

# Uki News

A production of Uki Village and Districts Residents Association Inc  
UKIRA - PO Box 3141, Uki NSW 2484

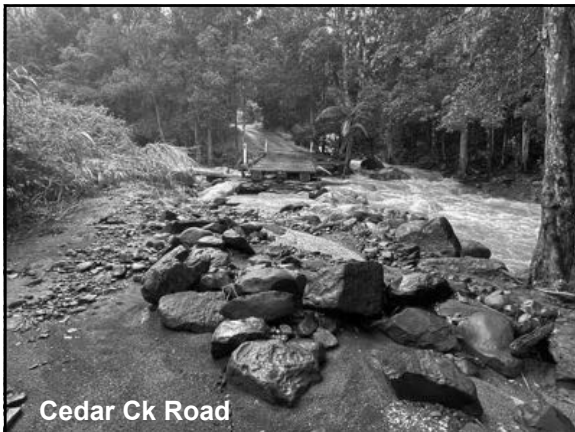
Issue 123 / April 2022 / May 2022

Edith Streiner

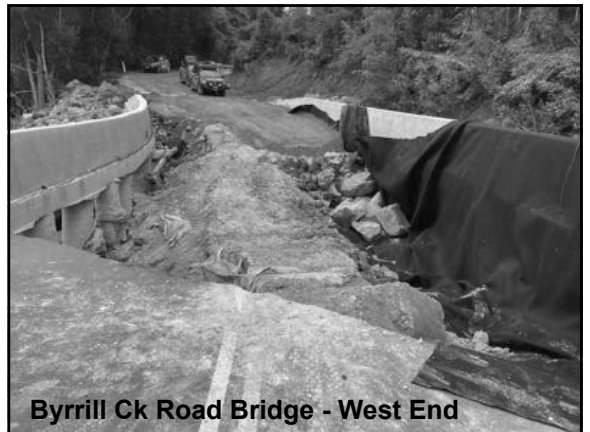
## Byrrill Creek Community Rises after Flood Disaster

### Extended Flood Issue

Natascha Wernick BCCRT Leader



Cedar Ck Road



Byrrill Ck Road Bridge - West End



Waterfall Bridge - Byrrill Ck



Byrrill Ck Bridge

**B**yrrill Creek Community is a community of about 200 people with most of us over 50+. We have many wise ones in our valley who were the first to build their houses here and raise their families, but nobody expected the flood water to be 2-3 metres higher than ever before!

Although our community does not have houses that are in flood plains, other than one, we had the experience of our roads and bridges being torn apart and giant landslides blocking our access for at least 13 days with no mains power.

Our Byrrill Creek Community was mostly cut off from February 24th but it was not until the big rains on Feb 28th that our access got smashed and the power, NBN and phone lines broken.

Tuesday March 1st was when we could walk the area and see the devastation and that's when the Byrrill Creek Community Resilience Team (BCCRT) kicked in.

**Continued on Page 5**

# From the Editors

## Welcome to the Uki News Issue 123.

Residents are still assessing the impact of the highest flood ever recorded on the Tweed River with the late February deluge surpassing the record set only five years ago in 2017.

Much of Kyogle Road remains severely impacted from Byangum to the Shire boundary as this area

received the worst of the rainfall.

The SES warns residents who regularly use Kyogle Road to maintain essential supplies as the wet season is not yet over and there is likely to be further landslides and road closures for repairs for several months

The new \$6M Byrrill Creek Road bridge was severely damaged again

as the wing wall design eroded the approaches to both ends of the bridge causing structural damage. Tweed Shire Council is facing repairs to more than 20 bridges and over 500 landslips, many requiring significant engineering.

The Editors



Contact Uki News: [theukinews@hotmail.com](mailto:theukinews@hotmail.com)

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

*The Uki News is a free, bimonthly publication by the Uki 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



We'd love to hear from you... Send your letters to [theukinews@hotmail.com](mailto:theukinews@hotmail.com).

To the Editor, UKI NEWS

2022, and I look forward to another year of reading the Uki News. I would like to congratulate the team involved in the very professional publication of the News and thank the locals who regularly provide the stories, covering a diverse range of topics.

My wife and I are both 3rd generation locals and we find the stories provided by the Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc. of particular interest. Our grandparents were among the early pioneers who choose to make the Uki/South Arm district their home.

We are very grateful to the members of the Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc. who have, over a period of 40 years, researched and recorded so much local history. They have interviewed many of the "old timers" who have now passed away, and recorded their family stories. The comprehensive collection of photographs bring the stories to life. Without their continued commitment much of the early and more recent history of Uki/South Arm would be lost forever. These records are a valuable asset to the community and are housed at the purpose build building adjacent to the Village Green and Uki Hall and are available, by appointment, to the public. Keep up the good work ladies.

*Ivan Arnold, 74 years a resident*



*Thank you Ivan for your generous comments. On behalf of all those you have mentioned, your comments are much appreciated. We hope you and your wife will continue to enjoy the Uki News for many Issues to come.* The Editors

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# Relationship Health: Resilience

Heather McClelland

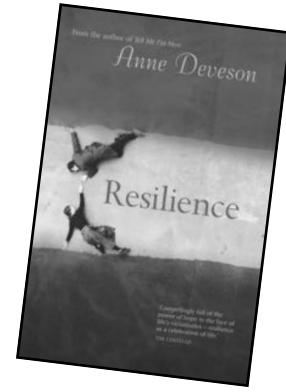
Since the beginning of our flood disaster we have seen our Uki Community come together in splendid resilient connectedness and generosity. Humble thanks go to everyone who has participated and to those who have taken the lead for the rest of us.

In Anne Deveson's book, 'Resilience', Canadian economist John Ralston Saul says, p.10: "Civilization is in a long term crisis, drifting further out in a cold, unfriendly, confusing sea. For this future we need the self-awareness and flexibility that resilience brings".

