode he wrote which originally aired in 1969.

This is the first time it has been brought to the stage in Australia and with the strong cast that has signed on, it promises to be an enthralling show.

The Man from Earth is a thought-provoking drama that explores philosophical and ethical questions, touching on humanity, history, religion and the human experience.

Show times are;

Fridays on March 8, 15 and 22 at 7.30pm,

Saturdays, March 9, 16 and 23 at 7.30pm and

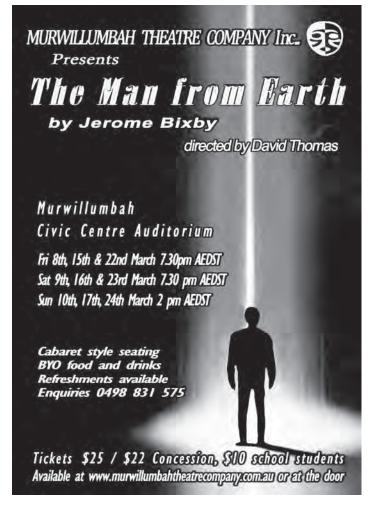
Sundays March 10, 17 and 24 at 2pm.

Tickets are on sale at

murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au

or at the door.





# Vale Mary Letitia Connery

Known as Mary Lee

The Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc. was established in 1982 by Ella Mitchell, Judy Dalton, Kari Bromhead and Mary Lee Connery.

Mary Letitia (Mary Lee) Connery was born 17th November 1941. She sadly passed away on 18th November 2023.

Mary Lee was our first elected President from 1983 to 1985.

In the early days of the Society, it did not have a permanent home to collect and record the history of the South Arm. At times we had a small space in the Norco Butter Factory and at the Uki School.

In 1986 the Society decided to embark on publishing a book of oral histories of early settlers of the South Arm (an area encompassing Byangum to Mt. Burrell).

Mary Lee along with other members recorded the memories of the pioneers on audio tape. Mary Lee edited these recollections and eventually the book titled,

"The Way It Was" was published and launched at the 1987 celebration of the centenary of the village of Uki.

HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.IIIC

Over the following years Mary Lee continued as our archivist and was made a Life Member 9th May 2009. She resigned in 2015.

The Society will always be appreciative of her commitment and the work she contributed to the Society.

Helena Duckworth President

# 2024 Seniors Festival Local Achievement Awards

Nominations close Feb 23 contact my office for nomination forms



Janelle Saffin MP

MEMBER FOR LISMORE Lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au

ph: 02 6621 3624



Authorised by Janelle Saffin MP. Funded using Parliamentary entitlements.

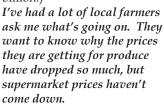
# Time for a closer look at supermarket pricing

Janelle Saffin MP, Member for Lismore

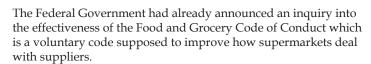
It is clearly time for an investigation into what's happening with supermarket prices, and I welcome the Prime Minister's announcement of an ACCC inquiry into retail pricing and allegations of price gouging.

We have all seen the price of the weekly grocery shop going up at the same time as the bg supermarket chains are reporting massive profits. (In the 2023 financial year, Woolworths reported a total net profit after tax of \$1.72 billion, and Coles profit was \$1.1

hillion )



While supermarket pricing and competition is a Federal Government matter, I am raising it here because it affects all of us.



But the latest announcement of a pricing inquiry by consumer watchdog, the ACCC is the most powerful action yet. This is something that farmers wanted to see because it can force supermarkets to reveal their farmgate prices and contracts.

The inquiry will include an investigation into the competitiveness of small and independent retailers, including regional and remote areas.

To help shoppers be better informed, the Government is funding consumer group Choice to provide quarterly reports on price transparency and the comparative costs of grocery goods at different retailers.

I welcome this ACCC price inquiry because, as the Treasurer says – we want a fair go for families and for farmers.

## Save on power bills

If you have suffered power bill shock lately, there are a few things you can do that could bring your bill down.

Electricity retailers are not allowed to charge exit fees or early termination fees when you decide to switch your supplier. You are free to find a better energy deal at any time.

And there is an quick online method for finding out the best deal. The Australian Energy Regulator has a website – **Energymadeeasy.gov.au** where you pop in your suburb, and provide the code from your latest power bill, and it calculates the best deal based on your usage.

One of my staff did the calculation and found she could save \$400 a year by switching to another provider, so it's worth investigating.

Also remember to check for any rebates you may be eligible for – there are a range of NSW Government energy rebates for low income households, families, independent retirees and others. Go to https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/households/rebatesgrants-and-schemes/find-energy-rebate

# Relationship Health ... Gratitude cultivates an ethic of fullness.

### Heather McClelland

As I thought about being on the cusp of another new year I decided to make a commitment to myself to practise expressing my gratitude more: for family and friends and life-warming networks; for safe roads; infrastructure for leisure; a sound health system; the freedoms and responsibilities of democracy; the intricate wonder of the food systems and the beauty of the natural world that surround us here wherever we look. Each day there are specifics.

A friend recently told me that picking fault with the staff and culture at her mother's aged facility could become a habit and it only created negativity. When instead she started being grateful for all that was done for her mother, she was surprised at the difference it made.

In her book, 'Braiding Sweetgrass' 1 Robin Wall Kimmerer tells of an ancient protocol of the indigenous Potowatumi nation of the USA. Children in their schools begin the day, not by reciting a generalised and fairly meaningless pledge as is still practised in mainstream American Schools. Instead they share in the reading of a Thanksgiving Address and 'The Words That Come Before All Else'p107. The children root themselves in a culture of gratitude as they read the words: 'Beginning with where our feet first touch the earth, we send greetings and thanks to all members of the natural world.'p.107 One by one they name and describe all the different elements of the ecosystems. They are invited to bring their concentrated minds into

a unity of agreement. Kimmerer maintains that 'The words are a statement of sovereignty, a political structure, a family tree and a scientific inventory of eco-system services.' p115

The author explains that the legacy of such a practice is revolutionary. What most struck home to me was the assertion that: No one can listen to the Thanksgiving Address without feeling wealthy.

'In a consumerist society,' she says: 'contentment is a radical proposition. Recognising abundance rather than scarcity undermines an economy that thrives on meeting unmet desires.'p111

The economy we live in needs emptiness. Gratitude cultivates an ethic of fullness.

1 Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Penguin, 2013







# Offshore Detention Royal Commission

uki.refugee.project@gmail.com



Research undertaken by The Australia Institute in August 2023 showed that 79% of Australians would support a Royal Commission into Australia's offshore detention policyincluding 75% of Coalition voters and 67% of One Nation voters.

In July the Guardian reported on rorts and dubious contractual arrangements

with Nauru and PNG, revealing a system beyond the reach of national or human rights oversight. The SMH also reported this year on the payment of millions of taxpayer dollars for suspect contracts.

Kylea Ti stated that in the 9 years 2013-2022, over \$9.65 billion has been spent on offshore detention alone, and there have been 37 suicides related to immigration detention.

Behrouz Boochani, Betelhem Tebubu, Zaki Haidari, Farhad Bandesh and Thanush Selvarasa had all been indefinitely detained on Manus Island or Nauru. They each gave compelling and devastating testimony of their experiences, and paid tribute to their friends who had died there.

We also heard from the young Australian workers whose trauma remains with them 10 years on, and who need to tell their fellow Australians about what they witnessed in those detention centres. There have been many allegations of torture, including a UN Report in 2016, systemic abuse of men and women, and numerous articles written about the extremely harmful impact of this privatised detention model.

The cruelty of the current regime harms not only the people who

are asking for our protection, but our own nation and community. It is vital to our democracy that our legislation and policies are based on evidence.

It is a fact that we have held many thousands of refugees who have committed no crime whatsoever in brutal conditions in indefinite detention. Some have been imprisoned for up to 10 or 15 years.

There was a time when our leaders worked in a bipartisan way to bring us together by showing compassion towards refugees.

"The journey back to that decent, caring country begins with transparency and telling the truth about the harm done in our name to people who have come seeking peace and safety." Campaign for a Royal Commission into Immigration Detention



Thank you, as always, for your support. Please send us an email if you would like more information. We would love to hear from you.

Joan Henderson

Tweed Shire Australia Day Awards Ambassador 2024 and was recognised as the Citizen of the Year at Tweed Shire's 2023 Australia Day Awards.



Jay Lopez

# Keep an eye out for Parthenium Weed



WEED BIOSECURITY - BULK WATER SUPPLY - FLOOD MITIGATION 218 - 232 Molesworth Street, Lismore, NSW 2480 - Phone 0266 233 800 - council@rous.nsw.gov.au

Parthenium weed (Parthenium hysterophorus) can cause serious health problems to humans including respiratory issues and severe dermatitis.