This kind of awareness and flexibility has been on view in our community as we have faced this emergency. We are confronted when such times bring out the worst in some people even though it brings out the best in most. We can become distracted and angry. The strengths approach suggests we continue proactively throwing in our lot with what is the best in our community.

Feeling sad doesn't mean we are not resilient. However in a time when anxiety is heightened, our awareness of the slide into despondency or a despair is vital. Even as we support each other we all need to reach out to find those places where we are safe to talk and find appropriate help.

Anne Deveson was a founding member of the Schizophrenia Fellowship of NSW. She tells the story of another founding member, Simon, who had just been diagnosed with this disorder. Simon's wisdom about Resilience is very relevant. When he researched the



diagnosis he thought about killing himself. He decided instead, "to treat my life as an experiment...I don't fight my Schizophrenia. Rather than seeing it as an enemy, I see it as a teacher." P.125

Asked years later where his resilience came from Simon's first answer was from friends. This is why Mel is so intent to help us all to get to know our close neighbours. Friendship will help us know immediately how to reach out and take necessary action. Simon talked of his natural curiosity to find practical information to help him manage his disorder and then he described his spirituality -the process of making meaning out of life.

Like Simon who is so much more than his mental illness, we are so much more than any disaster. We humans are human because of the web of connectedness that involves rich face-to-face interactions and small enough groups that make these connections very personal.



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# Uki Village Gardens Survives Flood

Greg O'Donnell

Like many families and businesses in Uki, the Uki Village Gardens sustained significant damage from the recent floods. Over 3 metres of water covered the gardens which was more than enough to set our water tank floating off down the Tweed River! The orange storage container was also relocated precariously into the front fence complete with 3 large concrete blocks attached to its underside. The rest of the gardens have remained relatively unscathed.

We are grateful to the volunteers who have helped us clean up all the mess especially the hundreds of corrugated cardboard sheets filled with mud and debris. One of the big jobs was cleaning up the giant chess pieces (about half a metre high) and emptying out the trapped water inside them.

Fortunately two nights before the flood we decided to rescue some of the more valuable items and take them to higher ground out of harms way.

We are looking forward to resuming activities at the gardens and have several workshops and gatherings

coming up including an "Earth Beats" Drum Circle on Saturday evening 2nd April.

For updates on events and activities see - <https://www.facebook.com/UkiCommunityGardens>



# Uki Community Technology Centre

From the Uki Community Technology Centre Team

As their contribution to assist with flood relief, Uki CTC is offering FREE Internet Service to those in the Uki Community who require it.



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# Byrrill Creek Community Rises after Flood Disaster

Natascha Wernick BCCRT Leader

The BCCRT has a leader in each neighbourhood of our community and we were able to connect and check in with all our community. Fortunately, my BCCRT Deputy Callum McKinnon and I had access to satellite internet and a generator from the very beginning of the power outage and thus, we were able to coordinate rescue and recovery efforts within the community the SES and other outside support services, including the Uki and Murwillumbah Volunteer hubs and the ADF.

Callum with his excavator, bobcat and team of locals was able to clear the road access from the broken Waterfall Bridge (AKA Otties/Hideaway bridge) to enable emergency access from Tyalgum end by Wednesday 2nd March while others cleared the Cedar Creek end of the road. The community were able to then lodge fuel and food orders and have Callum and Rebecca O'hare in their 5 tonne truck collect the orders and urgent medicines from Mudgeeraba and deliver to the broken Waterfall Bridge for a waiting BC community in the evening of Thursday 3rd.

By Friday 4th food and supplies from the police and other benevolent people began arriving and were trekked in over the broken Waterfall Bridge and from the other end over broken Byrrill Creek Road Bridge and then over a 100 metre wide landslip preventing access to the Uki end. The Cedar Creek food table was condensed to make one at the

Chrissy and Jack's Waterfall Camp kitchen/food hub where stores continued to be trekked in and distributed for the next ten days .

Our Community was terribly saddened by the loss of our community member Bryce North who was taken by the flood waters on Sunday 28th. His body found a few days later once the flood waters had retreated. This had a devastating impact on our already shocked community, although he was not known by many, he was one of us.

There are many flood stories from Byrrill creek, just ask us. The one I, as the BCCRT leader would like to focus on is how incredibly our BC community endured and how the BCCRT came together and coordinated the rescue and recovery. Old neighbourhood feuds were put aside to enable an important emergency route through private property. Community members who knew no one were checked in on and made new friends. The community food hub became an important community connection point during a very frightening and disruptive time.

The BCCRT have created a flood feedback form and have been meeting before, throughout and post flood disaster to better understand the needs of our community and how to better coordinate in times of natural disaster.

On Feb 23rd, I had members of the TSC, SES, RFS, Red Cross and a radio consultant drive with us through the BC community to assess the best form of communication during a power outage/natural disaster. I had the desired VHF radios in my hands and had to give them back after the testing. The quote for the radio system is \$13,000 and will connect our BCCRT neighbourhood leaders to enable better response and communication in times of disaster.

We are still working with these Care and Combat services to have these important community communications delivered and installed but three weeks after the flood they are still not in our hands.

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On behalf of UKIRA and committee we would like to promote a NEW ART GALLERY in UKI

## ' THE LITTLE GALLERY '

Located on the ground floor on the corner of the Uki Buttery building in Kyogle St

It's ambition and concept is to develop a co-operative group of local artists in this space. With such diversity of art in our community, it is time to have a local artists gallery.

We propose to open this dear little shop over the EASTER WEEK END on Saturday 16th April 2022 @ 3:00pm

Light refreshments will be provided. So wander by and have a look at what's happening within, enjoy the local quality.

The ' LITTLE ART GALLERY ' is yet another UKIRA service to the community which I am sure local people will support.

Open all days except Tuesday from Wednesday to Monday from 10am - 4pm.