Once a reaction to Parthenium weed develops, some people go on to develop allergies to related plants such as sunflowers. This reaction can be so severe that people with the allergy may need to move away from infested areas.



This fast-growing plant can produce up to 15,000 seeds per year. It outcompetes degraded or drought affected pastures and reduces crop yields.

There is one known infestation site in the Far North Coast that is controlled and monitored. In this case, Parthenium weed was unknowingly brought

to the property by chook food from Queensland. Rous County Council Weed Biosecurity officers continue to

conduct control work on this site to ensure this highly invasive weed does not establish itself in the area.



It is advised you exercise extreme caution if you suspect it is on your property. Report immediately, move livestock away from the area and do not attempt to remove this plant yourself.

Parthenium is prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act 2015. For more information visit WeedWise https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/PartheniumWeed.

Seen it? Call Rous County Council (02) 6623 3800 or use our webform www.rous.nsw.gov.au/report-a-weed.

# little gallery FEATURE WALL EXHIBITIONS

# The Little Gallery gets literary in Murwillumbah

The Little Gallery is delighted to be part of a literary pop up at the Murwillumbah Library that runs until the end of February. The pop-up show, features 8 of our gallery's fabulous 2D artists, including Judy Collins-Haynes, Jenny Sayer, Marlena Basser, Andia Cally, Cameron Pitcher, Christine Mellor, Libby Jarasius and Heather McClelland. The show features a diverse range of collage, prints, photography, painting and glasswork that contrasts beautifully with the library's colourful walls. The exhibition ends on the 28th of February.

## Whiter Shade of Pale - Feature Wall February

Back at our base at the Buttery in Uki, this February our feature wall will be a group show called Whiter Shade of Pale that will hero white. As a collective we wanted to challenge ourselves by working with white, which some argue isn't a colour because it has no hue. Working with white and off white brings some interesting creative challenges that requires bringing depth and texture to create contrast. White represents many things, including purity, innocence, cleanliness, blankness, coldness, emptiness, simplicity, and minimalism to name a few. Come and check out all the different shades of white at the Little Gallery 7 Feb – 3 Mar.





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### Out of the Box - Feature Wall March

Jenny Sayer's passion for glass mosaic art stems from the medium's ability to capture the interplay of light and colour, resulting in captivating and mesmerizing pieces. Whether it be painting, mosaic or mixed media, she invites the audience to embark on a visual journey through her work as she captures the essence of the natural world, evoking a sense of wonder and curiosity in the viewer. Her solo feature wall 'Out of the Box' opens at 6pm on Friday 8th March the Little Gallery Uki. Drinks and nibbles provided.

Out of the Box

**MARCH** 

Feature Wall Exhibition

by Jenny Sayer



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# The Rise of Augmented Reality in Retail

Louise Bally

Augmented reality (AR) is the integration of digital information with the natural environment in Real Time, using overlay.

This differs from virtual reality (VR) which creates a digital artificial environment or the perception of it. The blending of the natural 3D environment with digital overlay delivers a visual, sound and sensory experience through a device such as a smart phone or glasses.

Modern Businesses are leveraging AR technology to enhance the retail experience for customers, aiding in decision making through providing the customer with a visual sensory experience

Types of business establishments that can implement AR include boutiques, cafes and restaurants, furniture retailers, real estate companies or service providers. AR is revolutionizing the way customers interact with products before making a purchase.

Businesses can, for example, allow customers to use AR apps to virtually try on clothing, visualize furniture in their homes, or preview menu items in restaurants. Customers can use their phones to install the stores AR app, or they can provide a tablet or iPad for customers to use.

AR can be used to create fun, interactive and engaging experiences for customers. This could include AR scavenger hunts, interactive displays, or gamified experiences that drive foot traffic to local stores.

Real estate agencies can list your property for sale, utilizing an online augmented interior with carefully selected furniture and

house plants, removing your clutter and tired furnishings with a few clicks of the mouse. Practical for the potential buyer and the seller

Community involvement especially in the Arts can help to strengthen the connection between local businesses and the community and could involve collaborations with local artists and musicians, for AR-enhanced displays.

Community events with AR elements, or partnerships with schools for educational AR experiences are areas businesses can become involved locally and drive foot traffic to their stores.

There are AR development agencies or consultants that can offer businesses advice and quotes for what specifics are involved with implementing the AR technology into their business.

As this is a newer technology, get several quotes and shop around, even source a local software developer who could develop an app tailored to your business needs.

AR is certainly the way of the future and is already being used in some online stores selling clothing, motor vehicles and other products.



# Raising Clarrie Hall Dam



T weed Shire Council is inviting the community to learn the latest on the proposed 8.5 metre raising of Clarrie Hall Dam Council's Director – Engineering David Oxenham said the team completing the final stages of the environmental impact assessment into raising the dam would be on hand to answer questions and discuss the proposal.

"We're now at the business end of assessing the impacts, with independent consultant KBR finalising the studies required to lodge an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the NSW Government, which we're planning to do in mid-2024," Mr Oxenham said.



Head to Council's online engagement page yoursaytweed.com. au/raisingclarriehall-eis to ask questions and register to receive future updates, including notifications about the upcoming EIS exhibition period

Council will lodge the EIS with the NSW Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure in mid-2024, when it will be placed on public exhibition.

"The community can raise issues while the EIS is being prepared and during its public exhibition," Mr Oxenham said.

"After exhibition, the NSW Government will consider the submissions, the EIS and other documents submitted as part of the application for approval to raise the dam.

"If the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces approves the project, it will be subject to conditions of that approval. Community submissions can also influence those conditions.

"If NSW Government approval is obtained, the elected Councillors will decide whether to progress construction."

An online version of the update and answers to frequently asked questions is at

yoursaytweed.com.au/raisingclarriehall-eis

# Uki Buttery Bazaar Entertainment

Sanne Grace Kenna

8am - 2pm

Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

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

### PLENTY OF PARKING AT RAINBOW BRIDGE AND SWEETNAM PARK

# FEBRUARY Buttery Bazaar Sunday 18th FEB



Murray Kyle

From a life rich in musical pilgrimage, comes the auditory download of Murray Kyle. Hailing from the visionary Byron Bay region of Australia, this mystic troubadour has built a dedicated international fan base from over 15 years of grass roots touring all over the world. His live performances are a dive into the soundtrack of a new paradigm, in devotion to the Earth and in connection to all relations. A prolific songwriter, multi instrumentalist, and sound engineer, Murray's latest album 'Pillars of Truth' was recorded and produced with the lush shamanic sonics that have become his signature sound.

Anneliese Rose will also be bringing her soaring harmonies to market stage. This is contagious soul restoring music that will sweep you off your feet, out of your head, and into your heart.

www.murraykyle.com



**MURRAY KYLE** 

Zaynab Wilson is a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumental performing artist who shares songs and stories in styles that reflect the intuitive ancestral Afro-Caribbean rhythms of her heritage and embrace the soulful vocalizations of her inward and outward journeys. Born in Montréal and raised in a creatively rich Trinidad and Tobagonian household, Zaynab began her career at age six in her steelpan-playing family ensemble. Now, a campaigner for the artistic process and cultural curiosity, she sculpts original projects and soundscapes that lead her on a globetrotting path of exchanging, networking, and anchoring in melody and rhythm



**ZAYNAB WILSON** 

# **MARCH** Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 17th MARCH 2024



Angel

ngel is a teen singer-songwriter who has been making music with her guitar for the past four years: "Music has and always will be my passion that I will continue to share with the world".

Rachel By The Stream

**B**rings together the talents of British songwriter Rachel Razelle and Melbourne beatmaker Mattriks. Effortlessly transitioning between roots reggae, glittery pop and synth-drenched hypnotic dance, RBTS are masters at delivering evocative songcraft in a bass heavy postcode. Regulars on the AUS and UK festival circuits; performing at Island Vibe, Rainbow Serpent, Glastonbury Festival, Boomtown Fair and Portobello Summer Fest among others, their sound is highly versatile and their onstage energy - a force to be reckoned with; "100% fresh" - Discobelle; "A totally distinctive talent" - ToneDeaf;

"Crank the synth overdrive up to 11, we're going to the retro future" - PileRats



ANGEL

# I Shaw

rmed with a guitar and a pocketful of harmonicas, CJ Shaw, the singer-songwriter effortlessly  $oldsymbol{1}$  weaves humor and clever wordplay into his music, enchanting audiences of all ages. In 2020, CJ earned a prestigious nomination for ARIA Music Teacher of the Year, a testament to his dynamic songwriting for primary-aged children. This industry recognition marked a breakthrough, opening up new horizons for his music.