# Incarceration of the Innocent

The Rev John Tyman

## Words from Belsen

The documentary "Return to Belsen" broadcast by the ABC on January 23rd awakened in me memories of my own visit to Bergen-Belsen long after the closure of the camp. It was an experience I am unable forget (nor should I); but "Return to Belsen" also spoke to me of the imprisonment of refugees in Australia ...here and now!

In the early 50s I was based at a British Army camp nearby and I walked over what was left of a concentration camp where 50,000 men, women and children had suffered and died in horrifying circumstances. Many, but not all, were Jews.

Before I got there the camp had been tidied up. Earth-moving equipment had excavated long trenches and bulldozers had pushed rotting bodies into them, and added a loose covering of soil. The British soldiers who did this were traumatised in doing so, and by the horrendous smell of decaying flesh and excrement. Yet, incredibly, the people who lived in the town nearby said they had no idea of what was happening there ... why trains crammed with human beings passed through the town but were empty when they returned. They did not understand it and were in no mood to discover why. As a child in England I was told "Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise". A former soldier I know was employed briefly after the war to tour German towns and compel their citizens to view films showing what had been done in their name, at Belsen and beyond. This left them without excuse.

I am no admirer of the personal style of Novak Djokovic, but his brief incarceration in an Australian hotel did shine light on what was being done there in our name ... the imprisonment of people for years on end as a punishment for daring to seek asylum. Some had been locked away in the same hotel as Djokovic for 9 years ... in our name. We saw them waving from the few windows that had not been forcibly blacked out.

Surely, courtesy of the ABC, enough of us now know what is still being done in our name, enough of us to know that it must stop? Our government must at long last respect international conventions and provide a safe haven to genuine refugees.





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# Water, Food, Shelter, Communications Here

Madeleine Murray

I went down to the hall on Tuesday morning, the Ides of March, and talked to a few people who have been fantastic since the flood. There are loads of others, these just happened to be there this morning. But everyone has been amazing!!

Mel Bloor was there in her hiking boots, linen dress and hat. Apart from her impressive height, she has been a mountain, a beacon for everyone. Working for a week without internet or phone, she was always calm, often funny.

When she finally reached the NBN man, she said, "Hi Chris, this is your new best friend..." And yes, we had NBN within an hour!

I asked Mel how she ended up working so much at the hall. She said, "So I woke up in the morning after everything. I went and rescued my son from a mountain top on foot and bike. And I brought him home. "Then my other son arrived, he drove on his P plates from Mullumbimby around to Uki like a legend! My children were home, so that was important. Step One: bring the chickens home.

"Step Two. Do a bit of work on our causeway, so we could get a vehicle out." Bloor is on an MO outside Uki, the scene of washouts and a big landslide. "We got it to a point that our neighbours could walk out without fear of instant death over the edge of some slippery slope. "I did a load of washing, then I popped my head in down at the hall. There was a lot going on. I just started helping out, and I'm still doing that."

I suggest that Mel has been central person, the point of reference. She demurs... "We've run very beautifully as a kind of anarchistic collective of people. If someone saw a hole that needed filling, they did it. "Maybe I saw a few bigger holes. I'm definitely not in any position of authority in any way. I've been working in this space for quite a while so I had a lot of personal contacts in this disaster field.

"I have in some ways held a kind of mama bear space. Keeping my eye on the chickens – definitely not the boss."

There have been many great moments. "In my MO, people who have been feudin' hard, are hugging. That was great. "When someone needed something, at the very moment, the person with the solution was standing right next to them. That has happened the whole time. It's been incredible."

People have come from far away to help Uki. "The very muscular people from the Gold Coast arrived with their shovels and gloves to do the hard work when we were starting to get exhausted.

"The beautiful expensive vehicles came full of beautiful expensive products that we couldn't get, like cleaning stuff. It's been a non-stop train of vinegar, bleach, cloths and mops through here!

"The Army has been great. They touched base with me, and I touched base with Barry Harding , and we came up with a bit of a jobs list. They powered right through it – moving dirt, filling holes, clearing landslips."



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# Community Resilience Teams Update

## Can we be Better Prepared?

Karen Challand

It's time to become better prepared for future disasters.  
 It's time to be more resilient when they arrive.  
 It's time to recover better and faster.  
 It's time we worked together as an effective team.

**Local Emergency Services and Community Resilience Teams are hosting:**

**“Next Disaster Ready”**

**Crams Farm, Clarrie Hall Dam, Doon Doon**

**Saturday 28th of May from 9 am to 3 pm.**

**Learn How:** your local Community Resilience Teams, (Uki, Byrill Creek, Kunghur and Surrounds), are utilising phone trees to improve communication between households and emergency responders.

How the challenges of lack of comms., is being addressed.

How a central hub/operation place, is essential to efficiency and the plans in place.

How structure leads to better outcomes and community problem solving.

How to avoid rumour, misinformation, conflicting information, speculation and wasted resources. In effect, **HOW TO DO IT BETTER.**

Fund raising to improve comms., emergency equipment like generators, fridges, freezers, chain saws, First Aid etc.



**Share your ideas on how things could be improved.  
 Feed back your own experience.**

**On the day chat to: SES, RFS, Tweed Shire Council, Red Cross, your local Community Resilience Teams, Community Groups, Generational Residents, St Johns Ambulance and others.**

**Enjoy live music, food and drink,  
 or bring a Picnic.**

**Lets get better organised and help ourselves, our neighbours and our communities.**

**Don't forget to Like and Follow FaceBook “Caldera Community Emergency Support” and Bookmark our WEB PAGE “Resilient Caldera Network”, for ongoing assistance and information in your area.**

***The more sources of reliable information, the safer you will be.***



# Resilience Neighbourhood Group

Lyn Reid

In 2016 the Uki Flood Group was formed and came up with a system of neighbours knowing neighbours. These 'pods' would then check in on each other, communicating urgent information as well as receiving said information.