In 2022, CJ's song and accompanying video, 'Ain't Many Like Lennie,' made its mark on the children's music scene when it was broadcasted on SBS's main channel and SBS On Demand. CJ Shaw's 'All Sorts' album garnered acclaim as "the ultimate family album" according to BMA Magazine in 2021, leading to a highly-praised headline performance at The Street Theatre, Canberra. A talented wordsmith CJ Shaw featured as a poet at the 2023/2024 Woodford Folk Festival where, as a singer, he also won the Great Band Competition.



RACHEL by the STREAM



CJ SHAW





# **Community Technology Centre**

Shop 6, The Buttery Building, Next to the Uki Pies shop

The Uki CTC provides a variety of services to the community including internet access and quality colour printing as well as a range of office and IT services. We also print the Uki News, administer the Uki Village & District Website, and offer visitors a range of local information

# Volunteers Needed

Located in a sunny spot at the Uki Buttery, we very much welcome members of the community to volunteer with our friendly crew.



All that is required is customer service skills and basic IT knowledge.

Uki CTC is a great place to gain new skills and develop those you already have with access to the latest software and tuorials

Please consider getting involved in this rewarding community service:

- Dog & people friendly
- Great opportunity to search for paid employment
- Centrelink approved volunteer host
- Free internet and computer access
- Discounted printing, etc.
- Social hub
- Improve and expand your IT skills

For more information phone 66795 399 or email us at

**ctc.uki.nsw@gmail.com** Or drop in for a chat.



# **PIONEERS**

### of the

# South Arm - Tweed River

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

eta May Best, nee Hall was born 29th March 1903 at Byangum, She was delivered by the self-trained local midwife Sarah Gresinger. She was the only child of Augustus (Gus) Hall (a local bullock driver) and Emily May Hall, nee Nichols. Reta was a sixth generation Australian born descendent of convict John Nichols, who had been transported on the First Fleet. Reta's first five years were spent living on the Hall family farm at Byangum. Gus and Emily then decided to move onto their own property (named Oakdale) at Midginbil. The first selector for the land at Midginbil had been a man named Perdieu, who when walking over the property found Grass Trees growing. He decided he didn't want a property with Grass Trees, as he felt the land would not be what he wanted. He reneged on the property, and it was put back under the ballot system. Jack Lange and Gus applied for the ballot and Gus won. Reta's family left Byangum 20th May 1908. Gus had loaded their furniture and goods onto his bullock dray and had to transport them over roads that were in a terrible state. He hooked two horses at the back of the wagon and had a cage of chooks loaded on the top. Reta and her mother followed behind the bullock wagon in a sulky pulled by a little chestnut pony called 'Posey' borrowed from her Aunty Helen. The little pony did a mighty job to pull the sulky through the muddy road. They finally arrived at the farm at around midnight after travelling all day over roads described as being a stinking mess. At the beginning they only had a tent to live in at the farm. Gus's family offered to help him erect two rooms and a verandah with sawn timber along with a slab timber lean-to to cook in with an open fire and camp ovens.

Reta was one of the first children to enroll at the Midginbil School in 1911, she sadly contracted rheumatic fever and only attended school for 18 months, her mother then continued Reta's education at home. The early health reports told Reta that she would not reach the age of 21, as the rheumatic fever had left her with a heart murmur. When Reta reached 21 years of age, she was told she must never marry or have children, due to her supposed weakened constitution.



Along with her mum and dad, Reta worked hard, Reta began off siding/ partnering with her father with his bullock team, the other bullock drivers readily accepted her in the role. At age 16 she could handle a full team on her own. Gus would often break his team in two and Reta would work the second half, pulling pine timber from Terragon. Reta's mother would often help her voke up the team and then Reta would drive the bullock team. Reta always wore ¾ length

dresses and Dairy Maid boots (Short Rubber Boots). There was a big strike in Newcastle and the ocean-going ships couldn't pick up their timber. The strike lasted long enough for some of the timber to rot on the wharf at Byangum. As there was no sale for the logs and timber at Byangum the family was left with very little income. They had plenty of laying hens, so they



# UKI and SOUTH ARM HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc

Esma Thompson

uki.history@gmail.com

started to sell their eggs and a bit of home-grown corn. They ended up selling eighty dozen eggs a month at sixpence (5 cents) a dozen. That used to pay their grocery bill.