Following this flood event, the system is now being reinvigorated. New pods have been identified mainly due to the failure of almost all communication systems, higher

flood water levels and land slips, with the community now being broken up into more isolated areas.

Pod coordinators are being identified/volunteering. More information of this group will follow.

*Contact Mel Bloor 0429687687 for more info.*



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# Communications During Community Disasters

Louise Bally

Local area communication is essential during an emergency, especially during natural disasters when rescue services are required, homes are threatened, and family members become separated. Nobody envisioned mobile phones would be inoperable for a week, all Internet except for satellite would go down and landline exchanges would be under water. Emergency services using CB radios could communicate with each other and with some locals with CB radios. However according to a VRA member, the Uki area has black spots where CB radios are not reliable.

What options are available to help prepare for the future in case there is another emergency or natural disaster like the 100-year Northern Rivers flood?

After some research I found a couple of off grid communication devices which enable you to communicate, talk and text using your mobile phone. The first device is called a Beartooth. It pairs with your phone, both IOS and Android using an app and after pairing allows you to add other Beartooth users, send location maps and even connects to local emergency services. Beartooth devices can be pre-ordered at a reduced price, check out their website for details.

The second device is called a Power Talkie, similar in functionality but with a more rugged shockproof, waterproof



exterior, designed for hikers. Using GPS both devices have no fees or subscriptions, no further cost after purchase. A pair of Power Talkies cost around \$200.

CB radios are another option and also come in walkie talkie designs, The UHF radios offer 40 channels including the emergency channels. The 5-watt handheld radio is the top wattage permitted in Australia without a licence. Handheld radios are good for emergencies where you need to leave your house or vehicle, but permanent fitted radios have a much better distance range, especially if they have a powerful antenna. A 5-watt handheld cost about \$450 for a pair fitted/mounted radios start at around \$300 and can also be used in a house with an antennae mounted outside.

Satellite phones are another option for emergencies, however not many people have them yet and the subscriptions or plans are not cheap and most only last for 12 months. Satellite phone calls cost around \$5 a minute. Iridium satellite handsets start at around \$1500 but there are some cheaper brands available.



***I love working with our community to make a difference.***

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***Janelle Saffin MP***

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# Uki Buttery Bazaar Entertainment

Sanne Grace Kenna

 Uki Buttery Bazaar Market

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## APRIL Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 17th APRIL

### Loren n Sanne and Special Guests

With sixty odd years of combined performing experience, Loren and Sanne should probably be auditioning for the Rolling Stones, but instead they'd rather play some heart-felt rhythmic original songs with a few fun classics woven in. A melodic playground of harmonies and beats.

Julie Hayes' music honours the light and dark of what it is to be human. Of Irish descent, the tradition of storytelling runs deep, weaving the mystical and mundane with her unique style of balladesque-folk.

An advocate for freedom of expression and conscious communication, Julie offers voice and creativity workshops, singing circles and private sessions, a chance for others to delve into their own unique sound and rhythm, to boost their confidence, well-being and embrace the Artist within.

Kate Leopold channels an uplifting musical presence with an empowering message of reverence to spirit, culture, the sacred feminine and nature.



Loren n Sanne



Kate Leopold



Julie Hayes



## MAY Buttery Bazaar

Sunday 15th MAY

### Happy Africa and Special Guest

Happy Africa is an exciting 7 Piece Afro Beat Group Playing a multitude of rich and diverse west and North African Grooves.

Fronted by Ghana Dancer Singer Drummer, Gabriel Otu, Happy Africa is guaranteed to Deliver Positive Vibes and Sweat on the Dance Floor.

The band has Played at a multitude of Festivals including \*NRMA Festival 2019, \*Spleandor in the Grass 2018, \*Byron Music Festival 2021...



Happy Africa Instrumentation and Artists: **Gabriel Otu** - Vocals, Percussion, Dance **Brandon Read** - Bass, Vocals, **Christopher Kinzel** - Dun Dun Percussion, Vocals, **Kate Mugavin** - Vocals, Dance, **Juan Salvador** - Guitar, Vocals, **Mojo Chileno** - Percussion, Vocals, **Gabrielle Brasileiro** - Drum Set. **Special Guest Juan Salvador!**




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# The Food Kept Us Going, Together

Madeleine Murray

Another amazing person who doesn't want the limelight is Rowena, who has worked with other volunteers to feed Uki since the flood.

When I turned up, Rowena was making roast veggies, Ayla was chopping potatoes, and Val was washing dishes at the sink.

I asked Rowena how she had ended up coordinating the kitchen. She said, "First, I made a pumpkin soup. Everyone loved that so I made another one. Then I just felt like organising things a bit more, with another lady."

Every day, Rowena and the kitchen crew have provided food and drink for flood victims and helpers: some are exhausted, some are dazed and depressed, all are hungry. "All the donated food comes in," Rowena said. "The volunteers chop it up, and we create from there. We are trying to make it as healthy as possible and cater for everyone. "At the beginning lot of people were walking past, in shock. I found that just handing them food was really helpful, because they hadn't thought to eat at all.

"Today we've done roast veggies, a meat gravy and a veggie one. I've made a heap of meatballs and some greens. Someone brought a lime-coconut cake, and Ayla made a beautiful pudding."

People have been bringing deserts and cooked food. The kitchen crew serves some of it for lunch and dinner, and also puts it in containers in the fridge or freezer. Rowena said, "I just got thrown into it, I've never done commercial cooking. I just want to keep Uki healthy and well-fed."

"Food can be comforting for people in trauma, it brings up those memories of the comfort of mum.

"I wanted to make sure the energy was nice and clear here in the kitchen. We had some beautiful light beings come and help. Everything flowed so well. Every time we needed something it would just turn up.

"I feel like it's brought the community back together, people put their differences aside. People are pitching in and helping wherever they can. The love has been felt through the whole village.

"People have been coming in upset, and we do our best to make them feel better, pick them up and send them out."



Ayla, Rowena and Val



## The Australian Womens Land Army

Courtesy Tweed Regional Museum and Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc.

While we pause to remember the contributions and suffering of all serving Australians and New Zealanders during war and conflict, we also acknowledge the contributions of those on the home front, particularly women.

This photo shows local **Ida Daly** (far right) and two other members of the Australia Women's Land Army working in Queensland during 1942.

The Australian Women's Land Army was formed during WWII to combat rising labour shortages in the farming sector. Men were leaving farms to join the armed forces, leaving a looming crisis in food production to feed Australia.

Women's land armies were soon established, recruits had to be between 18 and 50 years of age and be British subjects or immigrants from Allied nations. These women were generally drawn from city areas and were often unskilled in rural work. This new form of labor was resisted by local farmers initially, however soon turned to praise when the hard working women proved their worth on the land.

The average working week for an AWLA member was

48 hours, with pay starting at the AWLA minimum wage of 30 shillings a week. Women were paid much less than their male counterparts for the same work, which covered a variety of agricultural labours, such as vegetable and fruit growing, pig and poultry raising, and sheep and wool work.



# Refugees: Time for a Rethink

John Tyman, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Uki

As an Australian citizen, who came here from England via Canada, a head-hunted academic and Anglican priest, who is profoundly grateful for the opportunities this country has given him, but who grows increasingly alarmed at our treatment of persons seeking asylum, I write to voice support for Andrew Wilkie's Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill and subsequent debates in Parliament. Wilkie offered hope not only to those held for painfully long periods in detention, but also to those like myself who want to be proud Australians when we go abroad and not ashamed ones.

## Basic Concerns

I affirm my belief that:

1. Many Australian citizens care about the fate of people fleeing persecution in their homelands, and that we remember with pride Australia's previous responses to the exodus from Vietnam, and the massacre in Tiananmen Square.
2. Many Australians do care about our country's tarnished international reputation as a formerly welcoming and compassionate nation, and they regret its failure to acknowledge the distinctive gifts that enriched our nation following our acceptance of earlier refugee intakes.
3. Many Australians are also concerned, even alarmed, at the inordinate wastage of taxpayers' money spent on keeping refugees in detention year after year, when these same human beings might instead be contributing to our economy and our multicultural society.

## The Right of Asylum

As a signatory to the Refugee Convention 1951 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Australia has a legal as well as moral obligation to accept individuals found to be legitimately seeking asylum. And we have no right to impose penalties on the basis of their means of travel and the route they follow.

In other signatories to this Convention, detention of refugees is absolutely minimal — just long enough to process their application for asylum. In America this takes 55 days. Canada averages 14 days. Australia takes years!

Asylum seekers are entitled to know for how long they will be detained: and once it is established that they are genuine refugees they should be released into the community. In Australia they have fewer rights than convicted criminals. For what are they being punished? They have broken no law. It is legal to seek asylum.

## Costs and Benefits

It would surely be prudent, for budgetary reasons alone, to revise government policy. According to the Refugee Action Coalition the cost of detaining a person for a year is \$400,000 offshore and \$239,000 within Australia. This compares with just \$12,000 for asylum seekers living in the community while their claims are processed, and even less if they are allowed to work.

During pandemics we hear repeated appeals from



employers that they are short-staffed. There are obvious health risks in recruiting workers overseas: but in asylum seekers held in detention, and in those living in the community on short-term visas, we have a ready supply of healthy workers who have risked their lives getting here. Our existing hospitals, schools and universities, and many businesses, were enriched by past waves of refugees, and this pattern could be repeated if the government was prepared to acknowledge the potential of those now held in unproductive (and expensive!) detention.

## Conclusion

I am one with Andrew Wilkie in wanting to put an end to indefinite mandatory detention and offshore processing, and bring Australia's policies and practices into line with international law. And I add my voice to that of local community groups which share my longing for generosity, justice and truth in the way in which our government responds to the needs voiced by, and the talents offered by, people seeking a new life in a land where few of us are actually indigenous, ... most of our ancestors having arrived on boats, escaping persecution and poverty in homelands to the north.



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# Uki Hall

Esma Thompson - Uki and South Arm Historical Society Inc.

## **Uki Mechanics' Institute, Uki Literary Institute, Uki School of Arts, Uki Public Hall and Recreation Reserve Trust.**

The residents of Uki and surrounding areas have a strong association with the Uki Hall. It has acted as a centre for social, religious and educational activities for well over 100 years and is an important part of the heritage streetscape of the village.

The Hall is the only hall in the Tweed District to be a Trust property held by the Department of Lands. The Mechanics Institute (the original small hall) was dedicated in the Government Gazette of 25th June 1904. It was built on a 'reserve for travelling stock' with donated timber from local farmers and saw millers. It is the oldest building still standing in Uki.

According to stories from old time residents, David Marshall recognized the need for a community hall, and so proceeded to organize the appropriation of land as well as setting up the original Board of Trustees.

The first Trustees were recorded in 1904,

**David Marshall** - Marshall Street Uki is named after this fine gentleman

**Johann Radel** - lived at Chowan Creek & Village of Kunghur

**George Sweetnam** - Sweetnam Park Uki is situated on his original selection & named after this early selector

**John McCollum** - owned portions 26 & 69 "Braeside" Uki, Tweed Shire Councilor & Shire President

**Patrick Hector McDonald** - selected portions 41, 42 Smiths Creek & portion 36 Rowlands Creek

**Charles Roberts** - early selector & dairy farmer, Roberts Bridges situated on Smiths Creek Road are named after his family

**William Irvine** - local Auctioneer

Church Services were held in the hall from 1904 prior to the Uki churches being built. The Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 262, began in the hall 14th November 1908. The dispensation charter is in the hall along with a Heritage listed WW1 copper memorial which bears the names of seven diggers, who were members of the Lodge. The Lodge closed in 1996.