Reta's mother hadn't traveled to Murwillumbah for about eight months. When Reta's grandfather visited, he came by horse, and what they used to call a dog cart, so they had the means to travel to town. They travelled to Byangum and stayed overnight with Reta's Aunt at Byangum, then next day they caught Mr Hatton's launch (boat) from Byangum to Murwillumbah. They would travel the return journey the same way, boat then horse and cart. The first Receiving Office (Post Office) in the area (Kunghur/ Perch Creek) was at Richard Hall's residence called the 'Junction', where the South Arm comes down and Perch Creek meets it. In 1907 the Receiving Office was moved to the home of the Clark Brothers and was run by Mrs Ann Clark. There was only a bush track from Terragon to Perch Creek (Midginbil), the track was a quagmire, so it was quite an ordeal for people to travel to and from the Receiving Office to pick up their mail. When people arrived to pick up their mail Mrs Clark would supply them with cups of tea and scones to help fortify them for their return journey.

Jack Lange built a barn at Midginbil and it was turned into a dance hall. The music was anyone who could play an instrument. Kunghur Hall was officially opened on 30th April 1915 and along with her parents Reta would attend the local dances held in the Hall

Continued in Issue 135 ....





# Oscar's

### UKI TAKEAWAY - OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Oscar's opened for business for the first time last Monday 8th of January. After working for three months for the previous owners, The Pantry, which closed last November. I saw the opportunity to take over the business and make the adjustments that the locals have been asking for; delicious graband-go items, affordable lunch deals and in-house squeezed juices, amongst many others.

After first opening the doors between Uki Supermarket and the Herb shop under the name of Avila Kitchen, and receiving feedback from the locals, I decided to finally call the new food take away shop for Uki, simply: Oscar's.

My Venezuelan background and passion for creating delicious food, combined with 8 years of hospitality experience in some great restaurants in Melbourne, make for an interesting combination. I like simple, approachable food that tastes delicious; like the bacon and egg roll with house-made tomato relish, juicy and crispy bacon and an over-easy egg. Or the well-received special Venezuelan tequenos: a feta cheese finger wrapped in handmade pastry and deep fried until golden brown and crispy, a simple yet surprisingly good snack!

At Oscar's we aim to create a space for the community to feel welcome, enjoy a home-brewed ceremonial Cacao while reading a book, or plan a lunch to catch up with friends. We have a wide variety of foods available to suit all tastes and needs. You can find quick, tasty options to grab-n-go like the aforementioned bacon and egg rolls, potato scallops and my increasingly popular pan-fried vinegar potatoes.

Oscar's also offers a menu from the kitchen

that includes beef and chicken burgers, a



vegetarian option made with haloumi and alfalfa, and classic fish and chips, served with a lemon wedge and tartare sauce. For the vegans (and everyone else as well, because they are delicious), we make soups with flavours changing frequently – like roasted capsicum and tomato soup, spiced carrot, or pumpkin zucchini with cardamon.

You can combine a soup with potatoes from the hotbox, or freshly fried arancini balls.

And finally, don't miss the special deals announced on his street board - Oscar's friendly staff will happily run through them with you.

Oscar's is currently open 6 days a week, closing only on Thursdays.

Monday to Friday from 7AM to 5PM, and weekends from 8AM to 3PM. Oscar says he hopes to open 7 days a week in the future. We also plan to bring Friday nights alive for Uki with international cuisine nights, including music and Ceremonial Cacao!



We can't wait to see what other culinary surprises Oscar's will bring to Uki!

Come in and say hello to me and my team and sample what is on offer!

Looking forward to seeing you soon
Oscar

# Senior Ambassador Award Tweed Shire Australia Day Awards

TWEEL SHIRE COUNC

The Tweed Shire 2023 Senior Ambassador Award's inaugural winner is Heather McClelland of Uki.



A recently retired therapist and published author on trauma therapy, Heather plays many vital roles in her local Uki community and the broader Tweed. She is a key organiser of many local events; a practising artist and active member of the organising committee of the Murwillumbah Arts Trail; a founding member of the Uki Refugee Project and an influential member of a local Tweed Valley book club, the Murwillumbah Philharmonic Choir and her local church.

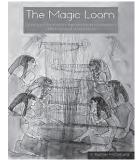
The Senior Ambassador category was introduced following a unanimous motion at Council's Meeting on 22 June 2023, to introduce an Australia Day Awards category that promoted awareness of seniors' positive contribution, by recognising a nominee over the age of 65 years who has made a significant contribution to the Tweed community.