The only wedding to take place in the Mechanics' Institute was between Johann (Jack) August Radel and Lydia Ellen (Nellie) Murray on the 4th March 1910. They were married by the Reverend Laceby-Cecil, who was later tragically murdered in Melbourne.

The first wedding in the School of Arts (large hall) was between Garry Lowe and Esma Highfield on the 2nd December 1978. The second wedding was between Deb Newman and Mark Ladyman in the 1980's. The third wedding was between Tony and Jacqui Everson on the 3rd October 2004.

The Uki School of Arts (the large hall) was built on land adjacent to the Mechanics' Institute in 1911. The frame consists of a number of different species of hardwood timber, all donated by local land owners and financed by residents of the district. An overdraft was obtained from

the Uki Branch of the E. S. & A. Bank for the amount of £700.

In 1913, the Hall Trustees gave permission for a small shop (now Uki Post Office) to be built on NSW Crown land between what was then the School of Arts and Ryder's General Store. In 1922 Hall Trustees gave permission for a residence to be built behind the Post Office. The Post Office became a flood observation and warning station for the Sydney Weather Bureau and Murwillumbah State Emergency Services. In 1983 the Department of Lands gave a forty year lease on the land on which the Post Office and the residence had been built to Victor Milsom (owner of the Post Office) at a rental of \$420 per year. This lease was to expire in 2023 but the land has since been sold by Crown Lands to a later Post Master.

On 30th August 1914, fire burnt down Loder's General Store and the adjoining residence, an Auctioneers premises, the original Uki Post Office and the E.S. & A. Bank. The Uki Hall was saved by local volunteers passing buckets of water up to Mr Jim Mitchell (the engineer from the Uki Butter Factory) who had climbed onto the hall roof. He then proceeded to pour water down the wall closest to the fire. The buckets were filled with water from hoses attached to the water tanks at the nearby butter factory. The residents managed to save the hall but the wall was badly scorched. The insurance company that had insured the hall bought Mr. Mitchell a new suit to say thank-you for his efforts.

Due to the efforts of the locals during the fire, personal belongings from Mr. Loder's residence and stock from his general store were moved into the hall and he was able to carry on trading immediately after the fire. During this time Murwillumbah merchants also assisted with the supply of stock.

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*This photo was taken in 1919. On the right is the small hall built in 1904, next to the main hall built in 1911, this photo was taken before the two halls were joined. Next is the current post office and the two story building is the general store built in 1915, and demolished in the late 1970's.*

**Continued in Issue 124**



# Astrology

Paola Emma

## April - May 2022 astrological highlights

During the weeks of unending rain, I mused about the astrological dimension of the extreme weather event that was unfolding. Challenging transits were active between late February and the first week in March. The most difficult and far reaching was the Jupiter semi-square Pluto, amplifying Pluto's destructive and ruthless power (March24): invasion of Ukraine, threatening security in Europe and the world; onset of floods in South East Queensland. Other transits followed, in close sequence, around the Water Pisces New Moon (March3). The phase, central to the whole event, was aligned to Jupiter, the cosmic amplifier, and Neptune, the tempest planet, also in Pisces. The disaster, while bringing sorrow and loss to many and much destruction to the environment, has also strengthened our sense of community. Friends, family, complete strangers came to each other help and comfort (the Neptune's effect). These climate calamities, now all too frequent, should hopefully force us to develop a new environmental philosophy for the future, to guide our policies and actions (Jupiter).

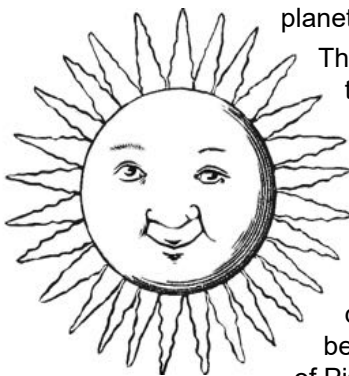
What it's very telling is that, at New Moon time, unpredictable Uranus was found exactly at the nadir of many localities on the Australian eastern seaboard, showing a potential for upheavals of great magnitude. Uranus instead shifted away from the nadir in places north of Gympie, south of Sydney, or further west from the coast!

### What next?

From January to June all celestial bodies are transiting within a narrow span of five Signs, in a 150 degrees arc. The same tight grouping happened during the first half of 2020 and 2021. This oddly lopsided configuration is a visual reminder of the worsening lack of harmony in our world, in personal and social relationships. We feel we have to take either one side or the other, conciliation harder than ever. During these periods at Full Moon times, for example, the Moon will move alone through the hemisphere opposing all, heightening the emotional struggle to reconcile many opposites. To put this trend in even greater relevance the Lunar Nodes, representing the world axis of destiny and at right angle to karmic Saturn, are positioned at the ending points enclosing the whole group.

### Important Dates

**April 13:** Jupiter finally conjuncts Neptune (23°/24°) in Pisces. Due to the 'aquatic' nature of this alignment there is a potential for more heavy rains in the next few weeks, but also for more loving and mutual understanding, a great plus at a time when antagonism is rife. Jupiter is the fastest moving body here, representing the energy that activates Neptune's function. Astrology credits Water with more than rain and floods. This Element helps us to sweep away the barriers stifling our connection with each other and nature. In a better world this conjunction could be indeed very positive, fostering peace rather than war, enhancing our humane and spiritual side. Some even hope it could mean a cease fire in Ukraine. Realistically, lasting peace on the



planet seems to be yet remote.

There is a dark side to all planetary alignments; the Jupiter-Neptune's conjunction is no exception. One of the most obvious is the continuing spread of misinformation, with the focus shifting from the pandemic to the war in Ukraine. Everything is out for grab; documentary evidence is worth nothing; trust of serious, fact based reporting is dwindling, while boundaries of what is actually believable are breaking down. The fluid energy of Pisces is displaying its irrational side, with trust in democratic principles threatened by dangerous propaganda.

**May 1:** the Taurus 10°28' Partial Solar Eclipse fosters new beginning in the areas of creative imagination and relationships because it coincides with a perfect Venus-Jupiter's conjunction, both well placed in Pisces. Uranus is extremely active too, positively encouraging unconventional relationships, spirit of adventure and risk taking. Negatively Uranus' radical, uncompromising stance could produce estrangements and emotional isolation.

**May 10 to June 4:** Mercury Retrogradation, from swift thinking Gemini to mentally intense and profound Taurus, shows the need to stay focused and accurate in our personal communication, work and study projects. Slowing down could be frustrating but necessary to concentrate our brain power.

**May 11:** the big shift! Jupiter enters fiery Aries today. After a brief return to Pisces (October28-December20) it will transit Aries until May 16 2023. Jupiter's yearly Sign change inspires the world to embrace different ways of tackling social, political and ethical issues. While during the Jupiter in Pisces period our views have been motivated by emotional responses and beliefs, during the Aries period we will seek to manifest our principles through right action. We will need however to beware of aggressive confrontational stances, trying to remain sensitive to other peoples' viewpoints and rights. Positively this could prove a helpful transit to tackle all range of social problems with greater urgency and courage.

**May 12:** just after stepping into fiery Aries Jupiter will form the first semi-square to Uranus (next passes: September29-December24). Looking back at the events that unfolded at the one and only pass of the Jupiter-Pluto's semi-square (Feb24), we cannot underestimate Jupiter's role in adding momentum to the power of the planets it meets in transit. Uranus, orbiting with Neptune and Pluto beyond the 'safe' boundaries of Saturn, is the key symbol of rebellions, demanding freedom and self-determination. This year and into early next year the transits of Jupiter are again bringing into sharp focus the same theme of authority versus individualism that the world experienced in 2021 via the long lasting square Saturn/Uranus.

**May 16:** the Scorpio 25°17' Total Lunar Eclipse could be a time of realizations, harvesting the fruit of previous actions and thoughts. Sun and Moon will be square Saturn, all in Fixed Signs, indicating constraints caused by external circumstances as well as inner insecurities and fears. To overcome the impasse it will help working through these with perseverance and awareness of all that's involved.



# Forgotten Tools - Coppicing

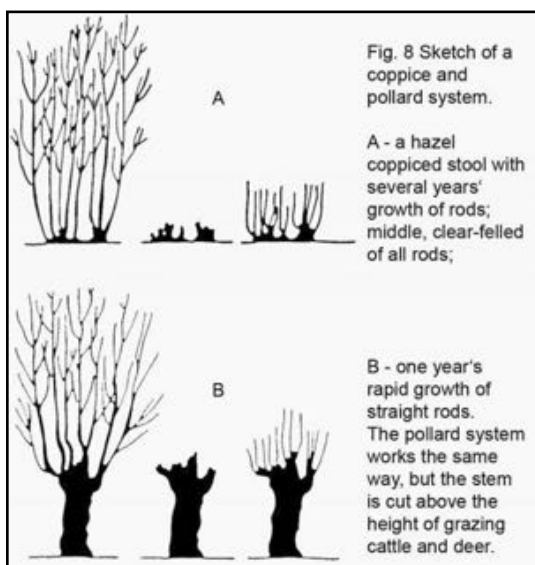
Brendan Esposito

## Coppicing

Following on from the recent article regarding bodgers and green wood workers, the subject of coppicing was mentioned... cop this then.

Various workers who required thin 'wands' of wood for such items as chair leg, handles, thatching, fencing and hurdles needed a ready supply of materials. Various species of trees were cultivated depending on the requirements of the items being produced. All broadleaved trees can be coppiced but some species are stronger than others. The strongest are ash, hazel, oak, sweet chestnut and lime whilst the weakest include beech, wild cherry and poplar. I could find relatively little information regarding this practice in early Australia or what species may be suitable, although there has been some work put into testing various eucalypt species.

The process was to cut back the tree to the base and then wait as the tree 'threw' wands and thin branches. When this process is performed higher on the trunk it is referred to as pollarding. These could then be thinned out and good branches selected out for various needs. Sometimes this took several seasons depending on the species and requirements so a varying areas would be harvested and cut in stages, over a succession of years, so that a ready supply was always on hand. The areas worked were referred to as coupes or coups.

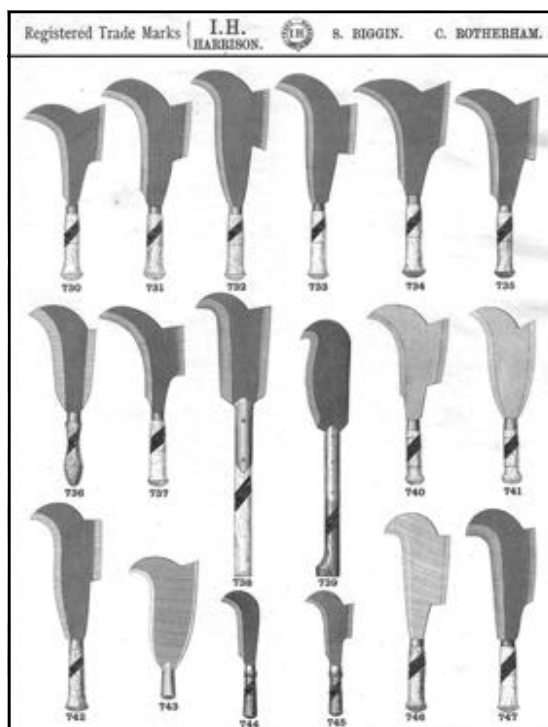


### What is a billhook used for??

- An edge tool for cutting, trimming and cleaving green wood - used by hedge-layers, coppice workers, hurdle makers, thatching spar makers, basket makers and others
- Until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century it was the principal tool used for all aspects of pruning – so it was also a tool of the farmer, the gardener, the fruit-grower, viticulturist

What the hell has this got to do tools?... I hear you ask. Well... the primary tool used for coppicing was a bill hook and they came in all sorts of shapes and sizes and were often of a particular shape depending on the areas they were produced. In early Australia they were often long handled and referred to as a 'brush' or 'bush' hook. In oral histories recorded of early Uki residents and settlers, (in particular when the understory of the 'big bush' was being cleared prior to ring barking and clearing for pasture), the reference often used when using one of these long handled tools was to go in and 'hook the bush'.