"Tweed Council have created a warm, diverse and balanced celebration for honours given and awards shared around. I was honoured to receive the inaugural award as Senior Ambassador and during 2024 I hope to elevate the idea of Eldership Pride that we can learn from our Indigenous sisters and brothers"

- Heather McClelland

Acceptance video:

https://youtu.be/c167KHTgRbM?si=2ODS3N4AZpp65Eis



# The Magic Loom

Weaving body and mind in narrative therapy conversations with survivors of early trauma.

In 'The Magic loom' the author, Heather McClelland, invites adults who survived trauma in their childhood to become

more aware of their sensations. She helps them interweave the narratives and wisdom of both body and mind as they safely explore and make meaning of the past and put it behind them. It is the author's hope that survivors themselves may find they can identify with the stories of trauma recovery as they unfold and engage with the Magic Loom's conversational style and translation of the languages of therapy and of science.

# RESILIENT Uki - RUKI

# Be Prepared - Get Connected - Check in on Your Neighbours

By Resilient Uk

Recent unexpected heavy rainfall and minor flooding no doubt created some déjà vu and anxiety for many. One of the best ways to allay your fears is by being better prepared and in the loop with the latest info and getting connected with your neighbours.

Resilient Uki (RUKI) will shortly launch a new website that has some comprehensive and helpful tips for what to do before, during and after a range of disasters and scenarios (from floods and storms, to heatwaves and food security crises.

In the meantime, for preparedness tips in relation to floods and storms, visit the SES website;

### https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au

Under their 'Flood Awareness' tab in the menu, you'll find a link to 'Northern Rivers'. Their 'Storms' tab also has helpful information, including preparing your

The Australian Red Cross also has a helpful **REDIPLAN** at redcross.org.au

It's good to think about what you might need if power is lost for a few days and/or you are geographically cut off. Think non-perishable food, water supplies, batteries/torches, a transistor radio, something to cook on if power goes out, fuel in the car and spare fuel in a jerry can (especially if you have a generator, spare medications, first aid kit, and food for your pets and animals.

# Here are some apps we recommend you download and sites to bookmark/follow/like:

The *Emergency Plus* App helps a Triple Zero (000) caller provide critical, precise location Details.

The *Hazards Near Me* App provides current information about local emergencies.

The *BOM* App provides local weather forecasts and links to warnings.

Tweed Shire Council's *Emergency Dashboard* 

https://emergency.tweed.nsw.gov.au/home includes links to current status for weather warnings, river heights, rainfall, road closures, power outages, water and sewer interruptions and Council services and facilities.

**Flood cameras -** you can find these on the dashboard - In times of heavy rainfall you can keep an eye on six key flood-prone public roads and bridges by checking council's flood cameras. Still images refresh every 15 minutes.

### Facebook

The Community Caldera Emergency Support Facebook Page

facebook.com/ calderacommunityfiresupport was set up in the 2019 bushfires by volunteers to only share verified and official information, so it's a good page to follow for official updates. RUKI feels this page covers much of what we'd share on Facebook which is partly why we don't have our own page at the moment.

Community Facebook groups are also a great source of local (often unverified though!) information about local road closures and hazards. Around Greater Uki there are many groups: The Original Uki Community and Social Group, UK1 The Real Uki Community, Uki Energy Exchange, Mount Burrell and Kunghur Community, Friends of Byrrill Creek and more. Murwillumbah Matters covers the broader region.

Other helpful Facebook pages to follow (search within Facebook to find)

Tweed Shire Council
Northern Rivers NSW SES
NSW SES Murwillumbah Unit
Uki Rural Fire Brigade
Kunghur Rural Fire Brigade
NSW RFS – Northern Rivers Zone

Finally, getting to know your neighbours is probably the single most important part of preparing your household. If you don't know which Neighbourhood Group you're in or who to contact to connect you with others in your neighbourhood, email **secretary@resilientuki.org**We can put you in touch with your area co-ordinator.

Stay safe and let's look out for each other.



# TWEED Denture Clinic • Full Dentures • Relines • Repairs Implants • Mouthguards • Partial Dentures Ian Kingston - Dental Prosthetist 131 Main Street, Murwillumbah, Phone 6672 4618 (next to the Imperial Hotel, Wheelchair Access)

# **Astrology**

Paola Emma

### Welcome to my February and March 2024 Astrological Insights

Pluto's cosmic encounters
2024 will be the last year to witness the Pluto's transition from Capricorn to Aquarius, marking a cosmic shift of great magnitude.