As the indomitable Mr Smith used to say... Cop you later.



## IMAGES OF UKI

ART Exhibition at the UKI Hall  
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Opening Thursday 14th April @ 6:00pm  
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The Theme this year is  
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The exhibition is open to all in the 2484 area  
Application forms can be collected at the  
UKI SUPERMARKET & CTC, OFFICE CHOICE  
in Murwillumbah

# More Flood Images from the Byrrill Creek Community

Natascha Wernick BCCRT Leader



Byrrill Creek Rd March 1



Byrrill Creek Rd March 1



Landslip Trekking March 4



Landslip on Byrrill Creek Rd March 2



Late Night Grocery Delivery March 3



Food Hub at Cedar Creek Crossing March 1



Callum's Delivery Truck March 3



# More Flood Images from the Byrrill Creek Community



Late Night Grocery Delivery March 3



Old Hamlet Causeway February 25



Byrrill Creek Rd March 1



Natascha Wernick, Holly and Kazz Lopez Trekking Stores over the Landslip March 4



Cascade Food Hub



Byrrill Ck Rd March 1

# Flood Images from Uki District

Brendon Esposito



Uki Church Feb 22



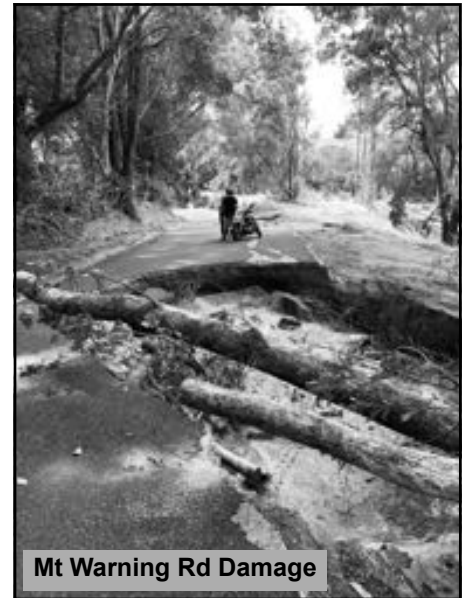
Mt Warning Rd Bridge



Kyogle Rd Land Slips



Tweed River Mt Warning Rd Feb 22



Mt Warning Rd Damage



Behind The Buttery at CTC



Last House next to Rowlands Ck

# More Flood Images from Uki District



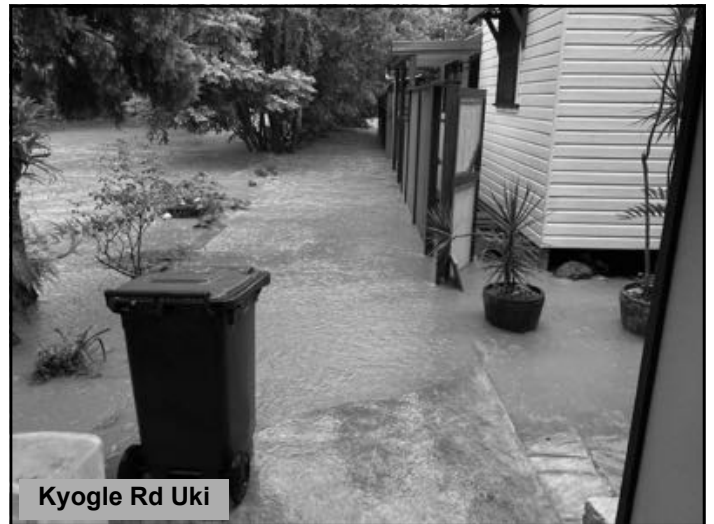
Kyogle Rd Uki



Uki Hall Resource Hub



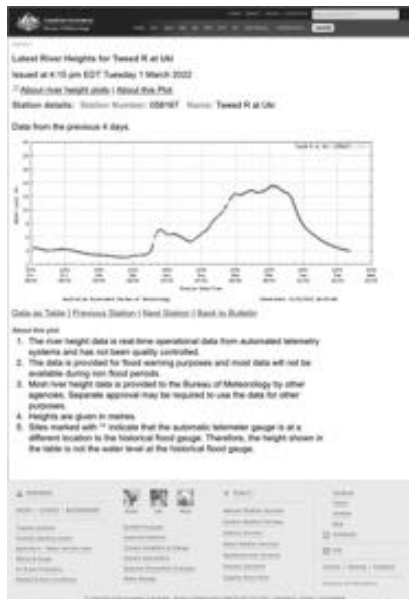
Kyogle Rd Uki



Kyogle Rd Uki



Uki Sports Ground Clubhouse



Mt Warning Rd

## WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU LIST WITH ME!



The recent flood disaster has rocked us all. So many of our family friends and our own lives have been turned upside down. Yes we have lost lots but, WE HAVE EACH OTHER.

The community spirit where friends even strangers have pitched in to help in so many ways. Those who just stopped where they saw a need to help, the many kind donations of food, clothing, pet food, horse feed, hay for cattle and those who cooked food for the many tired workers. Your amazing efforts to help your fellow man are what makes us who we are.

I am both proud and humbled to be apart of such a wonderful caring community of Uki.

U. Uki. K Kindness I Integrity

This is our UKI ♥

*Anne Besgrove*

0402 608 503

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