After entering Aquarius on January 21 Pluto will briefly return to Capricorn on September 2, to leave it for good on November 20 this year (for the next 230 years, to be precise, returning to Capricorn only in 2254).

In the short term it is important to place this Pluto's transit in the context of other current transits, those that could provide the means of expression for Pluto's transformative energy.

As always, in February and March, the Sun will be gliding between the last two southern Signs of Aquarius and Pisces. Mercury, Mars and Venus will follow a similar course as the Sun, from early February to the end of March.

According to ancient astrological wisdom the faster moving celestial bodies (Sun-Moon-Mercury-Venus-Mars) act as triggers to the slower moving bodies (Jupiter-Saturn-Chiron- Uranus-Neptune-Pluto), bringing their influence down to earth, so to speak, for all of us to experience at some level.

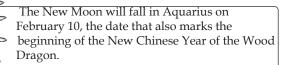
On January 21 the Sun and Pluto became conjunct just as they were entering Aquarius, offering an opportunity to make the global shift of consciousness represented by Pluto in Aquarius into a personal experience. The Aquarius-Pluto's effect will unfold during the next two decades, slowly and, at times, dramatically, but the present multiple alignments could already show us the way forward.

The Sun in astrology represents the core of our identity as individuals. When the transiting Sun aligns with any planet we become more conscious of that planet's energy, in the case of Pluto its transformative and regenerative function. Alignments like these are not rare but they become more significant when they happen at the onset of a historical planetary event like the current ingress of Pluto in Aquarius.

If you have already felt a shift happening within your psyche, an urge to cut off from the past and embrace fundamental changes in your views on life, your relationships, your place in the world, you have to thank Pluto. Scary as it might feel to stop compromising our personal integrity and core values, becoming more truthful to ourselves and others, this is an ideal time to embrace such lasting changes, Pluto providing the necessary psychological resolve and emotional resources.

Here is a real opportunity for the consciousness of many separate individuals to become aligned to the collective purpose of our planet. The focus is shifting, collectively, from authoritarian and established rules of conduct (Capricorn) to progressive, inclusive, open minded, even revolutionary guidelines, beyond personal, political and religious bias; with each individual playing his/her role in the process.

Mercury will conjunct Pluto while entering Aquarius on February 5; Mars will do the same on February 13/14 (an intense Valentine Day!); and Venus on February 17. And Venus and Mars will become conjunct in Aquarius on February 22.



Furthermore Uranus, planet associated with Aquarius, turned Direct on January 27, thus accelerating the pace of change that its recent retrogradation had slowed down.

The Sun will also form a right angle (square) with Uranus, on February 8. Mercury will also square Uranus on February 17, Venus on March 4, and Mars on March 10: all added stimuli to embrace change against many difficulties.

Well, it seems like we could really get the Aquarian message of humanitarian fellowship this time. The birth of a new age cannot be a smooth transition. Very many outworn modes of thinking, acting and relating to each other will have to go through rigorous tests to align to Aquarius high ideals. The process of becoming more truly individuals can cause, at first, emotional disconnection, creating a sense of loneliness too.

### Saturn-Neptune in Pisces

The Sun will be the first to leave Aquarius, entering Pisces on February 19, followed by Mercury on February 23, and then Venus and Mars, on March 12 and 23 respectively.

The Sun and Mercury will become conjunct on February 28, both aligning to Saturn on February 29. This yearly reality check is particularly important this time because of the high expectations described by the recent numerous transits in Aquarius.

How our personal circumstances can cope with the pace of change all around us and within us? Saturn and Neptune's placement in Pisces suggests the need for embracing less rigid attitudes; preparing to accept unavoidable losses as we strive toward a better version of ourselves and the world we live in.

This year represents the end of a thirty yearlong epoch for Saturn, hopefully bringing the world to a new level of responsible maturity. However, for the time being, it is in in the nature of Pisces to seemingly obscure the path ahead, pulling us in different directions, unavoidable consequence of past errors we will need to redress for a long time.

Saturn and Neptune will both leave Pisces between 2025 and 2026, years announcing other profound experiences for the planet, as described by their uncanny conjunction on the very first degree of Aries, the beginning of the solar wheel of manifestation (!) in early 2026.

We celebrate the Aries Autumn Equinox this year on March 20, 2.06 pm local time, date very close to the first Lunar Eclipse of 2024, on March 25, an intense start to the new astrological year, when both Sun and Moon will be in harmonious aspect to Pluto.

For more astrological insights please visit my site:

https://livingmoonastrology.wordpress.com/



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